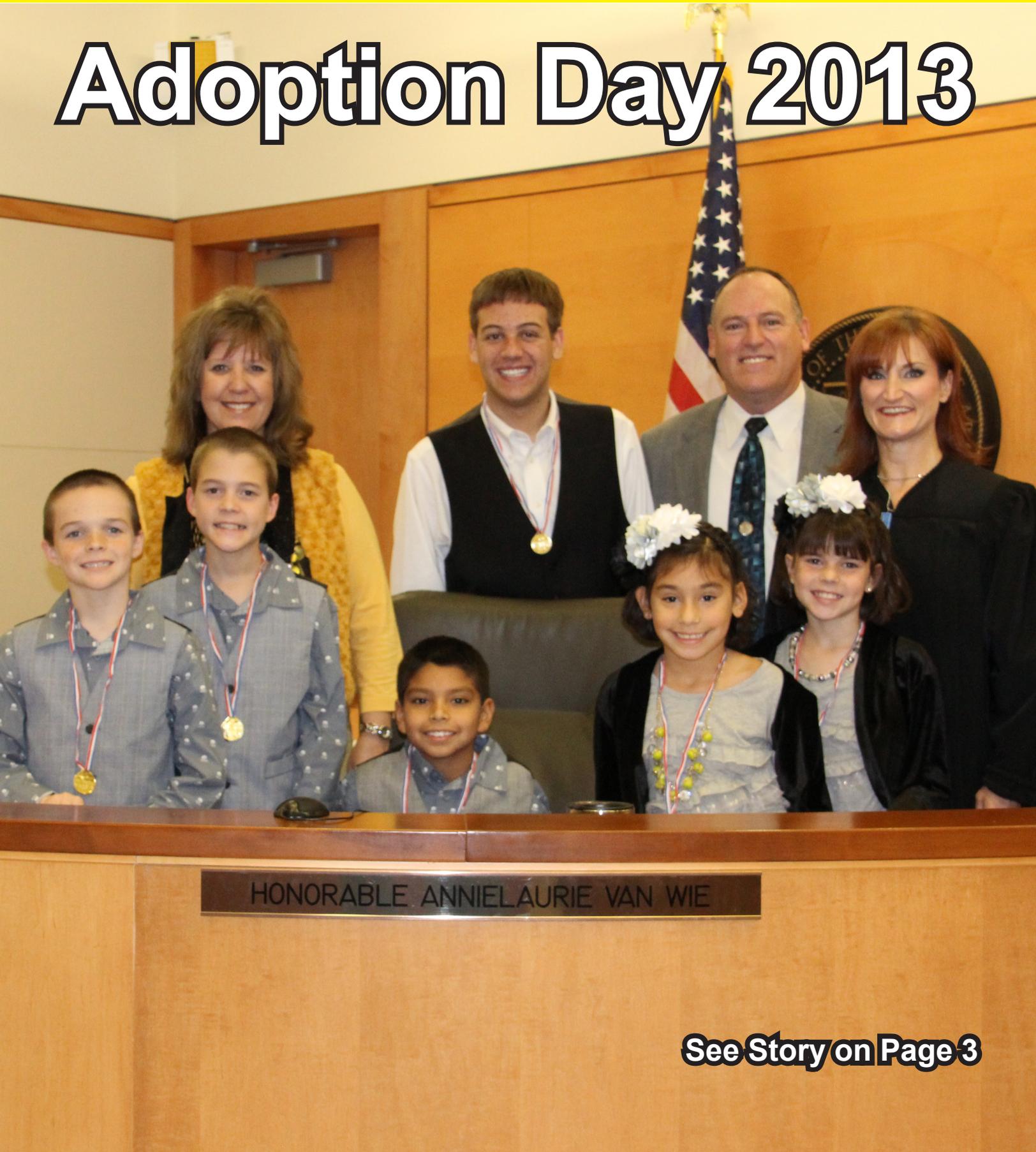


Judicial Branch News

Adoption Day 2013



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Cover - Following an adoption, Commissioner Annielaurie Van Wie invites the family to the bench for a photo.

Judicial Branch News

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

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300 Adoptions Finalized



On National Adoption Day, Amy Flanagan, a Peoria resident, adopted her fifth child into her forever family.

“Seven-and-a-half years ago, I planned on adopting one child,” Flanagan said. “But did I plan on adopting five? No.”

Flanagan’s adopted child is one of 300 kids who were adopted on NAD.

“We call National Adoption Day, our ‘Gotcha Day.’ It’s a day everyone has been waiting for a long time. It’s a huge sigh of relief for a lot of families,” Flanagan said.



“National Adoption Day is a joyous celebration where our community comes together to recognize the importance of finding permanent, loving families for each and every child. The day brings together hundreds of people including judges, attorneys, adoption agencies, adoption professionals, child advocates and members of the public who are dedicated to creating forever families for waiting children,” Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally said. “If you are interested in adopting a child or obtaining information about the adoption process, please come to National Adoption Day next year; watch an adoption hearing and take part in the festivities.”



The festive atmosphere of Maricopa County’s National Adoption Day event was heightened by a visit from the Phoenix Suns Gorilla mascot, games and activities for kids, photos of the new families and cake and ice cream.

Judges, Commissioners, court staff and members of the public volunteered their Saturday to take part in National Adoption Day.

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness for the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting to find their forever home.



Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Elizabeth DeLano, Bailiff
Martin Zlatev, Juvenile Detention Officer Supervisor

10 Years

Jessica Ray, Judicial Clerk Associate
Carol Westwood, Manager Interpreting Services
Jonathan Andrews, Judicial Clerk
James Blomo, Superior Court Judge
Donna Lopez, Administrative Assistant
Gabriela Montoya, Adult Probation Officer
Patricia Redpath, Communications System Operator
Lupita Cano, Judicial Clerk Associate
Diane Fields, Judicial Clerk Associate

15 Years

Lisa Bradley, Court Reporter
Lorin Smith, Office Assistant Specialized
Connie Ocell, Court Recording Monitor
Patrice Moeller, Adult Probation Officer
Melanie Strosberg, Adult Probation Officer
Maria Vasquez, Adult Probation Officer
Connie Turnbough, Judicial Clerk Senior
Jennifer Cassaday, Juvenile Probation Officer
Maxine Flowers, Juvenile Probation Officer
Christy Lowman, Juvenile Probation Officer
Kathleen Mullin, Juvenile Probation Officer
Derek Stephens, Juvenile Probation Officer

20 Years

Errol Pond, Juvenile Probation Officer
Mark Tapia, Juvenile Probation Officer

25 Years

Debbie Sinclair, Judicial Assistant
Patricia O'Connor, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Gary Streeter, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor

30-Plus Years

Lisa Vitoff, Court Reporter (31 years)
Cathy Santos, Management Analyst (31 years)
Mary Farmer, Judicial Assistant (38 years)

Judge Announces Retirement



Larry Grant

Judge Larry Grant submitted his letter of resignation to the Governor, announcing his retirement effective December 31.

For the last two and a half years, Judge Grant has served in the Juvenile Department at Durango. During his time on the bench, he has presided over Civil, Criminal, and Family court calendars. Before his judicial

appointment in 2003, Judge Grant worked for the Public Defender's Office for more than 10 years.

"Judge Grant is known for his sense of fairness and compassion as a judge. We will miss his thoughtful decision-making, pleasant disposition, quiet confidence and daily presence at the Court, but wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement," Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Arizona Supreme Court Elects New Chief Justice

Members of the Arizona Supreme Court elected the Honorable Scott Bales to serve as the next Chief Justice for the Arizona Supreme Court to be effective July 1, 2014.

Justice Bales, who will serve a five-year term, replaces Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch whose term expires on June 30, 2014.

For the last five years, Justice Bales served as Vice Chief Justice. He was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2005.

Justice Bales received his Juris Doctorate (1983), magna cum laude, and Master of Arts in Economics (1980) from Harvard University. He earned his Bachelor of Arts (1978), summa cum laude, from Michigan State University.

The Honorable John Pelander will serve as the new Vice Chief Justice.

Cradle to Crayons Opens in Mesa

Superior Court has opened the doors to the new Cradle to Crayons (C2C) Child Welfare Center in Mesa.

Due to the success of the first C2C center in Phoenix, Superior Court added the Mesa site.

The Mesa Center features a clinician, a trauma therapist, a dependency treatment court specialist and a resource specialist. Future plans include collocated Child Protective Services, similar to the Phoenix location, which allows for visits between children and their caregivers. Plans are also in place for a Dependency Treatment Court in the Southeast Juvenile Court Center (SEJ).

Judge Aimee Anderson and Judge Brian Ishikawa, who are located at SEJ, join their C2C counterparts in Phoenix: Judge Joan Sinclair, Judge Connie Contes, Judge Brad Astrowsky and Judge Linda Miles. These judges are specially appointed C2C judges who hear cases involving families where at least one child is under the age of three.

As part of the program, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally oversees a Dependency Treatment Court (DTC) calendar. Since the inception of DTC in January, 330 clients were referred with 65 enrolling in the program.

“Parents who participate in DTC are more likely to achieve family reunification and their children are more likely to spend less time in foster care. Thanks to the commitment of the Judges, staff, and community coordinators of C2C, as well as the collaboration with CPS, TERROS and Maricopa County Human Services, more families will get a chance to make the changes needed to provide safe and secure homes for their children,” Judge McNally said.

The Judges are assisted by C2C community coordinators who serve as liaisons between the Court, other government agencies and community providers. The coordinators attend dependency hearings on a daily basis and respond to the Court’s direction to resolve any barriers that would impede resolution.

C2C ensures children under the age of three have visits with their birth parents and foster parents in a safe and tranquil environment, under the supervision of Child Protective Services staff. The center provides therapeutic services to both caregivers and children.

Judge McNally said, “Children and families who have the opportunity to receive the kind of services provided by C2C get the benefit of the best practices in child welfare. We are excited to be able to bring these benefits to the East Valley, where, like the rest of the Valley, dependency filings continue to rise.”





Judge Bruce Cohen's Family Plays the Feud

Judge Bruce Cohen and his family were contestants on Family Feud. The shows aired in November.

Photo - Left to right - Loren Cohen (his wife), Judge Bruce Cohen, Lindsay (his daughter), Steve Harvey (host of Family Feud), Stephanie (daughter-in-law) and Jared (his son).

Act of Heroism

Officers Dana Lowe and Chris Pena and Sergeant Brandon Iddings were honored for their outstanding work responding to a suicidal subject at the Downtown Justice Center.

"Their actions saved the life of the suicidal subject," Marshal's Office Captain Alan Parisian said.

Photo - (Left to right holding certificates) Officer Dana Lowe, Sergeant Brandon Iddings and Officer Chris Pena.



Employees Receive Court Executive Certificates

Carol Westwood, Johnny Tse and Nicole Garcia are part of the first class to graduate from the Court Leadership Institute of Arizona's, Arizona Court Executive Program. Arizona Supreme Court Justice Robert Brutinel presented the trio their Arizona Court Executive certificates at a recent ceremony held in Phoenix.

Photo - Carol Westwood (holding the Arizona Court Executive sign); Johnny Tse (fourth row, first person going from left to right) and Nicole Garcia (third row, second person going from left to right).



A Tribute to Judge D'Angelo

On October 18, Superior Court held a portrait dedication ceremony to honor the legacy of deceased Judge Peter T. D'Angelo.

The event featured remarks from Presiding Judge Norman Davis and retired Judge Bernard Dougherty.

Judge D'Angelo retired in 2000 after serving 18 years on the Superior Court Bench. During his judicial career, he presided over Criminal, Civil and Family court calendars.

Photo - Joyce D'Angelo, the wife of deceased Superior Court Judge Peter T. D'Angelo, and Presiding Judge Norman Davis unveil an oil painting of Judge D'Angelo at a portrait dedication ceremony held in the Old Courthouse in Phoenix.



Judge Joseph Mikitish Investiture Ceremony

Arizona Supreme Court Justice Ann Scott Timmer delivers the oath of office to Judge Joseph Mikitish at his investiture ceremony at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Judge Mikitish, who was appointed to the Bench in May, is serving on a Family Court calendar.



Adoption Day Volunteers

Inclement weather did not prevent this year's National Adoption Day from becoming a huge success. Thanks in large part to the work of the NAD volunteers.

To combat the rainy weekend, large tents were erected to keep the hundreds in attendance dry. Under the tents, families with their children ate, played and participated in activities while they waited for their adoptions.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made National Adoption Day a magical day for the 300 children who were adopted.



Adult Probation: Sex Offender Apprehension

Adult Probation's Fugitive Apprehension Unit's (FAU) work on the U.S. Marshals Child Predator Apprehension Team (CPAT) is getting the sex offender absconder population back into custody, and reducing the likelihood of them committing new offenses.

The CPAT team, which was established in 2008, is comprised of officers from multiple law enforcement and correctional agencies from federal, state and local governments.

The team's hard work and commitment is evident in the results.

In fiscal year 2013, Adult Probation FAU brought 176 sex offender warrants to CPAT and 167 of these warrants were closed, an impressive closure rate of 94 percent. Since the program started in 2008, CPAT received 576 cases and closed 474, a success rate of 82 percent.

The use of technology has played a large role in the success of the program. Team members have the capability and access to search multiple criminal justice information systems and personal information databases. The team also uses Facebook, the Silent Witness Program, BOLOCOP.com and America's Most Wanted as effective methods to inform the public of wanted sex offenders and to enlist the public's help in uncovering their location. Also, a local media station features a segment on wanted sex offenders every Monday evening.

Adult Probation's Fugitive Apprehension Unit's involvement in the program is quite advantageous when absconders flee from Maricopa County. The positive impact of the program has extended beyond the United States. In one particular case, a Maricopa County sex offender, who absconded to Mexico and was on the run for more than 10 years, was located and self-surrendered.

By Jeff Fischer, Adult Probation

Nigerian Judge Visit



A delegation of judges from Nigeria visited Superior Court to learn about case management systems and the use of courtroom technologies.

The delegation toured the South Court Tower, attended presentations on iCIS Classic and iCISng, and met with Criminal Presiding Judge Joseph Welty. The group is working with the National Center for State Courts to develop the first case management system to be used in Nigerian courts.

*By Bob James
Criminal Court Administrator*

Juvenile Court Reaches Out to the Community



Gilbert Jacinto at GAIN.

Recently, Juvenile Court participated in two community events to provide information about their Community Services Unit (CSU), a team of staff from the Court, Child Protective Services, Magellan liaisons and Juvenile Probation who help families in need.

The two events were the 5th Annual GAIN (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) event at Lindo Park, South Mountain and the 4th Annual Glendale Leadership Conference at Glendale Landmark Elementary School.

Court Guide Gilbert Jacinto, representing Juvenile Court, attended the GAIN event to provide information and resources to the community about Juvenile Court and CSU.

A team of staff from Juvenile Court participated at 4th Annual Glendale Leadership Conference.

Parents from every elementary school in the Glendale Elementary School District attended the event.



Pat Mesa at the Glendale Leadership Conference

By Linda Sandbloom, Juvenile Court