

Judicial Branch News



2014 NACM Conference



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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.

Contributing Writers

Laurie Laughlin
Debbie Gilliland
Chandelle Porter
Gary Bridget
Justine Grabowsky
Jessy Summers
Judge Christopher Coury

Contributing Editors

Karen Arra
Vincent Funari
Kelly Vail
Tanya Luther
Johnny Tse
Mary Byrnes
Nicole Garcia



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Media Relations Department
Old Courthouse 4th Floor
125 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Three New Divisions Approved

Governor Jan Brewer has approved the creation of three new Superior Court Divisions effective January 1, 2015 to relieve caseloads in the Juvenile and Criminal Departments. Two of the divisions will address the rise in dependency caseloads over the last several years; the third division will be assigned a criminal trial caseload.

Presiding Judge Norman Davis said, "I am hopeful that the judicial selection committee can fill these positions prior to January 1, 2015, so we can get the needed assistance as soon as possible."

Governor Appoints New Judge



Timothy Thomason

Governor Jan Brewer appointed Timothy Thomason as a Maricopa County Superior Court Judge. He will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Maria del Mar Verdin.

Judge Thomason has been a partner with the law firm Dickinson Wright (formerly known as Mariscal Weeks, McIntyre & Friedlander) since 2001 and previously was a partner at Streich Lang (1984-2001). He also served as a judge

pro tempore for Maricopa County Superior Court and as a private mediator and arbitrator for more than a decade. His practice primarily consisted of professional liability defense, real estate litigation, insurance, commercial law and banking litigation.

Judge Thomason has earned statewide and national recognition from his legal peers. He was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers, named one of the Best Lawyers in America and ranked as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Arizona by Southwest Super Lawyer.

He received his law degree, with highest distinction, from the University of Iowa (1984) and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Creighton University (1981).

Externs Gain Valuable Experience



Externs attend their final Brown Bag presentation.

Many summer externs will be leaving soon and they will be taking with them some valuable skills and experience from their time working with some of the finest mentors in the legal community.

This summer, 49 judicial officers, representing each department at Superior Court, worked with 67 interns from various law schools throughout the United States. Students from all three in-state law schools, University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Arizona Summit, participated in the program as well as students from schools as far away as Notre Dame, Gonzaga University, Boston College, University of California, Berkeley and University of Pennsylvania.

"With the time, mentoring, and willingness to talk with externs during the summer, our Court's judicial officers provide an invaluable contribution, not only to the 60-plus students working as externs, but to our greater legal community," Superior Court Judge Christopher Coury said.

Superior Court externs are called upon to perform legal research and writing. In addition, they gain exposure to the legal system by observing proceedings in court and, in some instances, discussing the cases with their assigned judge.

A component of the summer externship program includes a series of Brown Bag presentations. This year, there were six presentations on topics including: professionalism, legal skills in various aspects of the practice of law and insights about careers in the changing legal profession.

"Our externs gain true insight not only into the conscientious and difficult decisions made in our courtrooms on a regular basis, but also into how they can become better attorneys once they finish law school," Judge Coury said.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Adriane Garcia, Judicial Clerk
James Vance, Justice Court Administrative Manager

10 Years

Diana Cambron, Court Interpreter Supervisor
Iris Ozorio, Court Recording Monitor
Cynthia Reid, Human Resources Manager
Sally Carrel, Juvenile Detention Officer
Juan Araiza, Warehouse/Inventory Specialist
Robert Clark, Senior Law Researcher
Marcia Sambora, Judicial Clerk Senior
Cassandra Hatch, Juvenile Detention Officer
Jonathon Taylor, Juvenile Detention Officer
Felicia Fierro, Communications System Operator
Erika Freeman, Adult Probation Officer
Kenneth Gorr, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Steven Kenner, Surveillance Officer
Jesse Leroy, Surveillance Officer
Wynkesha McKnight, Surveillance Officer
Mary Lou Offerson, Communications System Operator
Jessica Saenz, Surveillance Officer
Colleen Dorame, Training Supervisor
Melissa Rivas, Surveillance Officer

15 Years

Yesenia Juarez, Case Administrator
Jo Ellen McCammond, Case Administrator
Jason Leonard, Juvenile Probation Officer
Dean Dahle, Systems/Network Administrator
Maria Torres, Management Analyst
Crystal Meier, Juvenile Probation Officer
Jeffery Thomas, Juvenile Probation Officer
Aaron Scherbak, Adult Probation Officer
Ernest Karamyan, Surveillance Officer
Aida Perez, Judicial Clerk Associate

20 Years

Rachael Craig, Presentence Screener

25 Years

Eva Lessing, Adult Probation Officer
Constance Casillas, Adult Probation Officer
William Harkins III, Adult Probation Officer
Stephen Hartley, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Gregory Miller, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Mary Kridler, Judicial Clerk Supervisor

35 Years

Minnie Uribe, Judicial Clerk Supervisor

Judicial Branch Hires HR Manager



Jennifer Harvey

Judicial Branch Human Resources is pleased to announce the hire of Jennifer Harvey as Judicial Branch Human Resources Manager. Harvey, who has more than 13 years of experience in human resources management, will be responsible for compensation management.

Prior to joining the Court, she served six years as Compensation Analyst for Maricopa County's Office of Management & Budget and the Human Resources Department. From 2002 to 2008, she worked for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO), serving as the Human Resources Manager and as a Human Resources Generalist. Before moving to Maricopa County, she worked in Human Resources at the Pima County Superior Court.

When she's not at work, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her eight-year-old daughter. She is a native Arizonan and a devoted Diamondbacks fan.

Employees on the Move

Orlanda Carr Promoted to Human Resources Specialist

Orlanda Carr was recently selected to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Brad Finch. Initially hired to the Judicial Branch in 2001, Orlanda has held assignments in Juvenile Probation and, most recently, as Payroll Representative for Judicial Branch HR. She assumed her new role as HR Specialist on June 23. Orlanda said that she's "excited about the new endeavor."

Shaunna Smith Hired as Human Resources Analyst

Shaunna Smith was hired as the Human Resources Analyst for Judicial Branch Human Resources. Shaunna, who began her duties in Recruiting and Staffing, is responsible for assisting her clients in Juvenile Probation. She comes to us from the City of Mesa where she worked for two years as a Recruiter and most recently as a HR Specialist II. Shaunna holds a MBA with an emphasis in Human Resources from Ottawa University.

Submitted by Gary Bridget, Assistant Human Resources Director

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

Court Wins NACo Awards

The Court's innovative programs continue to receive national acclaim. This year, Superior Court was the recipient of five National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, which will be presented at a ceremony later in August.

The 2014 program winners include:

- **Cradle to Crayons Welfare Centers** (*Juvenile Court*)
- **Probate Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation Program Expanded** (*Probate Court*)
- **Electronic Search Warrant Application: eWarrant and eReturn** (*Court Technology Services*)
- **Empathy and Understanding** (*Adult Probation*)
- **The Field Re-Assessment Offender Screening Tool Refresher Training Program** (*Adult Probation*)

The NACo Achievement Award Program, which began in 1970, is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes effective and innovative programs which contribute to and enhance county government in the United States.

In 2014, Maricopa County was the recipient of 34 NACo Achievement Awards.

CASA Volunteer Passes Away

Jackie Flowers, the first Court Appointed Special Advocate for the CASA of Maricopa County Program, passed away at the age of 87.

In addition to her volunteer efforts with CASA, Jackie helped start the Phoenix Crisis Nursery and Arizonans for Children. In 1997, Jackie was honored with the Hon. Kachina Award in recognition of her outstanding volunteerism.

Jackie was a tireless lobbyist for the rights of children. Jackie was recognized for her 20 years of service as a CASA Mentor in addition to her CASA Advocate role. She will continue to be remembered with respect, gratitude and much affection. A CASA of Maricopa County Program Award of Distinction will be established in her name.

Submitted by Laurie Laughlin, CASA Program Director

CASA Honors Advocates



The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Maricopa County Program held a Light of Hope Recognition Dinner to honor and celebrate the work and dedication of its CASA volunteers. The event was held on June 28th at the Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix.

“The CASA Program is grateful for the opportunity to let our CASA volunteers know how much their work is appreciated,” said Laurie Laughlin, Program Director of CASA of Maricopa County.

The event included guest speakers, an award ceremony, music and festivities.

“Thanks to a grant from the Arizona Lottery and funding and support from the Voices for CASA Children, Inc. Board and Planning Committee, we were able to make it a memorable evening,” Laughlin said.

Submitted by Justine Grabowsky, CASA

New Commissioners Appointed



Nicole M. Brickner

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed Nicole M. Brickner and Jane McLaughlin as Superior Court Commissioners.

Commissioner Brickner assumed Judge Patricia’s Starr’s Criminal-Mental Health calendar.

“Commissioner Brickner brings with her a wealth of legal knowledge and experience from her work in both the public and private sectors,” Judge Davis said. “She has a broad-based background with significant knowledge in family, juvenile and probate court.”

Commissioner McLaughlin, who is working in Initial Appearance Court, fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Commissioner Barbara Hamner.

Prior to joining the court, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the United States Attorney’s Office.

“Commissioner McLaughlin has a deep knowledge in criminal and juvenile delinquency law from her prior experience as a Deputy Maricopa County Attorney and an Assistant Arizona Attorney General,” Judge Davis said. “Also, she previously served as Vice President and General Counsel with the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks for two years, and brings private practice experience from practicing law with the Meyer, Hendricks law firm in the areas of corporate law and civil litigation.”



Jane McLaughlin

Diversity Spring Fling



More than 100 people attended the third annual Spring Fling hosted by the Adult and Juvenile Probation Department Diversity Council. This year, the event was held at the Durango Juvenile complex. Employees from Juvenile and Adult Probation enjoyed the outdoors, a picnic lunch and music by DJ Manny Barron while celebrating diversity. The event also featured a bake sale and line dancing.

By Chandelle Porter, Adult Probation Department

Chief Justice Visits Northeast



Judicial Assistant Greg Paduganan (left) and Chief Justice Scott Bales (right).

Newly selected Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales met with judicial officers and court staff on his tour of the Northeast Regional Center in Phoenix. Chief Justice Bales was recently chosen by fellow Justices to serve a five year term. As Chief Justice, he will handle case work and oversee the administrative operations of all the state courts in Arizona.

Marshal's Office Thanks Staff

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County Marshal's Office would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to the Downtown employees for their actions during the incident that occurred on the Central Court Plaza on July 10.

Your cooperation, flexibility, and orderly response to the evacuation was instrumental in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all.

We also appreciate your continued vigilance and awareness of possible security threats that may affect fellow employees, the general public, and court facilities.

As a reminder, please notify the Security Control Center at 602.506.3424 if you observe something suspicious.

Submitted by Jessy Summers, Marshal's Office

Court Officials Tour the Tower



Criminal Court Administrator Bob James (right) leads a group of court administrators and presiding judges from jurisdictions throughout the United States on a tour of the South Court Tower. The group, National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, held their annual conference in conjunction with the 2014 National Association for Court Managers Annual Conference in Scottsdale. NCMC works to improve the administration of justice in America's multi-judge, metropolitan-sized courts throughout the Country.

NACM Assists Garfield Center



During the Nation Association for Court Management (NACM) Annual Conference, a clothing drive was held to benefit probationers in the Garfield community. The drive was part of NACM's initiative to give back to the community hosting its conference.

The Garfield Probation Center, a transition house for probationers, strives to assist probationers and the community with GED, job skills and English language classes.

Women in Court Leadership



During the NACM Annual Conference, Arizona Supreme Court Justice Rebecca White Berch (left) participated in a discussion on Women in Trial Court Leadership: Struggles and Successes. The presentation was led by highly successful female judicial officers and court leaders. The conversation focused on the unseen barriers and prejudices against women in the court workplace that limit advancement to top leadership positions.

2014 NACM Conference

Judicial Officers and court professionals throughout the world met in Scottsdale, AZ for the 2014 National Association for Court Management Annual Conference to discuss the importance of planning and the future of the judiciary.

The event, which took place from July 13 to 17, featured presentations from judges, commissioners and court employees focusing on the conference's theme: Embracing the Courts of the Future: Blueprint for Action. Several discussions were led by representatives of the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County:

Future of Courts: 2025 - Looking Out on the Horizon - Presented by Phil Knox, Peter Kiefer and Nicole Garcia

The workshop shared the results from three surveys conducted during the last year and a half analyzing the probability of certain scenarios that could affect courts occurring by the year 2025.

Cradle to Crayons: Dependency Case Management - Presented by Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Colleen McNally and Sheila Tickle

The presentation focused on how Maricopa County Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Center is eliminating barriers to integrate service delivery and expedite permanency for at-risk infants, young children and their families.

Ethics and the Court Manager – Presiding Judge Partnership - One of the presenters was Peter Kiefer

The session discussed the ethical implications of the relationship between the presiding judge–court manager partnership.

Managing Notorious Trials in the Media Spotlight - Associate Presiding Criminal Judge Joseph Kreamer, panel member

Judges involved in recent high profile criminal cases discussed the techniques and approaches used to manage the trials and public/social media frenzies.

ICM Fellows Leadership Seminar – One of the presenters was Nicole Garcia

A special seminar held for ICM Fellows discussing such topics as Effective Messaging with the Public and the Purposes and Responsibilities of ICM Fellowship.

Emerging Specialty Courts: Strategies for Building Successful Partnerships - Commissioner Barbara Spencer, panel member

A moderated panel of judicial officers and court administrators discussed successes and issues they have faced running various problem solving courts; including a regional homeless court, a veterans court and a mental health court.

The Science Behind and Need for Evidence Based Sentencing and Probation - One of the presenters included Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally

The session focused on how best to reduce recidivism, lower crime rates, reduce victimization, save taxpayer money, protect the community, and change criminal behavior patterns by applying sentencing options and interventions based on proven scientific studies, analyses and clinical research.

More than 700 invitees attended this year's conference. The 2015 NACM Annual Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from July 12 to 16.

NACM is the largest organization of court management professionals in the world with members from all levels and types of courts. The organization provides court management professionals the opportunity to increase their proficiency while working with colleagues to improve the administration of justice.