

Judicial Branch News



Judge Mark Aceto celebrates his award with his family.

2014 Judge of the Year: Hon. Mark Aceto

Judge Mark Aceto was named 2014 Judge of the Year by the Phoenix Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

ABOTA presented Judge Aceto the award in December at a dinner in Phoenix. The award recognizes integrity, dedication and professionalism.

Judge Aceto, who is currently assigned to Civil Court, previously served on civil, family and criminal court calendars, including a rotation as the Civil Presiding Judge. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University and his Bachelor's Degree, with honors, in Accounting from Villanova University.

ABOTA's mission includes promoting the efficient administration of justice and constant improvement of the law.



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Judicial Branch News

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

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Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Cynthia Bailey, Superior Court Judge
 Anna Burbano, Judicial Clerk Senior
 Ruthie Garrett, Educator Bachelors
 Meghan Applebee, Adult Probation Officer

10 Years

Tracey Benton, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Austin Brabble, Surveillance Officer
 Ricardo Brandon, Adult Probation Officer
 Jack Dillon, Program Supervisor
 Morgan Dinovo-Stevenson, APD Officer Supervisor
 Enrique Garcia, Surveillance Officer
 Robin Hargrove, Adult Probation Officer
 Michelle Hernandez, Adult Probation Officer
 Christina Keenan, Adult Probation Officer
 Robyn Kissler, Adult Probation Officer
 Patricia Reyes, Adult Probation Officer
 Eloisa Rodriguez, Adult Probation Officer
 Sheree Setzer, Adult Probation Officer
 Sherri Tucker, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Michael Wollangk, Adult Probation Officer
 Christine Sanchez, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Aubrey Dowling, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Thomas Dang, Adult Probation Officer
 Dajana Budimirovic, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Rochelle Dobbins, Court Reporter
 Julie Chavez, Judicial Clerk
 Bernadine Bahls, General Laborer
 Rosario Miller, Surveillance Officer
 Eva Foster, General Laborer
 LaTeshia Jackson, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Donna Arwine, Payroll Representative

15 Years

Amy Azpeitia, Adult Probation Officer
 Rebecca Borino, Adult Probation Officer
 Christopher Epps, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Jill Gentry, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Jessica Hogg, Adult Probation Officer
 Kristina McDonald, Adult Probation Officer
 Paula Collins, Justice System Manager
 Nanette Kenyon, Judicial Assistant
 Karen O'Connor, Superior Court Judge
 Warren Granville, Superior Court Judge
 Daysha Nanni, Judicial Assistant

Employee Anniversaries

20 Years

Brian Ishikawa, Superior Court Judge

25 Years

R Wesley Shipley, Adult Probation Division Manager
 Robin Hoskins, Specialty Court & Grant Coordinator
 Jennifer Hammond, Court Interpreter

30 Years

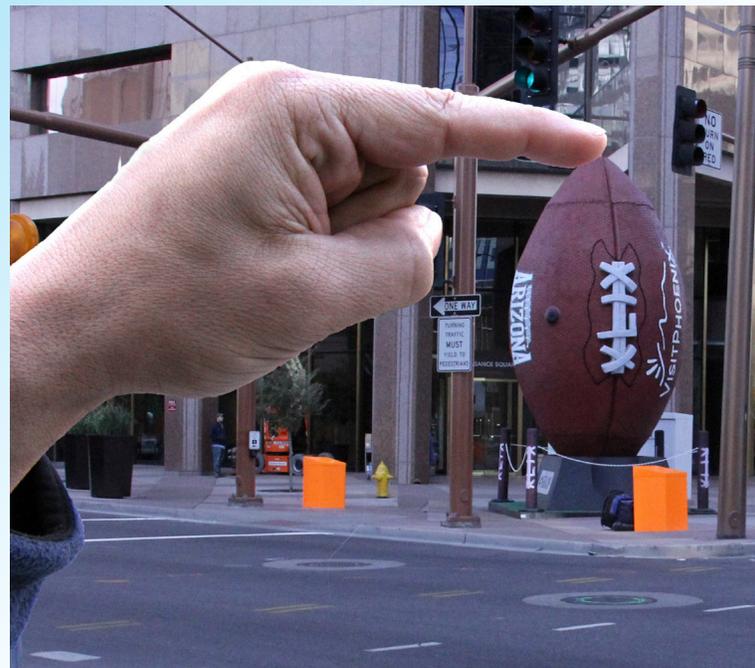
Craig Gildersleeve, Data Architect

31 Years

Sheila Copalman, Judicial Assistant

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

Downtown Set to Kick Off



Downtown Phoenix getting ready to kick off Super Bowl festivities.

Court Interpreters Sworn-In

On December 22, Criminal Presiding Judge Joseph Welty administered the oath of office to incoming court interpreters Katerina Borghi and Thomas Cromwell. The ceremony took place in Courtroom 5A in the South Court Tower.



Katerina Borghi



Thomas Cromwell

Employee Retirements



Superior Court's Gale Barclay, of the Self Service Center, retires after 41 years of dedicated service. (Pictured left to right - Gale Barclay and Presiding Judge Norman Davis.)



Janis Scanlon, of the jury office, retires after 23 years of dedicated service. (Pictured left to right - Janis Scanlon and General Jurisdiction Administrator Phil Knox.)

New Judge Q-and-A: Judge Geoffrey Fish



Geoffrey Fish

Q. What has surprised you the most about making the transition from Commissioner to Judge? Please explain.

Frankly, the amount of stuff I've collected over the last 2.5 years as I get ready to rotate offices. But seriously, it has been a seamless transition except for the different title. I was fortunate to be on a Probate assignment which is essentially a judge calendar. I'm looking forward to the new assignment. In addition, we are adding a bailiff to our division, so our division goes from 3 to 4 individuals.

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

I really don't have one single inspiration – I've been fortunate over my career to have come in contact with such a wide variety of individuals from professors, attorneys and judges – all of whom have had an impact on me. From the get go – my career has sort been a "go with the flow" – I've never had any sort of master plan and things have just happened and I've gone with it.

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).

"All the candy corn that was ever made was made in 1911" – Lewis Black.

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?

Batman – we would secure the streets of Gotham of course!

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

One Tree Hill – U2
Ramble On – Led Zeppelin
Don't You Forget About Me – Simple Minds
Iko Iko – The Belle Stars
Biko – Peter Gabriel
Lawyers, Guns and Money – Warren Zevon
Don't Bring Me Down – Electric Light Orchestra
Bolero – Ravel (I like the slow build up)

Adult Probation Officer Earns National Honor

A Maricopa County Adult Probation Officer, Kirsten R. Lewis, has won a distinguished national award from the American Probation and Parole Association for her research on secondary traumatic stress among probation officers working with criminal offenders. This award honors a practitioner who has published an article in a national or regional journal concerning probation, parole or community corrections issues. Ms. Lewis was recognized for her achievement by the Maricopa Board of Supervisors.

The 2014 Sam Houston Award came to Ms. Lewis for “groundbreaking” research on stress management and wellness issues among probation, parole and community corrections officers. She has been a probation officer since 1997 and is a member of the Staff Development team at APD. She created the county’s Stress Management Program for Employees Exposed to Vicarious Trauma, a 2013 NACo (National Association of Counties) Award winning program for innovation. She has also helped to develop strategies to reduce job stress among officers.

Ms. Lewis’ research, “Surviving the Trenches: The Personal Impact of the Job on Probation Officers,” was published in the American Journal of Criminal Justice in 2013. Her work has also appeared in the APPA’s Winter 2013 Perspectives journal.

“Ours is a noble profession, one that impacts lives every day and contributes to public safety in a major way,” Lewis said. “But the profession is dependent on a healthy workforce, one that recognizes the trauma and stress inherent in the work we do. I am very honored to receive this award, but the recognition belongs to all of the probation officers who sacrifice so much to serve their communities. I hope my work has helped these valuable public servants.”

Maricopa County Chief Probation Officer Barbara Broderick praised the contributions Ms. Lewis has made to train managers to recognize stress among the workforce and how to handle it. “Kirsten is extremely deserving of this award. She has made substantial contributions to our profession,” Chief Broderick said.

The county Adult Probation Department is a multiple national award winner, recognized in recent years by both the American Probation and Parole Association and The National Association of Probation Executives.

Submitted by Richard De Uriarte, Maricopa County PIO

Lighter Side of the Court

During jury selection, a Superior Court Judge had the following conversation with a juror:

Juror: *My friend told me that I was the most indecisive person they ever met.*

Judge: *And have you decided whether that is true or not?*

Juror: *I’m not really sure.*

Marshal’s Office Graduation



Marshal's Office most recent graduates.

Departments Acknowledge Staff

Several court departments celebrated the achievements and service of their staff by hosting year-end celebrations.



The Jury Office

Criminal Court Administration



Court Reporters