

Judicial Branch News

Presiding Judge Reflects on his Judicial Career



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Cover - Presiding Judge Norman Davis passes the gavel to Associate Presiding Judge Janet Barton. On July 1, Judge Barton will be Superior Court's new Presiding Judge.



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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Presiding Judge Reflects on his Judicial Career



Norman Davis

As my five-year term as Presiding Judge and 20-year judicial career both come to an end this month, I have reflected on the reasons why I have thoroughly enjoyed every day of the journey. There are many reasons, but first among them are the amazing men and women of the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County that continually put service above self, honor the rule of law, and ensure every person coming to the Court is fully heard and treated with dignity and respect. This culture of competence, coupled with an undeviating quest for excellence in all that we do, has truly made it a pleasure to be part of this unique organization for the last 20 years.

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus opined that “Change is the only constant in life.” Such has been life at the Maricopa County Judicial Branch during the time that I have been privileged to serve as Presiding Judge. Since my term began, three new judge and two new commissioner positions have

been created, and, amazingly, nearly one-half of our bench is new to the Court. Within the last five years, a total of 34 new judges have been appointed, and with the nine judges that will soon be appointed to replace recent judicial retirements, a total of 43 of our 98 judges (44%) will have started with the Court within approximately the last five years. Similarly, I have been privileged to appoint 26 new Commissioners to judicial positions during my term, representing over 40% of our Commissioner bench.

Fortunately, the basic merit selection provisions of the Arizona Constitution adopted by the voters more than 40 years ago as well as our internal appointment process for commissioner appointments that mirror those merit provisions have not changed. These selection processes, unpolluted by political rhetoric, campaign promises, or financial contributions continue to produce highly qualified men and women for appointment to this Court to serve as Judges and Commissioners.

At the beginning of my term I had developed a long list of initiatives that I wanted to accomplish during my term, but it was apparent that we would need to initially focus our efforts on at least four critical areas: 1) Technology upgrades; 2) Probate reform; 3) Completion of the South Court Tower; and 4) Our relationship with other justice partners.

First, I knew from my working with court technology systems in previous leadership roles that the Judicial Branch badly needed to upgrade its aging computer infrastructure, database, software development structure and business applications, particularly a major enhancement of our iCIS case management system that could take advantage of technological advancements in recent years. My first priority was to establish a set of core principles to guide the development of a new system. Thanks to the inspired efforts of dedicated developers, contractors, analysts, and employees at CTS, led by Ray Billotte, Diana Hegyi, Raghu Subramanya, Tom Moseley, Brian Gay, Chris Holly, Steve Stilwell and many others, we have made significant advances in upgrading our computer systems, agile development capabilities, governance standards, technical infrastructure, software, and functionality over the last few years, including:

- Phase I of our next generation (iCISng) case management system has been successfully deployed, and is now operational in the Criminal Department. Among the new applications and functionality are:
 - o New flexible screens with an intuitive design and enhanced information access;
 - o Near paperless processing of initial appearance matters with integrated criminal history, risk assessment, and additional information;
 - o Electronic issuance of DUI blood draw search warrants (eSearchWarrant);
 - o Electronic processing of petitions to revoke probation and warrant issuance (ePTR);
 - o Processing and issuance of release orders (eRelease), electronically;
 - o Preparation, display and management of individual division and hearing calendars and check-in screens (myngcalendar);
 - o Interactive calendar management of RCC and EDC hearings and operations;
 - o Electronic preparation and transmittal of integrated probation pre-sentence reports to the court (ePSR);
 - o Processing and management of criminal sentencing proceedings electronically (eSentencing); and
 - o Major increases in numbers and types of documents filed electronically (efiling).

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- Software applications are now developed under a structured IT Governance policy that better assesses and satisfies user needs and requirements, ensures coordinated review and approval of new projects, better optimizes the use of scarce development resources, and provides improved management of project design, development and testing. The involvement of many of the Court's judges and commissioners in this process has also been essential to ensure new software applications are efficient, effective, and practical in the courtroom.
- Our fragile disaster recovery system has been significantly upgraded, and is being moved to specialized off-site facilities with modern virtual servers that ensure constant and continuous data back-up and instant redundant data accessibility.
- Development of probate intelligent forms has been completed and deployed to allow self-represented parties to prepare small estate affidavits and pleadings to initiate an informal probate proceeding through a guided interview process.

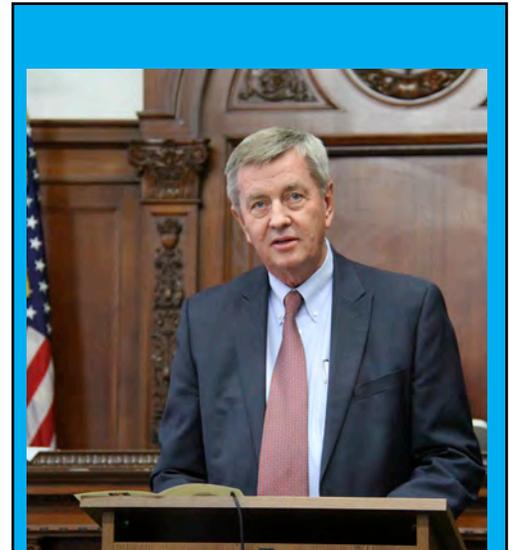
A second circumstance that confronted the Court as my term commenced was significant media criticism being directed at the Probate Court driven by the perception that the Probate Court was not protecting estates from litigation and fiduciary costs. The media reports were often dramatically overstated and certainly not balanced, but high functioning courts evaluate such criticism with a view towards improvement. In response, I formed a Committee with Judge Rosa Mroz and the Court's other probate experts to review our probate processes and procedures to identify areas that might need improvement.

A number of improvements were identified and implemented from that process, including the addition of a second probate judge, restoring staff positions lost in the last recession, new statutes, rules and forms, creation of a new Compliance Court to monitor fiduciaries' compliance with court orders, a risk assessment filtering process to better identify at-risk cases, and a probate telephone hotline to encourage the public to report potential physical or financial abuse of wards to the Court. Judge Mroz and Judge David Cunanan also worked to create an educational course known as Conservatorship 1-2-3 to assist court-appointed conservators satisfy their legal reporting accounting responsibilities.

I also asked the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct an assessment of our Probate Court. The resulting NCSC report noted that our Court "is known for excellence", that our Probate Court has for years been recognized for innovative practices, and concluded that our Probate Court "is poised to be a court that others emulate."

During this process I learned that modern media outlets have little interest in disseminating positive or complimentary information on public agencies. In the words of the Arizona Republic editor who responded to my request to publish the positive findings from the independent NCSC report to balance weeks of negative criticism: "Judge Davis, we don't print stories on planes that land safely." Despite this decided media preference to disproportionately publish critical material, the findings of the NCSC report and opinions of other experts throughout the country, stand to validate the quality of our programs and our dedication to excellence in public service.

Continued



Presiding Judge Reflects on his Judicial Career

Third, at the time my term began construction of the South Court Tower had commenced and would continue for another 19 months before it was dedicated on February 14, 2012, coinciding with Arizona's centennial statehood celebration. Thanks to many years of dedicated planning and saving by Maricopa County and prior Court leadership, the completion of our South Court Tower has provided us with a modern, innovative courthouse that assists high volume criminal case processing, facilitates victims' rights, enhances security, improves juror comfort, and utilizes the latest courtroom and jury technology. This courthouse provides 22 criminal courtrooms and has expansion space for 10 additional courtrooms. Subsequently, the County agreed to proceed with the asbestos abatement and renovation of the top four floors of the East Court Building (ECB). Renovation of the seventh floor of ECB was completed and occupied by four civil judges in early 2015, and an additional four courtrooms will be added in 2016 after renovation of the 8th floor.

More recently, working with County leadership and a team of consultants, we jointly completed a comprehensive Courts Facilities Master Plan to guide the future development and construction of facilities for the next decade and beyond to address the projected future growth in the County population. This Master Plan projects that by the year 2024, Maricopa County will have grown to around 4,851,000 people, and the Superior Court will need 33 additional courtrooms located downtown and at a new Southwest Regional Court Center, together with various other facilities to accommodate anticipated growth in administration, staff, and probation personnel.

Fourth, as my term began an important priority was to affirm and establish cordial working relationships with all of our justice partners. Through a series of inter-agency meetings and initiatives, and efforts from all involved we have been able to make significant progress on common initiatives in numerous areas. One of the first actions I took was to reconstitute the McJustice Committee to again collaborate with criminal justice entities in the County to explore efficiencies and improvements between the various agencies. Significant joint progress has also been made on many software integration projects completed through the cooperative efforts of the members of the Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (ICJIS).

There were many other initiatives that I identified when I started my term, and many more conceived by others along the way, and with the support of gifted departmental presiding judges, and initiative of many innovative judges, administrators and probation personnel, we have accomplished much together during the last five years.

Under the able direction of both Judge Joseph Welty, and now Federal District Judge Doug Rayes, the Criminal Department has improved case processing for increasing criminal case loads, evolving charging policies, and increased trial demands with modifications to the criminal master calendar structure, and renewed emphasis on reducing our capital case inventory. In 2010 there were 84 active capital cases awaiting resolution, and that number has steadily declined to the current number of 58 pending capital cases.

Judge Rayes also established two oversight committees, one for capital cases and a second for felony representation designed to improve the qualifications of attorneys appointed by the Court to represent capital and felony defendants.



Continued

Presiding Judge Reflects on his Judicial Career

With the implementation of the Settlement Conference on Demand and Plea on Demand programs that guarantee prompt Court access to resolve cases when the individual dynamics of each case dictate court intervention, the Criminal Department has further improved case flow efficiency and faster access to justice.

Judge Welty deployed a new risk assessment instrument this month in the Initial Appearance Courts that relies upon the most comprehensive and accurate evidence-based research available to assist judicial officers in making the most appropriate decisions on setting conditions of release that best balance legal requirements, honor the presumption of innocence, and preserve public safety.

Working with the Criminal Department we completed a Warrants Reconciliation Project in 2013 that eliminated over 20,000 arrest warrant errors accumulated over many decades and aligned court records with those relied upon by law enforcement agencies. Additionally, moving all in-custody hearings held at the Southeast Regional Center to the downtown complex significantly reduced transportation costs and strengthened security requirements at both locations.

Major reforms have also occurred at the Juvenile Court under the leadership of Judge Colleen McNally and now Federal Bankruptcy Judge Eddward Ballinger with the creation and implementation of the nationally recognized Cradle-to-Crayons (C2C) program designed to provide more active judicial management of dependency cases and early permanent placement for abused and neglected children. This program is supported by significant research that demonstrates early permanent placement in stable homes results in positive lifetime outcomes for young children.

Our Juvenile Court has also been challenged to address a huge increase in juvenile dependency case filings over the last five years--from 2,451 dependency cases filed in 2010 to nearly 4,460 projected to be filed during the current fiscal year, an increase of nearly 82%. To address this demand, the Juvenile Court reconfigured dependency calendars before judges and placed delinquency calendars with commissioners. The enormous growth required additional judicial officers to be assigned to the Juvenile Court. Two newly created judge divisions have been assigned and two additional commissioner calendars have recently been created to hear these cases.

In addition, the Adoption Certification Unit was returned to Superior Court supervision in 2014. This has resulted in an improved adoption certification process and a significant reduction in the time required to perform background and fingerprint checks to determine the eligibility of prospective adoptive parents to adopt. National Adoption Day continues to set records for completing more adoptions than any other court nationwide.

Significant progress has been made in the creation of a Crossover Youth Program using best-evidence practices to address the unique needs of dependent children that also struggle with delinquency issues.

Juvenile Probation will also open its new in-house food service facility this summer to improve food quality and nutrition for children housed in the Juvenile Detention Centers, and concurrently create added opportunities for vocational motivation and training for the youth in detention.

Judge John Rea and Judge Robert Oberbillig have advanced the mission of the Civil Department with new innovative programs, while dealing with burgeoning caseloads. Starting July 1 the Court will begin piloting a new Commercial Court with three judges dedicated to hearing business disputes that is intended to expedite and reduce the cost of these cases. In addition, a new program known as "Name Change on Demand" is now in operation to provide court access to litigants convenient to their own schedule when seeking a name change.

In 2011, the Civil Department experienced a dramatic increase in filings of over 32% (from 74,110 to 98,120). With increased emphasis on mediation and settlement activity and just plain hard work by judicial officers, this crisis was resolved. In our Tax Department, Judge Dean Fink experienced a similar dramatic increase in tax filings in 2009 and 2010 when caseloads doubled and then tripled. Judge Dean Fink skillfully resolved this crisis with rule changes he secured and tasking and training additional judicial officers to hear cases.

Presiding Judge Reflects on his Judicial Career

I am also grateful to Judge Janet Barton and now retired Judge Carey Hyatt for their professional leadership of the Family Court Department the last 5 years. They have made significant improvements in restructuring Accountability Court and Enforcement Court to redefine those target populations in a manner designed to produce better outcomes. Family Drug Court has been redirected to focus on its mission of rehabilitation without placing children at risk. Most recently, Judge Barton has skillfully led legal reforms to resolve controversies over the proper use of parenting coordinators and the proper handling of professional complaints against psychologists.

The Probate Department has also continued to excel under Judge Andrew Klein's skillful leadership to create a Probate Mediation program that has consistently resolved over 88% of contested Probate cases, markedly decreases the cost to litigants, and is gaining statewide and national interest.

In addition, one of my priorities was to reengineer the Law Library and Self Service Center into a more modern and relevant Law Library Resource Center. Much progress has been made to retire unused costly paper books and redirect resources, create fillable forms, expand intelligent forms, provide personal assistance in document preparation, and move to a customer service model that triages the needs of each user to maximize the information and assistance that can be ethically provided to them. In the future, the LLRC will be more conveniently located in the Central Court Building and provide a wealth of electronic research, video and audio assistance, classroom instruction, understandable legal summaries, personal assistance, and other resources designed to provide the public better access to justice.

Problem-solving courts continue to be created, expanded and improved. In a collaborative effort with the municipal and justice courts in Maricopa County we began operation of a Regional Homeless Court in 2012 that is now available to all lower court jurisdictions in the County. This Court has experienced dramatic success in resolving minor, but life-altering legal problems for the homeless, and restoring hundreds of homeless citizens to productive lives. Similarly, we have prioritized the need to provide services to our military veterans having difficulty adjusting to civilian life and have found much success in properly assisting that population since creation of our Veterans' Court in 2011. As part of the Juvenile Court's C2C reengineering project, a Dependency Treatment Court was also created to further that mission.

It has been a priority for our Court to educate the public and improve the dissemination of information concerning the Third Branch of Government. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Judge Chris Whitten, we have reformatted the Judicial Education & Training Committee to create educational programs and educational materials to better inform the public through interactive presentations. Our Media Relations Department continues to improve under the exceptional leadership of Karen Arra. With the addition of a multimedia journalist, Kelly Vail, a new You-Tube channel was established for the Court. Extensive use of social media has also been introduced with the addition of Facebook and Twitter communications to inform the public of ongoing events and decisions at the Court.



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Presiding Judge Reflects on his Judicial Career

Litigants, attorneys, jurors, and other court users have responded positively to surveys seeking their opinions with regard to their interactions with our Court system. In standardized CourTools Performance surveys conducted in both 2013 and 2015, the public overwhelmingly rated the Maricopa County Superior Court extremely high in their experiences with the Court, including safety, efforts to remove language barriers, being treated with courtesy and respect, and similar measures designed to identify user experience. When compared with similar surveys conducted at four courts throughout the country of comparable size, the Maricopa County Superior Court surpassed the performance of all of them.

Court Commissioners serve as the backbone of our Court system by hearing a myriad of diverse hearings in all departments of the Court, usually with an extremely high number of hearings held each day, sometimes conducting hearings seven days a week and around the clock, and remaining behind on critical calendars when others are on vacation or at other events. Fortunately, we have been able to eliminate any class distinctions between our Commissioners by merging them into one group with uniform duties and compensation, increasing their compensation to 90% of judicial salaries, and providing them more autonomy in the direct supervision of their judicial assistant.

We have many other pockets of excellence throughout the Third Branch with dedicated employees doing great things every day. I have been fortunate to be supported by two highly qualified trial court administrators during my term, Marcus Reinkensmeyer and Ray Billotte, two incredible Judicial Assistants, Pat Schuler and Debbie Sinclair, as well as by many other dedicated and talented administration professionals from the executive management team to the front line employees who are providing access to justice on a daily basis.

Our Adult Probation Department and Juvenile Probation Departments led by Barbara Broderick and Eric Meaux both give extraordinary service to the Court and the community, and have established many innovative practices and programs in their respective areas that have received national recognition. Our legal department, led by Lori Ash and Josh Waltman have successfully and expertly written new Classified Personnel Rules that greatly streamline personnel supervision and discipline, rewritten the Maricopa County Local Rules of Procedure approved by the Supreme Court in 2013, expertly tracked every bill and resolution filed at the legislature to identify any possible impact on the Third Branch, and done so much more to provide legal advice and review, and to ensure the integrity of our employment, procurement and procedural processes court wide.

We have also worked with the Maricopa County Bar Association to raise funds and convert the sixth floor of the Old Courthouse into an informative Justice Museum to honor, celebrate and educate the public on Maricopa County's legal history and development.

As I leave my term as Presiding Judge I am grateful for all of you that have worked tirelessly to foster a culture of competence, excellence and innovation to make the Maricopa County Superior Court the best trial court in the country. Predictably, the Maricopa County Superior Court, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation continue to be recognized nationally and locally with numerous awards and honors. (See [Judicial Branch Awards](#)) It has been my great honor to be part of this adventure, and as I retire I will miss my daily association with all of you. I am grateful for the support you have provided to me as Presiding Judge, and I know that the Court is in good hands with a bright future ahead. Thanks for the memories.



Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Leisel Baker, Court Reporter
Thomas LeClaire, Superior Court Judge
Bridget Miller, Judicial Assistant
Cynthia Gialketsis, Court Commissioner
Karen Mogler, Adult Probation Officer
Denise Perez, Adult Probation Officer
Jennifer Ellsworth, Adult Probation Officer
April Powell, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Amanda Borquez, Adult Probation Officer
Angelica Camacho, Presentence Screener
Emily Etchebarren, Adult Probation Officer
Ted Froderman, Adult Probation Officer
Sinisa Malisanovic, Adult Probation Officer
Douglas Murphy, Adult Probation Officer
Traci Phillips, Adult Probation Officer
Silvia Sandoval-Partida, Adult Probation Officer
David Taylor, Adult Probation Officer
Claudia Dominguez, Court Security Deputy Marshal
Gary Gray, Court Security Deputy Marshal
James Hancock, Court Security Deputy Marshal
Daniel Kiley, Superior Court Judge

10 Years

Allen Larkin, Adult Probation Officer
Adriana Rodriguez, Adult Probation Officer
Joel Thurston, Adult Probation Officer
Jodie Fenn, Juvenile Detention Officer
Dennis Lehmeyer, Court Security Deputy Marshal
Jasmine Herrera, Adult Probation Officer
Linda Gutierrez, Judicial Clerk Senior

15 Years

Sean Steill, Surveillance Officer
Kristi Reid, Judicial Assistant
Patrick Daily, Surveillance Officer
Thelma Gill, Case Administrator
Ashley Holmes, Adult Probation Officer
Casey Boyd, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor

20 Years

Angelita Chavez, Payroll Representative
Ruth Manner, Judicial Clerk Associate
Gloria Cravens, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
Mark Aceto, Superior Court Judge
Norman Davis, Superior Court Judge
Monica Hill-Morrisette, Court Reporter
Kristine Stoll, Juvenile Probation Officer
Patricia Schuler, Executive Assistant
John Stair, Juvenile Probation Officer
Dorothy Thompson, Juvenile Probation Officer
Gloria Serino, Collections Supervisor

25 Years

William Lawlor, Computer Operator - Sr/Ld
Patty Barnfield, Case Administrator
Maria Santiago, Business/Systems Analyst
Channing Williams, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
Carol Tucker, Juvenile Probation Officer

31 Years

Debra Austin, Operations Support Analyst
Ricky McKaig, Judicial Staff Trainer/Coordinator

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

Caption Contest



E-mail the caption for this out of order, courtroom drinking fountain 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 Pamela Gates**. Thanks to everyone who submitted a caption!



New juror greeting, "We appreciate your willingness to participate in jury service. Some of you may be excited about today and hoping to be selected for a jury. For those hoping to avoid jury service, we have kindly provided mentos and diet coke in conveniently located vending machines – please aim away from the glass windows. Ladies and gentlemen, again, thank you for your time."

Pillars of Honor Ceremony

On May 27, Maricopa County hosted a Pillars of Honor Ceremony, recognizing exemplary Maricopa County employees. The names of the honorees, which include current and former employees of the Judicial Branch, are placed on the pillars outside of the Central Court Building.



Gale Barclay



Stephen Carpenter



Brad Finch



Elia Gonzales



Phillip Wormley
(Elvia Davis Accepted His Award)



Eileen Long



Kirsten Lewis



Grace Gutierrez



Linda Heimer

Judicial Appointments



Laura Reckart

Governor Doug Ducey appointed Judges Laura Reckart and Ted Campagnolo to the Maricopa County Superior Court bench to fill the vacancies created by the retirements of Judges Brian Ishikawa and Carey Hyatt.

Judge Reckart is a prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Capital Litigation Bureau. She prosecuted many high-profile criminal cases, including the *Serial Shooters* and the *Honor Killing* case. She also prepared legislation on matters such as victims' rights, date rape, and sexual assault, which have become law in Arizona.

She obtained an undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona in 1984 and law degree from the Arizona State University College of Law in 1988.

Judge Campagnolo previously served as the Arizona Attorney General's Office Senior Litigation Counsel in the Fraud and Special Prosecutions Section; was a prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office; and served on the Maricopa County Arson Task Force. Currently, the Judge teaches Criminal Law as an

adjunct professor at Arizona Summit Law School, and has been active at the highest levels of the State Bar of Arizona, including the Board of Governors.

Judge Campagnolo graduated from Southern Methodist Law School in 1978. He clerked for Judge Reynaldo Garza of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, and then for Judge Garza at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Prior to joining government service, he worked in private law practice in Texas, where he gained experience in civil litigation, business law, family law, and probate law.



Ted Campagnolo

Commissioner Appointments

Superior Court Judge Presiding Judge Norman Davis has appointed three Commissioners to fill vacancies in Criminal and Juvenile Court.

Commissioner Nicolas Hoskins (not pictured) is a New York University law graduate and has practiced law with Fennemore Craig, P.C. for the last 11 years. Commissioner Hoskins has practiced extensively in the area of business litigation, with an emphasis on creditors' rights and bankruptcy. He will start on a juvenile delinquency calendar on July 1.



Paula Williams

Commissioner Paula Williams, who is currently in private practice with May, Potenza, Baran & Gillespie, has an extensive civil litigation background. She obtained her law degree from the University of Arizona School of Law, and started her legal career as a prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Additionally, the Commissioner brings a wealth of experience and legal skills gained from her diverse legal practice. Commissioner Williams will start on a Criminal Initial Appearance calendar starting July 13.



Kevin Wein

Commissioner Kevin Wein is a Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law graduate, and currently practices law with Doyle Raizner LLP. His practice is focused on plaintiffs' catastrophic personal injury and bad faith cases, and he previously practiced in the areas of civil litigation and criminal defense. Commissioner Wein will assume a Criminal Regional Court Center calendar on July 1.

Judge Blakey Retires



Craig Blakey

Judge A. Craig Blakey II submitted his retirement letter to the Governor, effective June 30.

Judge Blakey served in Family, Criminal, Civil and Juvenile Court and made a major impact in each of them. He chaired the Mental Health Committee during his Family Court tenure; implemented new trial case processing techniques in the Civil Department; presided over significant capital murder cases in

Criminal Court and played a significant role in creating and implementing the Crossover Youth Practice Model that he currently presides over in Juvenile Court.

Two years ago, Judge Blakey was honored as the 2013 Judge of the Year by the Phoenix Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

“Judge Blakey has thrown himself into innovation and improvement wherever he has served,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said. “Judge Blakey will be missed at our Court, and we are all the better for his service.”

Good Luck Johnny!



Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte presents Management Analyst Johnny Tse a certificate for his nine years of dedicated service. Tse has accepted a position with Pinal County Superior Court.

Judge LeClaire Says Farewell



Thomas LeClaire

Judge Thomas LeClaire is retiring from the bench, effective June 30, to pursue a business opportunity.

“Judge LeClaire has many talents and it is not surprising that he is in high demand in the business, as well as the public sectors,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said. “He is a very competent and skilled jurist and found great success with the cases he handled in resolving conflict and following the rule of law.”

Judge LeClaire was appointed to the Bench in 2010. He has presided over Family and Civil Court calendars.

“I have really enjoyed getting to know Tom during his time with us, and I know that we all wish him the best and every success in his new career,” Judge Davis said.

Judge Green Investiture



Chief Justice Scott Bales delivers the oath of office to Judge Jennifer Green during her investiture ceremony at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Supervisor Serves on a Jury



Supervisor Steve Gallardo.

He never thought they would pick him.

Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Gallardo was shocked when he was selected to serve on a criminal trial. So shocked, he didn't bother to rearrange his busy Board of Supervisors calendar.

"I was not prepared. I have been summoned many times before but this was the first time I was picked to be on a jury panel," Supervisor Gallardo said. "Usually

when I tell the attorneys that I was a former lawmaker, I get dismissed."

Supervisor Gallardo was chosen to sit on a trial that lasted almost four days. After three hours of deliberation, the jury returned a not guilty verdict.

"We had a nice discussion. Our initial vote was 5-3 (in favor of not guilty). But we went back into the jury room, deliberated a little longer and returned a unanimous verdict," he said.

For Supervisor Gallardo, sitting on a jury was far different than he imagined.

"For some people the natural response to receiving a summons in the mail is negative, but once you are selected and serve, your attitude changes quickly and dramatically. Serving on a jury gives me a greater appreciation for the judicial system," he said. "We live in a great Country where everyone has their day in court and has the right to be judged by a group of their peers."

Steve Gallardo is the Maricopa County Supervisor for District 5. He is a fourth generation Arizona native who previously was elected as a legislator in the Arizona Senate and the House of Representatives.

"Everyone in Maricopa County should get the opportunity to serve on a jury. It is a responsibility we all have and it gives us a better understanding how the judicial system works," Supervisor Gallardo said.

Reunification Day 2015



Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Colleen McNally (right) presents a reunified family with a hero award.

Superior Court hosted its second annual Reunification Day Celebration on June 13 at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Phoenix to honor parents who successfully reunited with their children.

Nine families were honored with lunch and a commemorative program. Each of the families were personally nominated and selected to participate in this special event.

"All children need a safe, stable home where they receive care, love, and nurturing that they need to grow to be healthy, happy and productive adults," said Judge Colleen McNally, Presiding Juvenile Judge of Maricopa County Superior Court. "Reunification Day is a day to honor families who have successfully overcome the challenges that brought their children into foster care."

From April 2014 to September 2014, 2,722 children exited the foster care system as a result of being reunified with their families. More than half of the 17,500 Arizona children currently in foster care have a case plan goal of family reunification.

Judges Visit Museum of Tolerance

Listening to victims of hate crimes describe the traumatic events that shaped their lives left a lasting impression on a group of Superior Court Judges.

Last month, during a visit at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, nine Superior Court Judges and Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte heard powerful, gripping stories from Holocaust survivor Morris Price and hate crime victim Matthew Boger.

“Morris and Matthew impressed me with their grace, compassion and humor,” Judge Patricia Starr said. “The visit reinforced my belief that it is important to remember that every person has his or her own experiences and life story, which affects how he or she perceives the world, behaves and interacts with others.”

Holocaust survivors who share their life stories are an integral part of the Museum of Tolerance.

According to Superior Court Judge Jennifer Green, Price’s story is a powerful tale of horrific loss and triumph.

Price was a twelve-year-old Jewish boy when the Nazi’s occupied Poland in 1939. When he was a teenager, he was imprisoned and sent to labor camps. He spent 18 months in the concentration camp at Auschwitz and later sent to the death camp at Dachau. Finally in 1945, the American Army liberated him. Although he survived, Price lost both his parents in the death camps.

“Hearing from Morris, a Holocaust survivor who at the age of 15 survived the Auschwitz concentration camp was amazing. He was able to tell his brave story with a smile on his face and without a hint of hatred or anger,” Judge Frank Moskowitz said. “He was as strong and inspiring as any person I’ve ever met. When I went to shake his hand after his presentation, he held onto it the entire time we spoke. You could tell he loved connecting with people.”

Boger’s story is just as powerful. He was a victim of bullying at school and forced to leave home by his mother at the age of 13 because he was gay. So he left home, boarded a bus to Hollywood and lived on the streets. One night, the homeless Boger was beaten unconscious by a group of neo-Nazi Skinheads on a street corner because of his sexual orientation. The beating was especially brutal.

Story Continued on Page 15



Left to right - Judge Jennifer Green, Judge Rodrick Coffey, Judge Patricia Starr, Judge Frank Moskowitz, Judge Katherine Cooper, Judge Geoffrey Fish, Judge Timothy Thomason, Judge Jennifer Ryan-Touhill, Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte and Judge Suzanne Cohen.

Judges Share Their Thoughts

What I learned from the museum visit was that we must respond, not react, and we must remember to show kindness to others.

Judge Jennifer Ryan-Touhill

We heard from two individuals, an 86-year-old Holocaust survivor and the Director of the Museum (Matt) who was the victim of a hate crime as a teenager when he was living on the streets. These two individuals speak regularly to groups, and both were moving and inspiring.

Judge Katherine Cooper

The Museum of Tolerance served as a reminder to me of the resilience of human life. Also, I learned that all of us, including school children, need to learn about the sins of the Holocaust so they are not repeated.

Judge Jennifer Green

Museum of Tolerance - Continued

Twenty five years later, as fate would have it, Boger crossed paths with Timothy Zaal, the man who led the attack on him. Zaal, who is now a reformed Skinhead, became Boger's colleague at the Museum of Tolerance. After the initial shock of their unlikely meeting and plenty of heart-to-heart discussions, the two men reconciled and became good friends. They are now regular speakers with the museum who share their story of forgiveness with others.

"Listening to Matt and learning about all he faced and how he remained strong and forgiving was enlightening," Judge Suzanne Cohen said.

Since 2004, Superior Court judges have been visiting the Museum of Tolerance. This year's Judges included: Judge Rodrick Coffey, Judge Suzanne Cohen, Judge Katherine Cooper, Judge Geoffrey Fish, Judge Jennifer Green, Judge Frank Moskowitz, Judge Jennifer Ryan-Touhill, Judge Patricia Starr and Judge Timothy Thomason.

"The Museum of Tolerance provides a sobering opportunity to see firsthand the brutality and destructiveness of bias and prejudice," said Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte. "For our Judges and all those who work in the justice system, the Museum is a constant reminder that fair and free courts play a vital role in our society by preserving the rights of all and adhering to important principles established by the Rule of Law. It was a terrific experience and one that allowed our Judges to build collegiality and reflect on their important responsibilities of being a judicial officer."

In addition to the presentations, the Judges toured the museum's exhibits, which included videos, multimedia displays and artifacts. Some of the historical items on display included a four-page letter signed by Adolf Hitler as well as relics from Auschwitz.

Established in 1993, the Museum of Tolerance is a multimedia museum in Los Angeles designed to examine racism and prejudice around the world with a strong focus on the history of the Holocaust.

Merit Commissioner Says Farewell



Judicial Branch presents Commissioner Thomas Davis with a plaque for his 13 years of service on the Judicial Merit System. Lauren E. Eiler will replace Commissioner Davis effective July 1. *Members of the Judicial Merit System Commission, left to right: Commissioner Judith Clinton, Commissioner Thomas Davis, Commissioner Craig Waugh, Chairman and Commissioner Logan Young. (Commissioner Anna Baca is not shown.)*

iCISng Launch Event



Presiding Judge Norman Davis (right) and Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte (left) present Michael Albers a certificate for his work on iCISng. Albers was one of many employees honored during the event.

Last month, the Judicial Branch celebrated the completion of Phase 1 for iCISng. The event, which took place at the Downtown Justice Center, featured a ceremony to recognize the hard work of dedicated court employees who worked on iCISng.

Media Relations Department

NACo Award Web Broadcasting Award

Technology

NACo Awards Photo Enforcement Program
Protective Orders

Security

NACo Award Court Security Redesign and Enhancement

Training Department

NACo Award Distance Learning/Live Streaming Education

Individual Honors

Hon. Roland Steinle Distinguished Service Award
Office of the Attorney General

Hon. Edward Burke Judicial Integrity Award
Arizona Trial Lawyers Association

Hon. Barbara Mundell Mark Santana Law-Related Education Award
Arizona Foundation For Legal Services & Education

James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award
State Bar of Arizona

Latina Trailblazer Award
Latino Perspectives Magazine

Marcus Reinkensmeyer Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in
Court Administration
National Center for State Courts

Marcus Reinkensmeyer Pillars of Honor – Salute
Maricopa County

Superior Court NACM/NACo Award for Commissioner Judicial
Performance Review

Gloria Washington
Probation Dept. Officer of the Year
Arizona Black Law Enforcement

Susan Armstrong Law Library	Award of Appreciation State Bar of Arizona
Scott Hermann	Excellence in Training Award Statewide Training Coordinators' Workshop
Robin Hoskins	Distinguished Faculty Award University of Phoenix
Jessica Funkhouser	President's Award State Bar of Arizona

FY 2011 AWARDS

Adult Probation Department

NACo Awards	Improving Community Safety through the Apprehension of Drug-related Offenders Probation Reentry Initiative: Transitioning Offenders from Prison to the Community Restitution Court: A Victim-centered approach to Restitution Collection
NACM Award	Probation Reentry Initiative; Transitioning Offenders from Prison to the Community Justice Achievement Award Nomination

Criminal Court

NACo Award	Video Orders of Protection – Safety for Victims of Domestic Violence
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Court Technology Services (CTS)

CIO (Magazine)	CIO Top 100 Programs: Recognizing organizations that exemplify strategic partnerships: F.A.R.E. Program
NACM Awards	Justice Achievement Award Continuity of Care Justice Achievement Award Backlog Fines/Fees and Restitution Enforcement (FARE) Remote Interpretation Program

Probate Court

NACo Award Reinventing Probate Court in Maricopa County:
Restoring Public Trust and Confidence in the Judiciary

Juvenile Court/CASA

CASA National Court-Appointed Special Advocate
Promising Practices Award-Expand CASA Project

NACo Awards Juvenile Court:
Restoration Program
Community Services Unit
Juvenile Court Guide Program

Individual Honors

Hon. Bruce Cohen Judge of the Year
Arizona Family Support Council

 Judicial Branch Distinguished Service Award:
Improving Public Trust and Confidence in Arizona Courts
Arizona Supreme Court

Hon. J. Richard Gama Judge of the Year
Phoenix Chapter of American Board of Trial Advocates

Hon. Roland Steinle Recognized Restitution Enforcement Program
National Center for Victims of Crime

Hon. Edward Burke Distinguished Service Award
Arizona Association of Defense Counsel

Hon. Pendleton Gaines Distinguished Service Award
Arizona Association of Defense Counsel

Hon. Phemonia Miller Exemplary Public Servant
Black Women Lawyer's Association of Arizona

Bill Harkins Purple Heart Award
US Marshals Service

FY 2012 AWARDS

Adult Probation Department

NACo Awards	Field Probation Officer Performance Evaluation The Legacy Project: A Collaborative Approach to Reducing Recidivism Project SAFE: Improving Outcomes of Transferred Juveniles on Adult Probation
U.S. Attorney General	2012 Crime Victims Financial Restoration Award Financial Compliance Program (FINCOM)
Arizona Quality Alliance (AQA)	Showcase in Excellence Award Adult Education Program

Juvenile Court

NACo Awards	In-House Restoration Education Program CASA Peer Coordinator Program CASA Website Status Offender Court
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Individual Honors

Hon. Norman J. Davis	Justice Michael D. Ryan Award for Judicial Excellence/State Bar of Arizona
Hon. Norman Davis and Hon. Rosa Mroz	Award for Probate Department Improvements Judicial Achievement Award Arizona Supreme Court
Hon. Douglas Rayes	Judge of the Year American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
Hon. J. Justin McGuire	Judicial Officer of the Year Arizona Family Support Council
Chief Barbara Broderick	Justice 2020 Goal: Protecting Children, Families, and Communities/Arizona Supreme Court Judicial Branch Achievement Awards
Maricopa County Superior Court of Arizona	ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) Distinguished Collaboration Award Internship Program

FY 2013 AWARDS

Adult Probation

NACo Awards	Stress Management for Employees Exposed to Vicarious Trauma Veterans Court Assessment Center Apprehension in Phoenix Hotels
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Court Technology Services

iCISng	Arizona Courts Association's Excellence in Design Award
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Criminal Court

NACo Awards	Second Chance Warrant Program Case Management System Re-engineering Re-Engineering of the Post-Conviction Relief Unit Settlement Conference on Demand
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Homeless Court

NACo Award	Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court
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Probate Court

NACM Award	2013 Justice Achievement Award
NACo Award	Reinventing Probate Court: Restoring Public Trust And Confidence in the Judiciary
Supreme Court Award	General Jurisdiction Category

Media Relations Department

New Times	Best Public Information Officers
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Public Access to Court Services

Protective Order Center	At Large Award for Service to the Community Arizona Supreme Court
NACo Award	Improving Access to the Court through Interpreter

Training

Individual Honors

Hon. Robert Gottsfield	James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award
Hon. A. Craig Blakey II	Judge of the Year ABOTA
Hon. Carey Snyder Hyatt	Judicial Officer of the Year AFSC
Chief Barbara Broderick	National Association of Probation Executives' Dan Richard Beto Award
Khameelah Shabazz (APD)	Scotia Knouff Line Officer of the Year Award
Owen Gardner	Clerk of the Year AFSC
Superior Court	Shattered National Adoption Day Record

FY 2014 AWARDS

Adult Probation

President's Award	American Probation and Parole Association's President's Award for Exemplary Community Corrections Program
NACo Awards	FROST Refresher Training Empathy and Understanding

Juvenile Court

NACo Award	Maricopa County Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Centers
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Court Technology Services (CTS)

NACo Award	Electronic Search Warrant Application: eWarrant and eReturn
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Probate

Juvenile

NACo Awards

CASA Best for Babies Collaborative

Court Orientation for Dependent Youth (CODY) Project

Dependency Treatment Court (DTC)

Early Education Collaborative

Probate

NACo Award

The Guardian Review Program: Extended

Individual Honors

Raymond Billotte

Arizona Office for Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve's Patriot Award