

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE EAST VALLEY }
REGIONAL VETERANS COURT }

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2016 – 035

The Presiding Judges in several East Valley municipal courts seek to establish a regional Veterans Court pursuant to A.R.S. § 22-601, in order to maximize available resources and ensure the participation of a Veterans Justice Outreach specialist (VJO) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.). Each participating court will continue to establish which of its cases will be referred to the Veterans Court docket and each court will continue to maintain its cases in its case management system. However, the Veterans Court docket will be held at a centralized location to share resources and lessen the impact to the VJO from having to travel to multiple court locations throughout the valley. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED establishing a Regional Veterans Treatment Court for the municipal courts in the East Valley of Maricopa County, referred to as the East Valley Municipal Regional Veterans Treatment Court (Regional Veterans Court). The Regional Veterans Court shall include Tempe Municipal Court, Mesa Municipal Court, Gilbert Municipal Court, Scottsdale Municipal Court, and Chandler Municipal Court. Any additional municipal court in Maricopa County can join the Regional Veterans Court upon the written approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Maricopa County. Any participating court can withdraw from the Regional Veterans Court by submitting a written notification of withdrawal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED as follows:

1. The Court adopts the referral criteria of each participating municipal court and the Chief Prosecuting Attorneys, after consultation with the respective Public Defenders. Based on the established criteria, each participating court shall determine which cases are appropriate for referral to the Regional Veterans Court.
2. Any judicial officer of a participating municipal court may refer a case to the Regional Veterans Court. The originating court shall maintain jurisdiction over the case. Participation in Regional Veterans Court is voluntary, and as such, the referring judicial officer shall determine if the defendant wishes to have the case transferred to the Regional Veterans Court. The court shall notify the prosecutor of the transfer.
3. The Regional Veterans Court shall hold dockets in a location agreed upon by the Presiding Judges of participating municipal courts. Participating courts will be responsible for the administration of each case referred from their court to the Regional Veterans Court. Any judicial officer qualified to hear cases in any of the

participating municipal courts shall have the authority to adjudicate a case referred to the Regional Veterans Court.

4. The Presiding Judges of the participating courts shall coordinate and establish a consistent court calendar for the Regional Veterans Court to be in session. The Presiding Judges shall also establish a consistent schedule for Regional Veterans Court cases to be staffed prior to each court session.
5. Court administration for participating courts shall establish the case transfer process; determine how cases will be handled in the case management system, and how fines, fees, surcharges and any other costs will be allocated. The referring court shall be the custodian of records for its cases at the Regional Veterans Court.
6. Prosecutors for participating municipalities will prosecute their respective municipality's cases, unless such authority is delegated, in writing, to another agency among the participating municipalities.
7. The Regional Veterans Court Judge will coordinate with the V.A. for the provision of treatment services to eligible veterans in the Regional Veterans Court. The Regional Veterans Court Judge may also utilize local, community-based treatment programs, social services and veterans service organizations that further the purpose of the Regional Veterans Court.
8. In the event a defendant is removed from the Regional Veterans Court for failing to make satisfactory progress in court-ordered treatment, or for any other lawful reason, the Regional Veterans Court Judge shall transfer the case back to the referring court for adjudication.
9. The Presiding Judges, in coordination with the respective City Prosecutors, and after consultation with the respective Public Defenders, shall develop and implement any other standard operating procedures consistent with this order.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2016

/s/ Janet E. Barton

Janet E. Barton
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Municipal Court Presiding Judges in Maricopa County
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Karen Westover, Deputy Court Administrator