

Judicial Branch News

On the Financial Front



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Judicial Branch News

The Judicial Branch News is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations Department.

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

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On the Financial Front



Raymond Billotte

On March 30, 2015, Presiding Judge Norman Davis and Board of Supervisors Chairman Steve Chucri signed the budget agreement for FY 2016 for the Judicial Branch. The agreement, pending final approval of the Board of Supervisors, will continue to provide full funding for the Court's operation through June 30, 2016.

Additionally, the agreement provides for two new Commissioner positions, 30 new Adult Probation positions, and funding to continue development of iCISng and upgrading technology in the courtrooms.

As a result of higher than anticipated vacancy savings in FY 2015, the Judicial Branch was able to make use of funds to address much needed security, technology and facility issues. Before the end of this fiscal year, numerous aging X-ray machines will be replaced, equipment will be installed to improve IT performance and security, including the replacement of approximately 1,300 personal computers and laptops, and facility and furniture improvements in the Central Court Building, Southeast Facility, and Adult Probation offices.

The Judicial Branch Budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 18, 2015 for tentative adoption with final adoption set for the June 22, 2015 meeting.

*Submitted by Raymond Billotte
Judicial Branch Administrator*



Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Una Whelan, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Janet Lacey, Judicial Assistant - Classified
 Jessica Alvares, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Federico Fuentes, Judicial Clerk Senior
 MaKayla Smiley, Judicial Clerk Senior
 John McGuire, Court Commissioner

10 Years

Martin Hernandez, Court Interpreter
 Sandra Mishkin, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Reyna Roa, Adult Probation Officer
 Rosa Nigoa, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Catherine Colomaro, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Kendra Hobson, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
 Alonzo Richardson, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Jeanne Garcia, Superior Court Judge
 Twila Rogers, Judicial Clerk Lead

15 Years

Raquel Gloden, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Anthony Lewis, Court Conciliator
 Debra Shinabarger, Judicial Assistant
 Elena Hernandez, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Stacy Noble, Juvenile Probation Officer

20 Years

Laurie Yazwa, Court Reporter
 Robert Brouse, Adult Probation Officer
 Cheryl Dybas, Judicial Specialist

25 Years

Deneen Bertucci, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Seteara Haddock, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Dena Covey, Adult Probation Officer
 Gabriella Lindsey, Court Interpreter
 Vicky Thompson, Judicial Clerk
 Thomas Riley, Juvenile Probation Officer

Caption Contest

Please send your best caption as to what Judge Alfred Fenzel is doing in the photo.



E-mail the caption to Karen Arra (karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov) or Vincent Funari (funariv@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov). The winning caption will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Please send us any interesting photos you would like captioned in upcoming newsletters.

30 Years of Service



Recently, Court Reporter Tara Kramer celebrated 30 years of service with Maricopa County.

*** Information provided by Debbie Gilliland in the Human Resources Department.**



Front Row: Mary Stuart-Bronski, Angela Maddox, JoAnn Paulus, Amandeep Sandhu, Brittany Chipley, McKenzie Cartter, Stephanie Valenzuela, Gloria Braskett, Debra Parker. **Second Row:** Daniel Gullo (Instructor), Jodie Pratt, Diana Hegyi, Jaqua Davis, Tamara Ogden, Araceli Ambert, Adis Bosnic, Iliana Apodaca. **Third Row:** Todd Herrera-Ridenhour, Vickie Fugate, Thomas Collier, Raghu Subramanya, Kevin Mayne, Brian Gay, Kathy Guy, Marianne Jenson, Lauri Million. **Back Row:** Shane Monroe, Randy Tirado, Chris Holly, Richard Kokes, Joe Montanez
Not Shown: Steve Stilwell

Product Owners Learn to Scrum at Spring Training

On March 26th, a score of Court employees gathered in the Old Courthouse for two days of training. Their goal was to learn the new game plan for Information Technology (IT) projects—a method called Scrum. More specifically, they focused on the key player of a Scrum team: the Product Owner.

At this point, I should probably apologize to all the sports fans in the Court who expected to read about the Diamondbacks' Spring Training or some interesting news about a Cardinals scrummage (or Scrimmage in our American vernacular). Sorry, no such news. For those that noticed the smattering of sports terms and felt unjustly tempted, all I can say is ... made ya' look!

All kidding aside, though, many have wondered what all this new language and organization is really about. Explaining the Agile Scrum method in detail is beyond the scope of this article, but a quick overview should provide a good start.

One of the most common software development methodologies for decades prior was the “waterfall” method, where product development progressed through the stages of Analysis, Design, Code, Integration, Test, and, finally, Deploy. Each phase was usually handled by a different team, and no phase could begin until the prior phase had been completed. Much like the runners of a relay race team, only one member of the team is working at any given time, and the others must wait until their turn to handle the baton. Oh boy, there we go with the sports analogies again.

As you can imagine, this method requires extensive and very thorough planning from the outset, and once in motion, all things must go strictly according to plan to meet the project's established deadline. This method is very unwelcoming to changes to the plan, and anyone who's practiced it is familiar with the term given to those changes – the dreaded “scope creep”.

Product Owners Learn to Scrum at Spring Training - Continued

Scrum, on the other hand, is rather simple and short-sighted, and purposely so. You see, the Scrum team essentially focuses on only two lists and one fixed block of time—say, three weeks—known as a sprint (and no, sports fans, I'm not making this up). The first list is the backlog of features needed or wanted for a product and the second list is the sprint log—those items/features from the backlog that the team plans to produce during the sprint. At the completion of the sprint, a new sprint and sprint log are created, and this is repeated until the product backlog is empty.

The contrast between Waterfall and Scrum is that the Scrum method produces some product feature at every sprint, so product stakeholders get to see and experience the product regularly as it is being built, rather than waiting for one grand unveiling at the completion of the entire project.

The final detail for this month's article is the Scrum team to which we have made repeated mention, and specifically the Product Owner that headlined this article.

While the waterfall method employs different team organization over stages, Scrum simplifies this to a single, agile, empowered team model. A Scrum team consists of only 3 roles: the Product Owner, the Scrum Development Team, and the ScrumMaster.

A moment ago, we noted that a Scrum team is agile and empowered, and our key player, the Product Owner, is the source of those attributes. The reason is simple. The Product Owner is responsible for every feature request that goes into a product, its priority in the product (i.e., when it gets worked on), and the acceptance or rejection of the finished features. In fact, in Scrum the Product Owner literally owns the Product Backlog. Because the Product Owner has such authority, requirements can be clarified with certainty, and the Sprint Log—the Scrum team's upcoming commitment—can be negotiated quickly.

It's probably obvious by what has been stated already that the Product Owner is very involved in the product development. In fact, the Product Owner meets with the development team every day in a short meeting called the daily Scrum. This regular communication of daily commitments is so important that the whole method is named for this daily meeting.

The Product Owner has duties outside of the Scrum team, as well. He or she must work closely with the product's key stakeholders throughout the project life and beyond, and must communicate regularly with customers and business leadership at any given time.

It may seem Product Owners carry a significant load, and this is very true, but they are not alone. Last month you read how Court leadership introduced the new Business Services Division. It's no secret our Court is large and demands expertise in an array of areas. The BSD ensures that Product Owners have the support and expertise necessary to provide comprehensive technology solutions and to maximize their application whenever possible.

Submitted by Chris Holly and Joe Montanez

iCISng Sentencing App



Commissioner Monica Garfinkel in one of the Early Disposition Courts volunteered to participate in the new pilot program to introduce the paperless sentencing application in iCISng.

Bailiff Wins Honor



Marco Garcia, bailiff to Judge Rosa Mroz, received an award for his innovation in protecting victims in the courtroom. Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery presented the award during the MCAO Victims' Rights Week Award Ceremony.

Investiture Ceremony



Chief Justice Scott Bales delivers the oath of office to Judge Geoffrey Fish (left) during his investiture ceremony at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

A Life-saving Response

Superior Court has a hero on staff.

Court Reporter Jane Westlund rushed out of her South Court Tower cubicle to save a fellow employee who was choking on her breakfast.

“We all heard it. It sounded like a really bad cough,” said Lori Dennison, Court Reporter Administrator. “We could tell that somebody was wheezing and having trouble breathing. Everyone in the office rushed to help but Jane arrived first.”

According to Dennison, Westlund, sitting just a few cubicles away, acted fast. Instantly, she knew her colleague was choking. Without hesitation, she started to perform the Heimlich Maneuver. Even though she had never used the maneuver, Westlund’s application of the Heimlich was successful. The food the employee was choking on was dislodged and the employee slowly regained her normal breath.

“I’m really proud of Jane,” Dennison said. “Her quick and decisive actions saved a life. She is a hero.”

Human Resources

Employee Relations

Joining Peter Marturana and Jamie Ahler in Employee Relations is a new ER analyst, Flávia Rocha. If you have an employee relations question, please feel free to reach out directly to Flávia at 506-2060. Flávia comes to the Judicial Branch with significant and broad HR experience, and we are excited to have her on the team.

Staffing and Recruiting

As some of you know by now, Jason Novak has resigned and his last day was March 13th. We are currently in the process of seeking a replacement for his position, but wanted to take this opportunity to provide the contact information for all members of our team. In general the recruiting assignments will be as follows, although any of the analysts can assist you with questions:

Department	Name	Phone #
Adult Probation	Shaunna Smith	506-3517
Juvenile Probation	Valerie Quintana	506-0075
Superior Court	Chad Morton	372-0588

You may also contact Michelle Anderson (506-0023) or Jennifer Harvey (506-4473) with questions regarding any of the departments’ recruitments.

Submitted by Jennifer Harvey

IT Governance Group

Superior Court has established a group, comprised of Presiding Judge Norman Davis, Judicial Branch Administrator Ray Billotte and Director of Research and Planning Diana Hegyi, to ensure continuity between Information Technology and business components of the Judicial Branch.

The IT Governance Group meets three times a month ensuring compliance with required statutes, regulations, and policies and procedures to provide governance structure in strategic, operational and technical decision making processes.

Submitted by Todd Herrera-Ridenhour

Husband and Wife Retire



On April 7, Judge Robert and Linda Miles, husband and wife, submitted their letters of resignation to the Governor, announcing their retirement, effective April 30, from the Maricopa County Superior Court bench.

Judge Linda Miles started with the court as a Commissioner in October 1995, and later was appointed as a judge in December 2001. During her nearly 20 years on the Superior Court bench, Judges Miles served multiple rotations in Family, Civil and Juvenile Court.

“She has a well-deserved reputation as a caring, knowledgeable, and professional jurist. We will all miss her steady hand, ready smile and pleasant demeanor,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Judge Robert Miles was appointed to the Bench in 2005 after serving more than 30 years in private practice at Quarles & Brady Streich Lang, LLP. During his judicial career, he served in Civil, Family and, most recently, Criminal Court.

“Judge Miles has been an extremely thoughtful, knowledgeable and professional judge during his time with us. He has been a joy to be around, and we will miss his legal acumen and perpetual good humor at the court on a daily basis. I am sure you all join with me in wishing Bob and Linda the very best in their next adventure,” Judge Davis said.

New Judges Appointed



James D. Smith

Governor Doug Ducey appointed James D. Smith and Dewain D. Fox as Maricopa County Superior Court judges.

Judge James D. Smith is currently practicing law with the Bryan Cave LLP law firm, with previous law practice experience with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP, Teilborg, Sanders & Parks, P.C., and the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I as a law clerk.



Dewain Fox

He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School *cum laude* and has practiced law extensively in the areas of class action defense, commercial litigation, antitrust litigation, and products liability defense.

Judge Smith will start with the Court on May 25, and, after a week of training, assume a family court calendar at the Southeast Regional Center on June 1.

Judge Dewain D. Fox graduated from the University of Arizona Law School in 1992 *summa cum laude*. He currently practices law with the firm of Sherman & Howard, L.L.C., and previously with Fennemore Craig, P.C. Judge Fox has years of civil litigation experience in all facets of civil and commercial law. He has also served for many years with the National High School Mock Trial Championship organization as an officer and director, and currently is Chair of that organization.

Judge Fox will start with the Court on May 4, 2015, and after a week of training assume Judge Aimee Anderson’s family court calendar on May 11, 2015.

“I am impressed with the qualifications of our two newest judges. Please join me in welcoming them to the Maricopa County Superior Court,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

New Judge Q-and-A: Judge Jennifer Green



Jennifer Green

Q. How has your experience as an assistant U.S. Attorney prepared you to be a judge? Please explain.

Serving as a federal prosecutor in Arizona and practicing in our federal court for seven years was a rewarding and extraordinary opportunity. My colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's Office are first-rate lawyers who made me a better thinker, writer, and advocate. The federal bench in Arizona holds the lawyers to high standards, and the judges serve as role models for me today. At the end of the day, regardless of the case, my job as an AUSA was to "do the right thing," which could mean anything from asking for a harsh sentence down to filing a motion to dismiss. All of these skills required the exercise of good judgment and the ability to connect with people, which are necessary to make difficult decisions on my family court assignment.

Q. Who has been the biggest inspiration in your legal career?

I am lucky to have many sources of inspiration. First, I come from a family of hard workers, and my parents have instilled in me a commitment to service to others. I admire anyone who chooses a career in public service, whether it is my high school softball coach, a victim advocate, or a soldier. I also appreciate women who went to law school when it was rare to do so, carving out a now well-worn path for us to follow.

Q. What's your favorite quote? (This can be something one of your children said to you, what you said to them, a line from poetry or something you wish you hadn't said).

My most recent favorite is our three-year-old informing me that "Mommy, you are NOT the best mommy in town!" A good friend also got me a sign for my office that reads "Grammar Snobs are Great Big Meanies."

Q. If you had a day to spend with anyone (living or dead, real or fictional), who would it be and what would you do?

I would have a beer with Pat Tillman. Preferably at the Rose Bowl watching ASU thump some national powerhouse.

Q. Do you own an IPOD or Smartphone? If so, what songs are currently in your playlist?

Our prayers have been answered. After a yearlong love affair with the Frozen soundtrack, our three-year-old has moved onto Mary Poppins. So for now, plenty of spoonfuls of sugar. Disney stands to make a lot of money on us in the near future.