

# Judicial Branch News



# This is Jeopardy!



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**Cover-** Commissioner Annielaurie Van Wie introduces Superior Court's new Jeopardy game.

## 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](mailto:karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov).

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**Hon. Janet Barton**

We all hear on a fairly regular basis that the Maricopa County Superior Court is a court of excellence, a court of innovation, a highly effective court; and we are, indeed, such a court. But why? Is it because we have a bench of merit selected judges who work together as a team to assure that the Court provides equal justice under the law? That's part of the reason, but it's not the primary reason. It's actually the people who work behind the scenes who are primarily responsible for this Court's national reputation of excellence and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them.

Many of the judicial officers probably can't name more than a few of these "behind the scenes" individuals. I know I couldn't before becoming the Court's Family Presiding and Associate Presiding Judge. And that's a shame because as much as the judicial officers on this bench like to say (usually in a joking manner) that "it's all about us", for our court administrators and the persons who work with and for them it actually is all about us. There simply is no group at the court who works harder for the judicial officers and the court than this group.

So let me introduce at least some of them to you. Our Judicial Branch Administrator is Ray Billotte. Ray is the administrator with whom I work the most closely. In addition to overseeing the operations of the fourth largest trial court jurisdiction in the country, he has the unenviable task of educating and training a new presiding judge every three to five years (depending on

the presiding's length of term). Ray also directly oversees the Court's Executive Team. Ray's positive outlook is infectious. When the Court needed leadership and guidance in its Computer Technology Services ("CTS") Department, he added that responsibility to his already full plate. Despite not being a true techie, Ray has done an incredible job as our interim Chief Information Officer. It's in large part because of his guidance that CTS is operating more smoothly and cohesively than it ever has.

Our Deputy Court Administrators are Phil Knox, Richard Woods and Diana Hegyi. Phil Knox oversees the Criminal, Civil and Tax departments as well as Lower Court Appeals, and the court reporter and the court's interpretation and translation groups. Phil started with the Court in 1996. His tenure with the Court is testament to the great job he does. Because he has been here longer than the rest of the executive team, he is able to provide an invaluable historical perspective on many issues. He also has an excellent, albeit dry, sense of humor.

Richard Woods oversees the Juvenile, Family, and Probate/Mental Health departments, the Law Library Resource Center and the ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) group. As many of you know, the Court is in the process of relocating and revamping its Law Library Resource Center. Richard is integrally involved in this project. As our new Law Library Resource Center is one of my priorities, I am extremely appreciative of his commitment to assuring that the court has one of, if not the best, law library resource centers in the country. Oh, and he does this while also managing the court department with the most dysfunctional litigants (Family) and the one that is experiencing record growth (Juvenile).

Diana Hegyi is the Director of the Court's Business Services Division and the Research and Planning Department. She produces the Court's annual report each year and spends innumerable hours working on iCISng. As the Director of the Court's Business Services Division, Diana, along with Steve Stillwell, meet with judicial officers, staff and others to determine the features iCISng needs in order to provide the information and capabilities our judicial officers want. Some courts buy a shrink wrapped or pre-designed case management system and then try to customize that system, often unsuccessfully, to what that court's judicial officers want and how that court operates. We have chosen to design our own customized system based upon this Court's needs and what our judicial officers want. In addition to leading this charge, Diana monitors IT priorities, responds to requests for data and reports, analyzes software enhancement requests, and prioritizes IT projects approved by the Court's IT Governance Committee. And people think I have a hard job!!

Phil Hanley is the Court's Budget and Finance Director. Phil keeps us on track monetarily. It's because of his guidance and tight purse strings that we were able to take on some year-end projects a couple of months ago, such as acquiring the FTR equipment necessary to equip all of our remaining non-FTR courtrooms; and various other items necessary to assist the Judicial Branch in its day to day operations.

## ***Continued - From the Presiding Judge***

Danna Quinn is our Human Resources Director. The Judicial Branch Human Resources Department provides all human resources services for the Superior Court, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation and some limited services to the Justice Courts. In total, HR provides services to approximately 3,200 employees in multiple locations. I have to say that when I started this position, I did not fully appreciate how often I would need Danna's assistance or be relying upon her advice. We are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and talented person in this sensitive position.

Lori Ash is the Court's General Counsel. Some of you may remember the "Bo Knows" ads that ran about 15 years ago involving Bo Jackson (there is always Wikipedia if you don't remember the ads or you don't know who Bo Jackson is). Well when it comes to the Court and what it can and can't do, "Lori Knows." My reliance upon her guidance and advice is probably best evidenced by the fact that I have more saved emails from her on my computer than anyone else.

Karen Arra, Kelly Vail and Vincent Funari comprise our award winning Public Information Department. If you spend any time with them you will understand why they are so beloved by the media. Thanks to them we were one of the first courts in the country to have a YouTube account, a Facebook page and to Tweet. What a great group.

Then there are our Probation Chiefs, Barbara Broderick (Adult Probation) and Eric Meaux (Juvenile Probation.) The Court is extraordinarily lucky to have them. Barbara is nationally recognized as one of, if not the best, probation chief in the country, and I am confident that it's just a matter of time before Eric enjoys the same reputation. They both work tirelessly to improve the lives of their probationers and facilitate the jobs of their probation officers and the Court's judicial officers.

Our Director of Security is Jessy Summers. Jessy is dedicated to assuring the safety of Judicial Branch employees and works hard to do so. I know from experience that if Jessy has any concerns whatsoever about your safety, he will give you a call.

In addition to Deputy Administrators and the Court's Management Team, we have Court Administrators: Cheri Clark, Bob James, Sheila Tickle, Peter Kiefer, and Elaina Cano. They oversee the Court's various departments -- Cheri oversees Family; Bob oversees Criminal; Sheila oversees Juvenile; Peter oversees Civil, Tax and Lower Court Appeals; and Elaina oversees Probate/Mental Health. I am constantly impressed by how hard these individuals work and their dedication to their departments. They are always searching for practices and procedures to assure that their departments operate as effectively and efficiently as possible. While I know it must be frustrating for them to have a new Department Presiding Judge to report to every few years and have to adjust to that person's style, priorities and pet projects, I can say from experience that they do an excellent job of hiding that! Thank you Cheri, Bob, Sheila, Peter, and Elaina for your dedication to the Court and your departments.

Candace Atkinson is our Jury Director. She has done much to improve our jury system over the last few years and has other ideas in the works. Candace is committed to assuring we have the premier jury system in the country.

Karen Westover is the Court's Regional Court Administrator. She oversees each of our regional facilities as well as our Homeless Court. She also writes one of the funniest Christmas letters you have ever read. I can't wait to get this year's!

The Director of our Court Facilities Department is Hugh Gallagher. I assume that most, if not all, of you know Hugh, because my experience is that everyone knows Hugh. Crossing the street with him from the Old Courthouse to the Central Court Building is usually a time consuming event because of the many people who want to stop and chat with him. Hugh has a phenomenal institutional knowledge of this Court. He truly knows where the furniture, if not the bodies, are buried. He is also extraordinarily responsive. If you need something done he takes the ball and runs with it and before you can even ask him how the project is going, it's typically done.

You can't talk about our Facilities Department without mentioning Bob Spence. I would hate to estimate how many office moves he's done/overseen or how many pictures he's either hung or arranged to have hung over the years. I have no doubt that Bob dreads June, but you'd never know it from his attitude. Thanks Bob for your service to the Judicial Branch.

## ***Continued - From the Presiding Judge***

Last but not least there is CTS. Raghu Subramanya, Steve Stilwell, Brian Gay and Chris Holly have simply done an incredible job of taking Diana Hegyi's vision for iCISng (based on her discussions and meetings with judicial officers) and turning that vision into reality. The iCISng sentencing module is currently in operation in Commissioner Casey Newcomb's courtroom and should be rolled out to and in use by all (yes, I said all) criminal judges by the end of the year. On August 19, 2015, we demonstrated the iCISng criminal module for Chief Justice Scott Bales and Vice-Chief Justice John Pelander, as well as Dave Byers and Mike Baumstark from the Administrative Office of the Courts. They were very impressed with both the amount and types of information the system provided and the system's ability to share information. I don't know how Raghu, Steve, Brian and Chris do what they do, but I do know that the system they have created for our Criminal Department is amazing.

So, now you know about some of those "behind the scenes" persons who enable the Judicial Branch to excel and succeed. I sincerely appreciate their dedication to assuring that this Court maintains its reputation of innovation and national excellence; and it is an honor and privilege for me to support and encourage their efforts in that regard.

## **Judge Jeffrey Rueter: New Judge Q-and-A**



*Hon. Jeffrey Rueter*

**Q. What has surprised you the most about making the transition from commissioner to judge? Please explain.**

Being a commissioner for seven years was excellent preparation for transitioning to being a judge. The most surprising thing was how quickly my sign outside my office suite was changed from commissioner to judge.

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

Jim Rizer was a Deputy Maricopa County Attorney and my first supervisor when I was assigned to a trial bureau as a new prosecutor. He taught me a lot about how to treat people, how prosecutors have a duty to seek justice and how to handle myself in the courtroom. He did a great job of molding how I comported myself and was a great friend even after I left the County Attorney's Office.

**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).**

This is a paraphrase: If the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem begins to look like a hammer.

**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 wished that I had one more day to spend with my parents.

**Q. Do you own an iPod? If so, what songs are currently in your playlist?**

I have a pretty eclectic list of songs. I like all sorts of music. I have songs ranging from Miles Davis to Rage Against the Machine and Lil' Wayne to Johnny Cash.

## Employee Anniversaries

### 5 YEARS

Milene Valencia, Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Dave Mains, Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Georgiana Rodriguezcrespo, Human Resources Manager  
 Staci Hernandez, Adult Probation Officer  
 Vivian Moreno, Judicial Financial Clerk  
 Cynthia Gutierrez, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Lori Lopez, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Sheilah Rendon, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Regina Rodriguez, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Rosa Chavarria, Bailiff

### 10 YEARS

Kristi Slade, Adult Probation Officer  
 Renee Yabeny, Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Odetta Blomker, Surveillance Officer  
 Lindsay Hertzler, Adult Probation Officer  
 Justin Scheidecker, Surveillance Officer  
 Owen Gardner, Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
 Maribel Rodriguez, Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
 Jennifer Cooper, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor  
 Robert Craig, Adult Probation Officer  
 Teresa Scharneck, Adult Probation Officer  
 Bruce Cohen, Superior Court Judge  
 Constance Haggard, Court Interpreter

### 15 YEARS

Janet Barton, Superior Court Judge  
 Valerie Quintana, Human Resources Analyst  
 Sharon Adams, Adult Probation Officer  
 Lena Blueeyes, Adult Probation Officer  
 Nicole Branham, Adult Probation Officer  
 Kristine Fischer, Adult Probation Officer  
 Linda Helvik, Adult Probation Officer  
 Michelle Kridler, Adult Probation Officer  
 Cory Rhodes, Adult Probation Officer  
 Carol Zambriski, Adult Probation Officer  
 Cecilia Ballesteros, General Laborer  
 Fernando Castillo, Judicial Assistant  
 Maria Garcia, Office Assistant  
 Katherine Snyder, Judicial Assistant  
 Williette Famolu, Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Michelle Cunanan, Judicial Assistant  
 Nathan Knighton, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Stella Bohn, Administrative Assistant

### 20 YEARS

Janet Nedved, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Michelette Younker, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Susana Salinas, Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
 Victoria Fugate, Management Analyst  
 Laura Cini, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Roger Gumm, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Bunnie Navejar, Judicial Clerk Lead  
 Sandy Rogers, Administrative Assistant

### 25 YEARS

Laurene Simms, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor  
 Maria Clavijo-Enzminger, ADA Program Coordinator  
 Elda Daniels, Judicial Assistant  
 Patti Snee, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Joan Weyrauch, Judicial Assistant

### 36 YEARS

Scott Loos, Court Interpreter Supervisor

\* Information provided by Debbie Gilliland, Human Resources

## Tokyo Judges Visit the Court



Superior Court welcomes Judge Yoichiro Tachi and his wife Judge Eiko Tachi. Both judges are from the courts in Tokyo. Judge Yoichiro Tachi is studying criminal operations; his wife Eiko is a Family Court Judge. They are here until June of 2016. (Left to right: Judge Yoichiro Tachi, Judge Eiko Tachi and Civil Court Administrator Peter Kiefer.)

## APD Employee Retires



Chauncey Crenshaw retired after serving with Pretrial Services for 26 years. Pictured left to right: Adult Probation Deputy Chief of Assessment & Development Therese Wagner, Supervisor Chauncey Crenshaw, and Adult Probation Chief Barbara A. Broderick.

Submitted by Cathy Wyse, Adult Probation

# Adult Probation Receives National Honors

National honors were bestowed on Adult Probation Chief Barbara A. Broderick and Deputy Chief of Administration Michael P. Cimino at the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Conference held in Los Angeles in July.

Chief Broderick received the Walter Dunbar Memorial Award for her impressive national stature as a respected leader in community corrections; the outstanding results delivered as adult probation chief in Maricopa County and her significant contributions to APPA. Chief Broderick serves on numerous committees including the prestigious Harvard University Executive Session on Community Corrections as well as the Probation Revocation Advisory Board with the Robina Institute. She serves on the APPA Board of Directors as a Past President and has served APPA with distinction for many years. She was elected Chair of Arizona's Parents' Commission on Drug Education and Prevention and served as a board member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the National Association of Probation Executives. Under her leadership, the Adult Probation Department has consistently delivered positive results, even when faced with severe budget restraints. Chief Broderick has received positive ratings on satisfaction surveys completed by a variety of stakeholders including employees, offenders, law enforcement and treatment partners.

Deputy Chief Cimino received the APPA Member of the Year award for his significant contributions in serving APPA, and his dedication and passion for the community corrections profession. During the past two years, Deputy Chief Cimino served admirably as the Local Host Chair of the 2013 APPA winter training institute in Phoenix; Program Chair of the 39th Annual APPA Conference in New Orleans and Program Co-Chair of the 40th Annual APPA Training Institute in Los Angeles. Among his substantial contributions in Maricopa County, Deputy Chief Cimino was instrumental in a collaborative project that developed new awareness, training, and tools for probation officers related to human trafficking.



*Pictured left to right: APPA Awards Committee Chair Mack Jenkins, Adult Probation Chief Barbara Broderick, and APPA Past President Carmen Rodriguez.*



*Pictured left to right: APPA Past President Carmen Rodriguez, Adult Probation Deputy Chief of Administration Michael Cimino, and APPA Awards Committee Chair Mack Jenkins.*

*Submitted by Cathy Wyse, Adult Probation*

## Business as Usual For Extern Max Ashton

Superior Court Extern Max Ashton is an impressive young man.

At the age of 19, he's already swam from Alcatraz to San Francisco; hiked Mount Kilimanjaro and the Grand Canyon, rim-to-rim, and thrown out the first pitch at a Diamondbacks game.

These are lofty accomplishments, especially for someone who was born blind.

In May, Judge Christopher Whitten hired Ashton to work on Superior Court's Cal-Acti reports.

Judge Whitten, along with a group of Superior Court Judges, tasked Ashton with identifying the 50 oldest cases on their calendar and creating a report.



*Extern Max Ashton*

"Max has done great work this summer. He saved the court hundreds of man hours. These Cal-Acti reports have helped us resolve or dismiss cases that have been lingering on our calendars for years and kept us in compliance with ABA (American Bar Association) standards," Judge Whitten said.

With only the ability to see shapes out of the corner of his eye, Ashton was able to perform his job on a laptop with voice activated software and iCIS. The assignment was difficult at times but, similar to any challenge in his life, Ashton was able to perform the job at a high-level.

"I've really enjoy working at Superior Court. It's a professional environment," Ashton said. "I've learned how to create reports and work with large spreadsheets and databases."

Soon, Ashton, an English major with a minor in history and economics, will be leaving for Loyola Marymount University in California to begin his sophomore year. Presently, Ashton is not sure if he wants to pursue a career in law but he's keeping his options open.

Ashton was born and raised in Phoenix. He is a graduate of Brophy College Preparatory. At Brophy, he was a member of the wrestling team, recognized as a distinguished student and presented an award for courage.

Ashton's work has paved the way for other blind externs at Superior Court. In the future, Superior Court will continue a partnership with the Foundation for Blind Children and provide externships for students who are visually impaired.

According to Judge Whitten, this partnership may be beneficial because secondary education externships provide valuable socialization skills and work toward reducing high unemployment rates among the blind.

# Court Garneres National Recognition

Some very important people are taking notice of a report, released by the Justice Management Institute, proclaiming Maricopa County as one of the best criminal justice systems in the Nation.

Recently, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy read the JMI report and contacted Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte to learn more about Maricopa County's Criminal Court and its data sharing and innovations.

"It's an honor for Maricopa County to be recognized as one of the best criminal justice systems in the Nation. The results within the Justice Management Institute's report, speaks volumes about the work done by the Judicial Branch of Arizona and our criminal justice partners," Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte said. "I also look forward to working with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and sharing any ideas that would further the administration of justice."



Last year, Maricopa County, along with seven other jurisdictions, participated in a study conducted by the JMI and funded by the MacArthur Foundation to identify characteristics and factors that lead to an effective criminal justice system. The study consisted of in-depth interviews with judicial officers, court officials and stakeholder groups and a collection of quantitative and qualitative data on Maricopa County's criminal justice system.

Here are some of the findings from the report:

- Maricopa County fundamentally changed its calendaring system not only to improve efficiency but to encourage more of a collegial and team-oriented culture among judges. By having all judges responsible for all cases within a division (instead of one judge per case), judicial assignments to cases were interchangeable which meant that there were fewer and shorter continuances and quicker resolutions.
- The Maricopa County judiciary is willing to experiment with new ideas and refine rather than abandon them when they do not work. This behavior is consistent with a collaborative spirit of investment in the work of the court and the system.
- Maricopa County also benefits from a unique and rigorous merit selection process of judges across all divisions of its Superior Court, not just the Criminal Department. The merit selection process in Arizona is one of the most rigorous in the country.
- Because judges are selected through a merit process, they are insulated to a large degree from the political swings in the County. The chief judges and other judges are therefore able to remain more focused on issues of practice and policy. This process also lays the foundation for a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the judges. The appointment process is difficult and everyone must go through it. Once appointed, judges have a common experience from which to draw as they begin their work on the bench. Although there are other factors that support judicial teamwork, leadership from throughout the system cited the shared experiences of applying for a judgeship as a major factor.

# Caption Contest



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.

# Last Month's Winner



Last month's winner is **Judge Bruce Cohen**. Thanks to everyone who submitted a caption!

**Caption:** *I guess HE was not kidding when he said that if we looked back, we would be turned into stone.*

# Judicial Appointments



**Hon. Ronee Korbin Steiner**



**Hon. Josh Rogers**

Governor Doug Ducey appointed Ronee Korbin Steiner and Josh Rogers to the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench.

Judge Korbin Steiner works as a family law attorney at her own firm, Korbin Steiner & Marquis. In 2010, she received the Family Law Litigator of the Year Award from the Volunteer Lawyers Program, and was recognized as one of the top 50 pro bono lawyers of the year.

She graduated cum laude from the Ohio State University in 1990 with Honors in Liberal Arts. Judge Korbin Steiner received her law degree from Temple University Law School in 1993. She will begin a Family Court calendar on September 15.

Judge Josh Rogers worked at Shugart, Thomson & Kilroy from 2001 to 2003. Presently, he is a shareholder, practicing insurance coverage and defense issues with the firm of Kunz Plitt Hyland & Demlong.

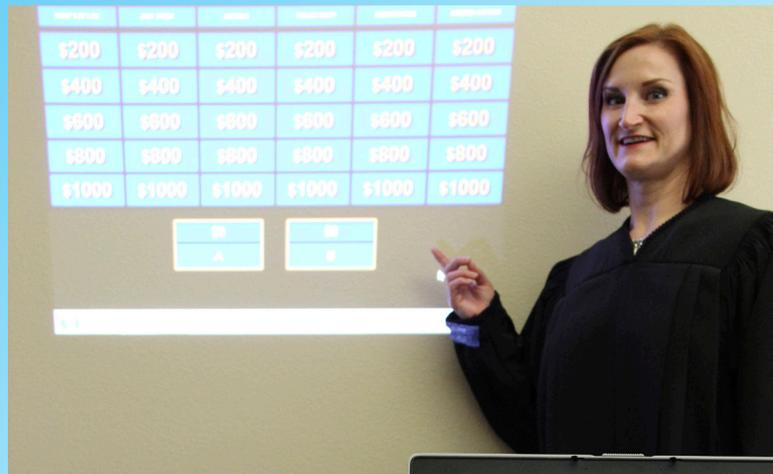
Judge Rogers earned his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2001 and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1998 from Master's College in California. He will begin a Civil Court calendar on September 8.

## Investiture Ceremony



Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales (right) delivers the oath of office to Superior Court Judge James D. Smith (left).

## This is Jeopardy!



Commissioner Annelaurie Van Wie demonstrates Superior Court's Jeopardy game.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE**

Answer: A fun way to learn about Superior Court.  
 Question: What is Superior Court's new Jeopardy game?

Starting in September, Judicial Officers from Superior Court will be traveling to schools and organizations throughout Maricopa County to play Jeopardy, an interactive, question-and-answer game fashioned after the popular television show.

"Public outreach is essential to the Court. It's important we educate the public on our judges, justice system and important topics like merit selection," Judge David Cunanan said. "The Speaker's Bureau Committee thought the Jeopardy game would be a fun way to keep students and adults engaged during presentations out in the public."

The game was originally conceived by Commissioner Wendy Morton with help from Chris Holly of Court Technology Services.

"The game is versatile. The current version allows categories and questions to be changed. This lets us use it for many different occasions and purposes. We have already implemented a version for New Employee Orientation," said General Jurisdiction Administrator Phil Knox.

On August 27, during the lunch hour at Table One in Change of Venue, Superior Court will be conducting a training seminar to teach Judicial Officers how to run and setup the Jeopardy game equipment. The training will be led by Judge Cunanan.

## Marshal Graduation



Superior Court welcomes its latest graduating class of Deputy Marshals.