

Judicial Branch News

Maricopa County's National Adoption Day: The Nation's Premier Adoption Event



For the seventh straight year, Maricopa County Superior Court is on track to be the largest National Adoption Day event in the United States.

This year, 334 children are expected to be adopted by their forever families. The 334 children scheduled to have their adoption decrees finalized, pushes Maricopa County National Adoption Day over the 3,000 total adoption milestone.

“Maricopa County Superior Court is very proud to take part in National Adoption Day. On this day we celebrate and recognize the families who commit to providing safe, loving homes for children,” Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally said. “There are many children in our community who are in need of forever families. Hundreds of people including judges, attorneys, adoption agencies, adoption professionals, child advocates and members of the public volunteer their time on National Adoption Day to put together the celebration for the final adoption hearings. It is a great opportunity to learn about the adoption process and to witness a beautiful event with lots of smiling children and families.”



The event helps raise public awareness about the plight of children without families. Some of the children, who range in age from newborns to teenagers, are victims of abandonment, neglect and abuse.

The festive atmosphere of the event is heightened by a visit from the Phoenix Suns Gorilla; the Arizona Coyotes Howler; face painting; inflatable bouncy houses, superhero characters; artwork raffles; games for kids; photos of the newly created families, cake and ice cream.

Volunteers for the event include: 30 judicial officers, 32 court employees and 87 members of the public. The event will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at the Durango Juvenile Court building in Phoenix from 9 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of National Adoption Day in Maricopa County.

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families.





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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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Produced by the Media Relations Department

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Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Lisette Ramirez, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Pamela Gates, Superior Court Judge
 Dennis Burchfield, Judicial Assistant - Classified

10 Years

Nancy Northrop, Judicial Assistant
 Christina Burrue, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Joshua Amobi, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Susie Rossi, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Catherine Goings, Judicial Assistant - Classified
 Maria Vasquez, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Miguel Benitez, Court Reporter
 Rebecca Britt, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Kimberly Burton, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Catherine Button, Adult Probation Officer
 Jeffrey Fischer, Adult Probation Officer
 Santos Garcia, Adult Probation Officer
 Tanya Kluender, Adult Probation Officer
 Robert McGhee, Adult Probation Officer
 Marylouise Stevens, Adult Probation Officer
 Jason Westcott, Adult Probation Officer
 Theresa Zawlocki, Adult Probation Officer
 Veronica Browner, Judicial Specialist
 Maree Heilman, Bailiff
 Thomas Kryka, Court Recording Monitor
 Jovanna Roman, Court Reporter
 Stacie Smith, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Everett Daly, Security Officer II
 David Palmer, Superior Court Judge

15 Years

Leslie Anderson, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Yolanda Cardenas, Case Administrator

25 Years

Tamera Habros, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Rosa Barrio, Collector
 Cindi Barocas, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Bruce Baus, Juvenile Probation Officer

30 Years

Jose Arenas, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Debra Wall, Office Assistant Specialized

36 Years

Peter Anderson, Finance Manager

41 Years

Gale Barclay, Judicial Clerk

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

Commissioner Set to Retire

Commissioner Kirby Kongable is retiring on December 31st, after 20 years of judicial service.

During his tenure as a Commissioner with the Maricopa County Superior Court, he presided over criminal, civil, probate and juvenile calendars.

“Commissioner Kongable has been a real asset to the Court during his time with us, and we will miss his scholarship, legal insight, and compassion in dealing with all litigants fairly. We wish him the best in his coming retirement,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Prior to serving on the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench, Commissioner Kongable practiced law in Yuma, Arizona. He also served as a Judge of the Yuma County Superior Court.

Employees on the Move

Most recently, court administration announced the appointments of several employees who have accepted new positions.

Lori Dennison has been appointed as the permanent administrator in the Court Reporters Department. She assumes the duties for Peter Kiefer who was acting as the interim court reporter administrator.

Nicole Garcia assumes the role of deputy administrator of Jury Services. Debbie Sinclair and Pat Schuler will take over her previous duties which include: Judge Pro Tem recruitment and Commissioner leave scheduling.

In addition, Mario Martinez has been promoted to Deputy Marshal Captain of Court Marshal’s Office.

Lastly, after more than 14 years of distinguished service at the Court, Sheryll Prokop has resigned from her position as Law Library Resource Center Director.

New Judge Appointed

Governor Jan Brewer has appointed Joseph Sciarrotta, Jr. to the Maricopa County Superior Court bench, replacing Judge Douglas Rayes, who was confirmed by the United States Senate as a federal judge for the United States District Court for the District of Arizona.

Mr. Sciarrotta, who will start on a Family Court calendar in Mesa on December 29, has served as General Counsel to Governor Brewer since 2011. As chief lawyer to the Executive Office, he advises the governor and her staff on a variety of legal issues regarding the state and federal constitutions; statutory construction and proposed legislation; public records; contract review and drafting; and clemencies and pardons.

Prior to joining the Governor's Office, Mr. Sciarrotta served as General Counsel for the Arizona Department of Administration and concurrently as Chairman of the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (2010-11). Mr. Sciarrotta also brings more than a decade of private sector experience, including serving as in-house counsel for several national Fortune 500 and 1000 companies, and has practiced complex commercial litigation; franchise; antitrust; legal malpractice defense; administrative law; construction law; class actions; employment law; torts; appeals; insurance coverage and recovery; internal investigations and more. He previously served as Vice President of Litigation for Meritage Homes Corporation (2007-09); Managing Corporate Counsel for Allied Waste Industries, Inc. (Republic Services) (2003-07); Counsel for Cendant Corporation (Wyndham Worldwide) (2002-03); and Associate and Senior Associate at Fennemore Craig, P.C. (1996-2002).

Mr. Sciarrotta serves on the Childhelp Arizona Board of Directors, a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children. He also is a member of the St. Patrick's Men's Club, a social and charitable works parish group.

Mr. Sciarrotta graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Law (Order of the Coif) (1996) and received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan (High Distinction and Phi Beta Kappa) (1993).

Marshal Graduation Ceremony



Superior Court's Marshals Office welcomes its newest class of officers during a graduation ceremony in the Old Courthouse.

iCISng Rolls Out Application

On September 28th, the newest aspects of iCISng were rolled out to users in RCC and EDC courts. The applications included Multi-Calendar, Case View, Check-In and Pretrial Calendars. The applications were first implemented at the check-in desks at the South Court Tower followed by the RCC/EDC calendars at Southeast. The enhancements to iCISng are already making defendant check-in faster and more accurate and eliminating the need for printed paper calendars.

The Multi-Calendar and Case View also made real-time updating and research faster and easier without the navigation problems of classic iCIS.

Additionally, the new calendar layout allows Judicial Officers to have quick access to information and give them the ability to modify release conditions and issue new release orders instantly.

*By Todd Herrera-Ridenhour
Criminal Court Administration*

A New Member of the Payroll Team



The Judicial Branch Payroll Office would like to introduce Serena Iriando as their latest addition to the Payroll team. Iriando was promoted as a Payroll Representative several weeks ago but has graciously continued to perform the duties of her former position.

*By Tracy Randall
Payroll/Human Resources*

Phil Knox Travels to Dubai



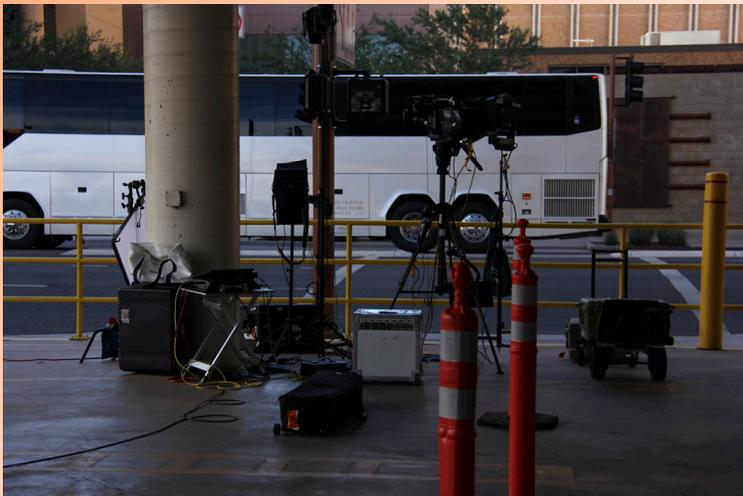
Photo taken by General Jurisdiction Administrator Phil Knox who was recently invited to Dubai by the United Nations and the International Foundation of Electoral Systems to serve as a consultant on elections and caseload management. (Photo of old Dubai with new Dubai in the background.)



Associate Presiding Judge Janet Barton joined fellow, female judicial officers at a luncheon in Phoenix to celebrate former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's Emmy Award for her Outstanding/Community Service Public Service Announcement - *Fair and Free*.

State v Jodi Arias Penalty Phase

The penalty phase of the State v Jodi Arias started on October 21st. News outlets from across the United States traveled to Phoenix to cover the trial.



Peter Kiefer Speaks in Moldova



Civil Court Administrator Peter Kiefer (far right) at his recent speaking engagement to the Moldovan court administrators. Kiefer gave a speech on people-friendly courts.



Kara C. McDonald, Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova greets Civil Court Administrator Peter Kiefer.

