



**Judicial Branch of Arizona
in Maricopa County**

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Court Celebrates National Adoption Day with In-Person Event

Five-Year-Old Raya Joins her Forever Family

PHOENIX (November 22, 2021) – Five-year-old Raya’s emotional adoption had court officials, family members and invited guests reaching for tissues to wipe their eyes.

On Nov. 19, the day before National Adoption Day, Raya joined her forever family. Her adoption, finalized by Judge Todd Lang in the Old Courthouse’s Ceremonial Courtroom in Downtown Phoenix, was the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County’s first in-person celebration of National Adoption Day since 2019. Raya’s adoption was conducted in-person to promote National Adoption Day and raise awareness for children in the foster care system who need caring and loving homes.

“Although we were not able to host our traditional community-wide celebration of National Adoption Day, the Court was proud to host the Becerra family for an in person celebration of Raya’s adoption. The Becerra family’s journey to this day was both remarkable and inspirational. And while we celebrate Raya finding her forever home, we are mindful of the many children still seeking to find their own permanent home,” Presiding Juvenile Department Judge Joseph Kremer said.

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness for children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. Maricopa County has participated in each-and-every National Adoption Day since its inception 2000.

In 2021, Maricopa County Superior Court has finalized more than 1,300 adoptions.

To learn more about Raya’s adoption, visit: [https://youtu.be/ Et61fH4d8I](https://youtu.be/Et61fH4d8I).

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