

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

IN THE MATTER OF JUDICIAL)
PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR)
COMMISSIONERS (JPS))
_____)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2007-132

WHEREAS, the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County is governed by rules and standards for fairness, impartiality, efficiency, and competency (See Judicial Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct for Employees, and Trial Court Performance Standards), and

WHEREAS, the Court continually seeks to ensure that these standards are being met and seeks for avenues of improvement,

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Commencing on or after September 30, 2007, every commissioner shall participate in the Judicial Performance Survey (JPS) every two years for sixty days beginning in January and ending in March.
2. The trial court administrator shall provide for surveys and confidential and secure compilation of survey results for judicial performance survey of commissioners every two years under a procedure approved by the Presiding Judge. If a Commissioner hears more than one type of calendar, he/she shall participate in the public survey on each calendar. The JPS surveys will include all parties directly involved in a criminal, family, juvenile, probate, civil or mental health case.

The survey respondents include: litigants, attorneys, witnesses, empanelled jurors, victims, parents (in juvenile and probate matters) and any other person directly participating in a court hearing.

The survey will be distributed to the following staff: 1) probation officers that regularly interact with the commissioner, 2) commissioner's staff, 3) administrative staff that regularly work with the commissioner, 4) department administrators, 5) court reporters, 6) court interpreters, 7) courtroom clerks, 8) caseworkers that regularly work with the commissioner, 9) child appointed special advocates (CASA) that have direct contact with the commissioner, and 10) guardians ad litem (GAL) that have direct contact with the commissioner will complete the attorney survey.

Participants in telephonic hearings will participate in the survey.

3. The survey will not include court observers and spectators, jurors not selected for duty, criminal defendants at their initial appearance court date, and or any person under the age of 18 (except for any evaluation pilot project).

4. To ensure consistent administration of the survey, all Commissioners and staff will be required to attend a mandatory training regarding JPS.
5. As peer review and self-improvement, the Commissioners shall meet with a panel consisting of the Presiding Judge of the department in which they sit or designee, another Judge or Commissioner of the Superior Court selected by the Presiding Judge, and a public member or lawyer designated by the Presiding Judge. The completed conference report will be confidential. If the peer review committee deems the survey results statistically insufficient, the peer review team may review FTR video or audio recordings.
6. The judicial performance survey results shall be part of the Commissioners personnel file and subject to Arizona Rules of the Supreme Court, Rule 123, Public Access to Court Records.
7. Effective September 30, 2007, replacing the administrative process outlined in Administrative Order 2004-171 with this administrative order.

DATED this 25th day of September, 2007

Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Judges of the Superior Court
Commissioners of the Superior Court
Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Judicial Branch Administrator
Phil Knox, General Jurisdiction Court Administrator
Phillip Hanley, Administrative Service Director
Karen Westover, General Counsel and Deputy Court Administrator
Noreen Sharp, Special Deputy Court Administrator