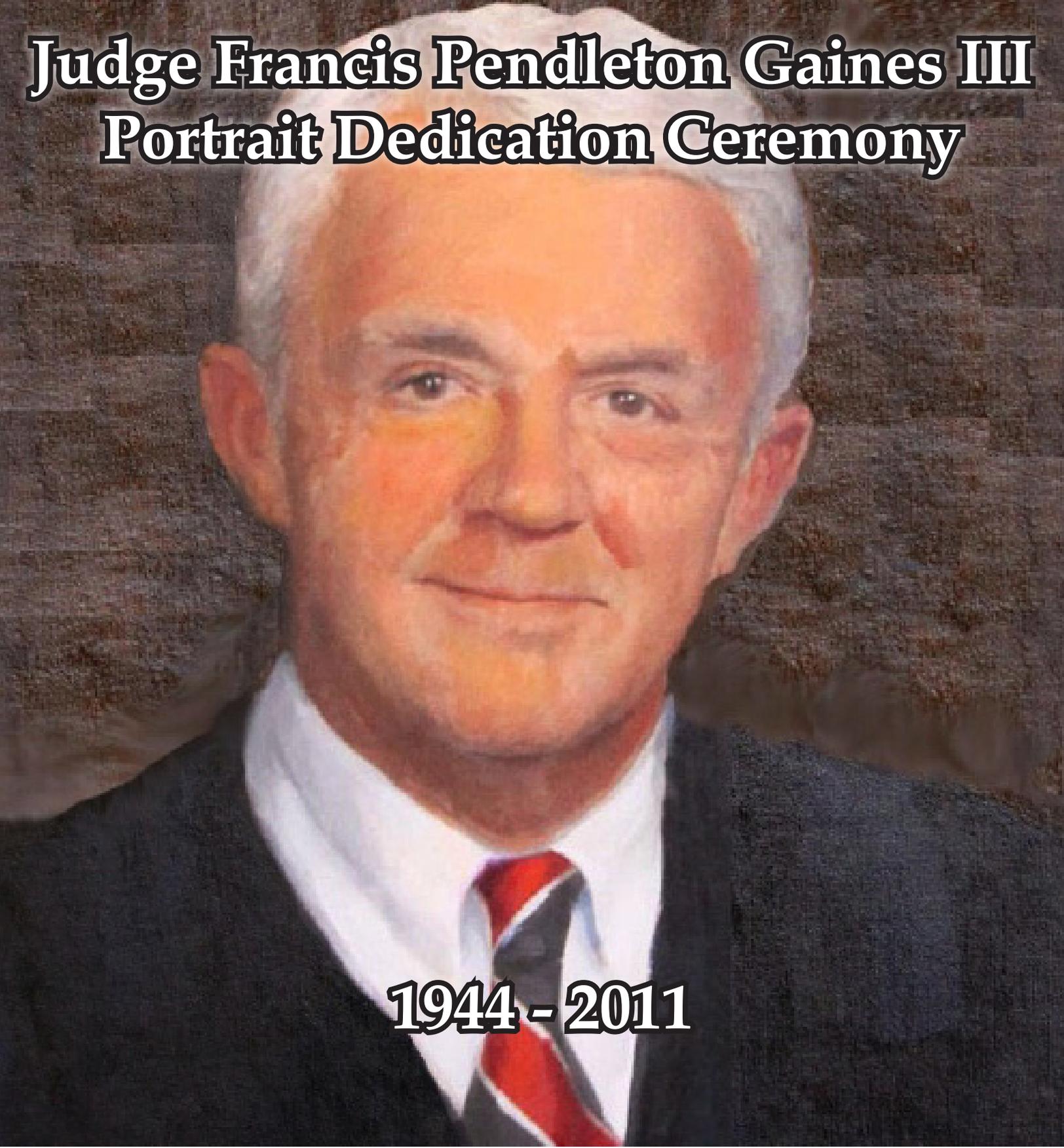


# Judicial Branch News

## **Judge Francis Pendleton Gaines III Portrait Dedication Ceremony**



**1944 - 2011**

March 2013



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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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# Judge Francis Pendleton Gaines III Portrait Dedication Ceremony



A large crowd witnesses the unveiling of Judge Francis Pendleton Gaines' III portrait.



The family of Judge Francis Pendleton Gaines III poses with his portrait following the ceremony.

On March 8th, Superior Court celebrated the life and judicial career of Superior Court Judge Francis Pendleton Gaines III with a portrait dedication ceremony.

The ceremonial courtroom in the Old Courthouse was filled to capacity with judges, former judges, court staff, friends and family. Presiding Judge Norman Davis and former Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez-Mundell delivered captivating speeches about their friend and former colleague.

Judge Gaines was known as a judge who was firm and fair with a quick wit. He had a love for history, language, literature, archaeology, theology, poetry and music. As a Judge, he made enormous contributions to the process of Merit Selection in Maricopa County.

Before joining the Bench in 1999, Judge Gaines practiced law for 30 years. He represented railroads, security firms, banks, insurance and manufacturing companies.

Judge Gaines was born in Lexington, Virginia. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia and his Bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona.

## Judicial Branch's Closed POD Training is a Success



Bailiff Debbie Paetz volunteers in a Closed Point of Distribution training. The Closed POD exercise tested the Court's ability to quickly dispense potentially life-saving medications should the Governor declare a health emergency for the citizens of Maricopa County.

The Judicial Branch participated in a Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). Last July, the Judicial Branch entered into an agreement with MCDPH to operate a Closed POD for its employees and their families in the event the Governor declares a health emergency requiring the dispensing of certain medication to protect the citizens. Rather than conduct an Open POD, which is run by MCDPH and where the general public would go to pick up their medication, a Closed POD is run by employers solely for the benefit of the employees and their immediate family members.

On the morning of the March 1st, the Judicial Branch took receipt of the simulated medicine at the Lower Buckeye Warehouse and transported the simulated medicine to the East Court Building where a Closed POD was set up in the Cordova Training Room.

More than 30 employee volunteers, who were previously trained by MCDPH, dispensed medication.

The Department of Judicial Security provided outstanding support in safeguarding the federal assets during transport and dispensing as well as providing pedestrian traffic control. Throughout the day, announcements were e-mailed to participating staff, notifying the Closed POD was ready to dispense to them. After six hours of operation, the Judicial Branch Closed POD dispensed 202 courses of simulated medication to 68 employees who were able to participate in the exercise.

## Court Staff Earn ACM Certificates



Left to right - Pima County Court Administrator Kent Batty, Lorenzo Candelaria, Nicole Zoe Garcia, John Schow, Susan Thomas, Carlos Rivera, Aaron Nash (Clerk of the Court) and Arizona Supreme Court Vice Chief Justice Scott Bales.

The Arizona Supreme Court presented court employees with an Arizona Court Manager certificate at a recent graduation ceremony held at the Arizona Supreme Court Judicial Education Center in Phoenix.

The graduates completed six National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Institute for Court Management (ICM) courses and three Arizona-specific AZ PLUS courses.

Submitted by Nicole Zoe Garcia

The hands-on experience the Closed POD exercise provided allowed the Judicial Branch to enhance the training of volunteers by providing valuable feedback on overall operations to MCDPH planners and validating the Judicial Branch's Closed POD emergency plan. Most importantly, the exercise demonstrated that the Judicial Branch was capable of dispensing potentially life-saving medication to employees and their immediate family within 48-hours of receipt of medication from MCDPH.

Plans are in the works for future exercises that involve testing of our capabilities at the regional court sites and training an additional cadre of employee volunteers on dispensing protocols. A big "thank you" to all Judicial Branch employees who participated in making our first Closed POD exercise a success.

Submitted by Gary Bridget

## Employee Anniversaries

### 5 Years

**Christine Mulleneaux**, Court Commissioner

**Joy Provence**, Counselor

**Lissa Wallick**, Bailiff

**Lorenzo Nava**, Judicial Assistant-Classified

### 10 Years

**Michael Czerniejewski**, Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv

**Rodney Dalton**, Court Security Deputy Marshal

**Jeffery Hanton**, Judicial Clerk Lead

### 15 Years

**Christine Atkinson**, Surveillance Officer

**Angela Harper**, Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv

**Linda Pitterle**, Judicial Clerk Lead

**Andrea Teasley**, Surveillance Officer

**John Coleman**, Surveillance Officer

**Karen Barnes**, Adult Probation Officer Supv

**Laura Carr**, Adult Probation Officer

**Michael Moe**, Adult Probation Officer

**Peter Sanborn**, Adult Probation Officer Supv

### 25 Years

**Robert Villasenor**, Surveillance Officer

### 33 Years

**Cindy Butler**, Court Investigator

### 34 Years

**Arlene Lamp**, Judicial Assistant

Submitted by Debbie Gilliland

## Decree on Demand: Resolving Cases



Left to right - (Front Row) Kristin Moynihan, Adis Bosnic, Matt Davis, Lydia Moreno. (Back Row) - Commissioner Eartha Washington and Commissioner Thomas Kaipio.

Sometimes, getting matters resolved in a family court case, when a judgment for relief is sought against a party who has failed to respond, can be a daunting task.

To help assist petitioners who have filed for divorce, legal separation, annulment, paternity, custody or parenting time, Superior Court's Family Court Department set up a program called Decree on Demand. Since its inception, the program has been instrumental in improving the timeliness of case processing and developing a uniform case management plan as outlined in the Family Court Department Uniform Case Management Plan.

In FY2013, an average of 690 family court default hearings are set per month with a monthly average of 550 default decrees resolved.

Decree on Demand allows the petitioner, once the statutory 60-day waiting period has passed, to call a dedicated phone line to schedule a default hearing at their convenience and as early as the next court day. During the phone call, the litigant is interviewed by court staff to verify that all legal requirements have been satisfied. The litigant then selects a hearing date and is instructed to report to the "default room" prior to entering the courtroom on their court date. Staff in the default room conduct a final file review and allow the litigant to correct any deficiencies that can be cured with available forms. Staff also aids the party in the task of calculating child support based upon Arizona guidelines prior to sending the litigant to the courtroom for a hearing with a Court Commissioner.

Submitted by Adis Bosnic

# iCISng eSearch Warrant Application

The iCISng eSearch Warrant Application allows officers to seek a search warrant from their patrol cars. Once an officer suspects a person is driving under the influence of alcohol, the officer may ask a judge for a search warrant to obtain blood from the suspected impaired person. These DUI blood draw search warrant requests are reviewed and issued by the judicial officers at the Search Warrant Center in Initial Appearance Court.

This process has saved hundreds of work hours for law enforcement and judicial officers.

Before iCISng, search warrants for blood draws at the Center were handled as follows:

1. The officer affiant prepared a search warrant, either on a computer or by completing a form by hand;
2. The officer had to locate a fax machine for both sending and receiving the documents;
3. The officer faxed the warrant to the Search Warrant Center;
4. The staff printed out the fax information;
5. The Commissioner reviewed the warrant, and if probable cause was found, contacted the officer affiant to swear the officer affiant to the affidavit.
6. The Commissioner either granted the affidavit and warrant or requested additional information or denied the affidavit and the warrant. If the request is granted, the documents were faxed back to the affiant.

The fax and paper process took approximately 15 minutes from receipt to issuance. In addition, the officer had to take time to find a fax machine to initiate the process.

The Search Warrant Center worked with the Phoenix Police Department on the project, and the Arizona Supreme Court granted an experimental court rule change to allow the development and implementation of an electronic search warrant and electronic search warrant return process.

Once an officer creates a blood draw search using eSearch Warrant Application, the Commissioner is notified immediately on his/her work queue screen of the pending DUI search warrant request. The Commissioner can easily review the search warrant request, notify the officer if additional information is required, or issue the warrant after speaking with the officer. The granted search warrant is electronically signed and returned to the police officer's computer.

The eSearch warrant application was tested in seven Phoenix Police Department DUI vans. Due to the program's success, the Phoenix Police Department expanded the eSearch warrant application to more officers. The new application was utilized during the recent DUI enforcement task force holiday operations.

In FY12, approximately 10,510 search warrants were requested at the Search Warrant Center, an average of 29 search warrants a day.

**Submitted by Diana Hegyi**

## Court Hires Juvenile Court Commissioner



**Commissioner Utiki Spurling**

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed Utiki Spurling as a Superior Court Commissioner to replace Juvenile Court Commissioner Mina Mendez.

“Commissioner Spurling comes to Superior Court with a depth of criminal law knowledge, and she has some private civil practice experience. She comes highly recommended from a wide range of sources,” Judge Davis said.

Spurling, a native of Southern California, served two stints, spanning more than a decade, in the Maricopa County Public Defender’s Office. As a public defender, she served various roles including training new lawyers in Regional Court Center and working as a member of the trial group.

In between employment at the Maricopa County Public Defender’s Office, Commissioner Spurling moved to Pennsylvania and worked as a civil litigator for two law firms.

Commissioner Spurling graduated from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Political Science, and she received her Juris Doctor from A.S.U. College of Law in 2001.

## Court Helps Homeless Vets



Superior Court’s Carlos Rivera volunteers at Arizona StandDown

For the third consecutive year, Superior Court helped homeless veterans by participating in Arizona StandDown at the Veterans’ Memorial Coliseum. The event provided temporary housing, meals and social services for more than 1,500 displaced veterans, surpassing 2012’s total of 1,293 veterans.

Superior Court, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, Indigent Defense, Adult Probation and the Clerk of the Court all worked together to resolve veterans’ legal matters. Superior Court processed 196 veterans with a total of 291 cases. That’s an 87% increase in the number of vets from 2012 (105), and a 77% increase in cases (164).

**Submitted by Paula Collins**

## South Mountain Wins Mock Trial



Commissioner Lisa Vandenberg, who served as one of the coaches of the South Mountain High School mock trial team, helped lead her team to the 2012-2013 Regional Mock Trial Championship held at Superior Court.