



ANNUAL REPORT

EXCELLENCE ... EVERY PERSON. EVERY DAY. EVERY TIME.

**JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA
IN MARICOPA COUNTY**

FY 2022

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022



**JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA
IN MARICOPA COUNTY**

FISCAL YEAR 2022

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

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A YEAR OF GROWTH AND CHANGE

To the people of Maricopa County:

The past few years have been an era of growth and change for the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County. Our courts, probation departments and juvenile detention center have adapted to change, innovated to face challenges, and grown in our ability to identify new solutions to better serve our constituents. Today, we emerge as a stronger, more nimble organization ready for the future.

With 98 judges, 67 court commissioners, nearly 3,000 staff members and a budget topping \$310 million, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County fulfills its mission with support from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, our community partners and the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts. It is through these partnerships that we are able to meet the challenges of a growing community while remaining among the most innovative and forward-thinking court systems in the nation. As the fourth largest trial court in the country, we take seriously our obligation to the community and to our justice system partners.

The administration of justice is neither a scientific formula nor a mechanical process - it is a system built on the efforts of people working together to resolve disputes of one nature or another. Judicial officers, attorneys, probation staff, outside experts and litigants come together in our courts, in either formal or informal proceedings, to seek resolution and solutions. We take our role as neutral arbitrators with utmost seriousness, and seek to always enhance the public's trust and confidence in their judicial branch of government.

This report summarizes our work in the 2022 fiscal year. Behind every story, statistic and graph are people striving to support our community and uphold the principles inherent to the rule of law - every person, every day, every time.



HON. JOSEPH WELTY
PRESIDING JUDGE



RAYMOND BILLOTTE
JUDICIAL BRANCH
ADMINISTRATOR

OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to providing a safe, fair and impartial forum for resolving disputes, enhancing access to our services, and providing innovative, evidenced-based practices that improve the safety of our community and ensure the public's trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch.



OUR VISION

We are committed to excellence and the principles inherent in the Rule of Law ... every person, every day, every time.

OUR VALUES



FAIRNESS



RESPECT



INTEGRITY



INNOVATION



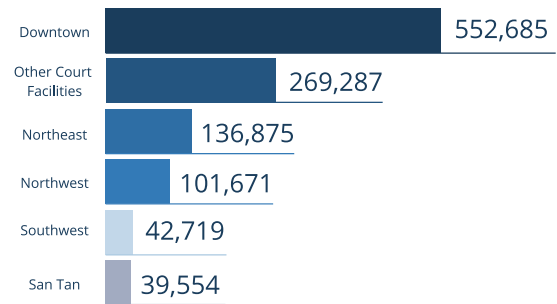
SAFETY



**ACCESS TO JUSTICE &
DELIVERY OF SERVICES**

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County is on the leading edge for residents' interactions with their justice system, which means it's vital to make that interaction as accessible and seamless as possible.

REGIONAL COURT CENTER VISITORS



TOTAL: 1,142,791

ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES JUSTICE-INVOLVED WOMEN INITIATIVE

To provide additional support and to positively impact the lives of justice-involved women, the Adult Probation Department researched and evaluated how to deliver services more effectively to this population, creating the Justice-Involved Women initiative.

In this new approach, adult probation officers are focusing on trauma-informed approaches to better assist justice-involved women and their specific needs. According to the Adult Probation Department, women involved in the justice system tend to have higher backgrounds in trauma-related incidents than men under supervision. Currently, more than 20% of the probation population in Maricopa County are women.

"The goal of the Justice-Involved Women initiative is the overall improvement of stability, safety, self-esteem and self-confidence in the women served by the department to also reduce recidivism," said Adult Probation Officer Emily Styner.

The Adult Probation Department believes that understanding the impact past trauma has had on a person will help officers encourage behavior

change and ultimately assist justice-involved women to permanently exit the criminal justice system.

More than 20 adult probation employees completed a training on trauma-informed care with Colorado Chief Probation Officer Anjali Nandi. Those employees will incorporate what they've learned into the department's training curriculum to help train the entire department. Trauma-informed care will help probation officers become more informed on the impact past trauma has had on a justice-involved individual to better assist them in completing their probation terms.

"We are excited to offer additional resources and training for staff to work with justice-involved women and collaborate with community partners to leverage even more resources for this population," said Division Director Kristi Ward.

In 2020, a pilot phase was introduced and since then, the Justice-Involved Women initiative has expanded to the Central and Eastern Divisions, the Central Sex-Offender Division and Drug Court. ■



VIRTUAL LIFE SKILLS AND INTERNAL STRENGTH CLASSES OFFERED FOR YOUTH

The Diversion Unit at Juvenile Probation offers two new distance learning classes for youth focused on helping them cope with feelings of stress and anxiety.

During the pandemic, all in-person classes were canceled including many classes that were provided by community partners. As a result, the Juvenile Probation Department had a need to still hold youth accountable and engage them in opportunities for growth and success.

According to Diversion Director Charlsie Cordova, the pandemic elevated the presenting issues of anxiety, stress, and other well-being concerns for many youths, including those referred to the Juvenile Department.

“The topics covered in both our Life Skills and Internal Strengths classes were chosen to help youth increase their emotional intelligence skills by providing information and education as well as opportunities for practicing the skills discussed,” said Juvenile Probation Officer Jill Lopez. “Our classes provide an introduction into these essential life skills.”

The virtual Life Skills class concentrates on understanding stress, anxiety, thinking traps and anger while providing coping skills. The Internal Strengths class focuses on emotions, feelings, and anger while providing coping skills.

“One thing I liked about the class is that I was able to be myself and that the teacher actually talked to me,” said one youth in Diversion who took the class. “I learned a few things that will help me, and I would recommend the class.”





Diversion is a voluntary process, offered and authorized in partnership with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Youth referred for most misdemeanor offenses, miscellaneous city code violations and other types of non-felony matters without extensive referral histories are typically eligible.

"The struggle for self-discovery is the major task of adolescent development. Identity formation in teens is about developing a strong sense of self, personality, connection to others and individuality," said Juvenile Probation Officer Elizabeth Frey. "Self-exploration in adolescence supports their psychological development, encourages a strong sense of self and creates a psychological foundation that will help them face adversity and supports taking responsibility for their own life." ■

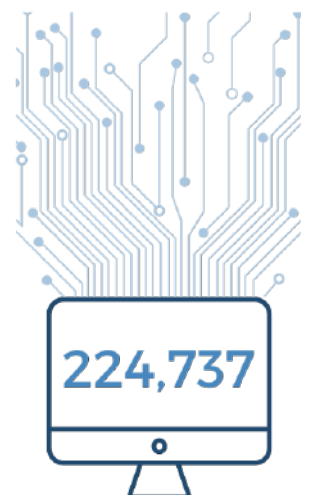
Despite the pandemic, the Maricopa County Superior Court never closed. Tapping into an innovative convergence of established technologies, courts remained open, accessible and available to oversee the administration of justice.

Court Technology Services developed Court Connect, working with established vendors to make hearings available in a virtual environment, allowing judges, involved parties and the public to participate remotely. Using the Microsoft Teams platform as a foundation and tightly integrated with the case management system and digital recording infrastructure, those involved or interested in a hearing could use a PC or mobile device to participate. Those lacking the required technologies could call in, ensuring equitable access. Perhaps most profound, the system allows the public to remotely observe hearings - upholding the key element of judicial transparency.

Throughout the past two years, Court Connect has allowed the Maricopa County Superior Court to keep cases on track while expanding access for parties and the public. ■



**COURTCONNECT
HEARINGS IN FY22**



DRUG COURT CELEBRATES RECOVERY DURING NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH



During National Drug Court Month, recognized annually in May, three Drug Court participants celebrated achieving sobriety by graduating from the Adult Drug Court program. Drug Court provides substance-abuse monitoring and intensive outpatient counseling to help participants break the cycle of addiction.

“Often, we hear in the media of the current drug crisis – whether that is alcohol, meth, or opioids. We rarely hear about the solutions to these problems, and Drug Court is an opportunity to tackle those problems head-on. In tackling their addictions, people often find themselves tackling their mental, physical, and emotional health,” said Commissioner Melissa Zabor.

The Drug Court program in Maricopa County started in 1992 and monitors an average of 425 participants at a time. Commissioner Nicolas Hoskins says the program can last from a minimum of 14 months and can continue for the entirety of a person’s probation period. Participants are supported throughout their time in the program by probation officers, counselors, attorneys, judicial officers, law enforcement, community partners and each other.

In 2021, 52 participants successfully graduated from Drug Court, giving them the tools they need on their path to recovery.

“When I first began probation, the challenges I faced were making sure that all my actions were in line with actually completing

probation,” said Ahmed, a recent Drug Court graduate. “That meant eliminating distractions, old habits and old friends. Creating new habits and routines was difficult but achievable since that’s what my focus became. Drug court helped me in my recovery because it kept me in line with my goals of changing old habits and creating new healthy ones. Drug Court aided in my goal to leave my old life and start a new one.”

During the pandemic, treatment groups and individual counseling sessions have been primarily held through a virtual counseling platform.

“Drug Court’s ultimate aim is to assist participants in achieving and sustaining long-term sobriety. In doing so, Drug Court pursues a treatment-centric approach, rather than one based on long periods of incarceration,” said Commissioner Hoskins. ■

FY2022 SPECIALTY COURTS

Drug Court



296

FY2022
Population



2683

Hearings

DUI Court



141

FY2022
Population



988

Hearings

Juvenile Transfer Offender Program



288

FY2022
Population



33

Hearings

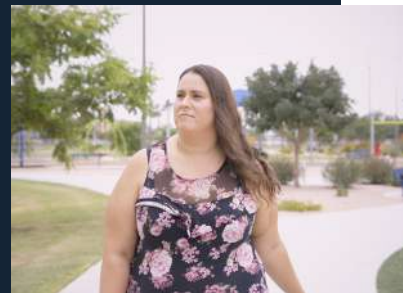
FAMILY TREATMENT COURT PROMOTES FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Family Treatment Court provides an avenue to support reunification for parents who have struggled with substance abuse issues, and who have become involved with the juvenile dependency process in the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County.

The problem-solving court is helping parents reunite with their children and maintain sobriety. During the last five years, more than 88% of the parents who graduated from the program successfully reunited with their children.

“Family Treatment Court is vital because it encourages parents to be accountable, stay sober and continue on their path to reunification,” Commissioner Keelan Bodow said. “I’ve been inspired by the success of the parents who have graduated from the program. Their stories, and the behavioral changes they have made in their lives is truly remarkable.”

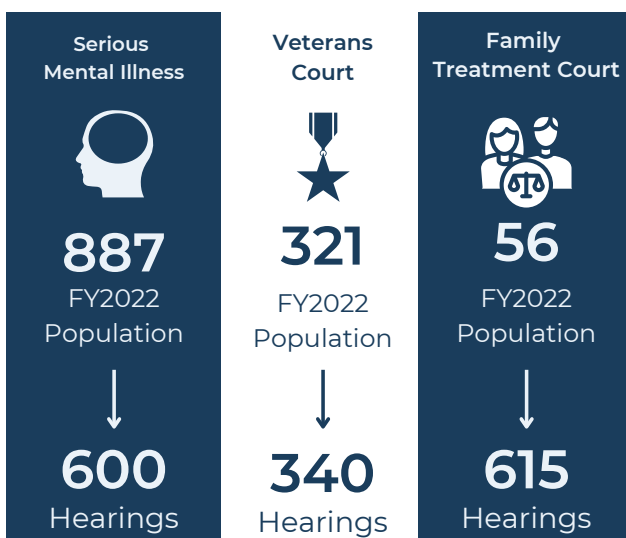
The goal for parents enrolled in Family Treatment Court is to graduate from the program so they can successfully care for their children and be reunified with their family. The program provides participants with a supportive and non-judgmental environment



where they feel safe to talk about past mistakes and provide connections to resources in the community.

Created in 2011, Family Treatment Court requires parents to attend frequent court hearings and work closely with a substance abuse focused team comprised of judicial officers, court staff and community partners.

As part of the program, parents are expected to enroll in a substance abuse treatment program and participate in regular drug screens. To further motivate and hold parents accountable, the program uses a system of incentives and consequences. Rewards may include gift cards, toys for children and sobriety tokens. ■



MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CELEBRATES JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK

The American justice system depends on citizens to serve as jurors.

To show appreciation and recognize the contributions of jurors performing their civic duty, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County celebrated Juror Appreciation Week in May. Jurors who reported for service during Juror Appreciation Week experienced special activities that included in-person greetings from judges as well as food and refreshments. One seated jury panel received \$15 gift cards for lunch at a nearby restaurant of their choosing.

“Our democracy relies on the active participation of citizens to ensure and protect the freedoms we all enjoy,” said Raymond L. Billotte, Maricopa County Superior Court administrator and jury commissioner. “One of the most important responsibilities we all share is to willingly participate when called as a prospective juror. By doing so, we serve our democracy and our fellow citizens and affirm our system of justice is ‘of the people, by the people, and for the people.’”

Jury service is often perceived by the public as time-consuming and inconvenient. To overcome those negative feelings and barriers, the Court launched a campaign, Fair Because I Was There, to promote the importance of jury participation and eliminate jury service misperceptions. That theme – and appreciation for the service of all jurors – was promoted on Valley media throughout Juror Appreciation Week. ■

SUPERIOR COURT OFFERS VETERANS A SECOND CHANCE AT STANDDOWN

At Maricopa County StandDown, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County assisted homeless and at-risk veterans get back on their feet by helping them resolve eligible outstanding legal issues.

The event took place on March 17 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds in Phoenix. A team of four Superior Court judges and commissioners appeared virtually from their respective downtown courtrooms to operate two dockets. Also, another four judicial officers addressed matters by reviewing motions, filings and other paperwork remotely.

“We thank the veteran community for their dedicated service to our country. Unfortunately, sometimes a veteran may have difficulty reintegrating into society when they return from military service and as a result, get caught up in our criminal justice system,” Judge Patricia Starr said. “StandDown offers veterans an opportunity to clear their record of

any fines, fees and other minor legal issues that are standing in their way of such things as civil right restoration, employment and obtaining a drivers’ license.”

Staff from the Adult Probation Department were onsite to access cases of veterans currently on probation and make recommendations to the court. Representatives from the Public Defender’s Office, County Attorney’s Office and Clerk of the Court participated in the event.

Maricopa County StandDown, a program of the Arizona Housing Coalition, started in 2001. The program connects Arizona’s military veterans with community resources and services, including healthcare, mental health services, clothing, meals, emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, ID/driver licenses, court services and legal aid, showers and haircuts. ■



PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS & EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS



SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL OFFICERS

ROTATING TO NEW ASSIGNMENTS



In June, Maricopa County Superior Court conducted annual rotations. Presiding Judge Joseph Welty rotated more than 25 judges and commissioners to new court assignments in the Criminal, Civil, Probate, Juvenile and Family Departments.

June is the customary time for rotations. But, depending on the needs of the Court, judicial officers may be reassigned to new calendars throughout the year. The Court must continually account for special circumstances like new judge appointments, retirements or an increase in case filings and new programs.

The 2022 annual rotations reflected the retirements of Judges James Smith, Margaret Mahoney and David Cunanan and Commissioners Richard Nothwehr and Michael Barth. The moves included the appointments of a new judicial leadership team.

Family Department Presiding Judge Bruce R. Cohen, who did not rotate in June, is no stranger to rotations. As a 17-year veteran on the Superior Court Bench, he has rotated five times, covering Family, Criminal, Juvenile and Civil Department assignments. On his fifth rotation, Judge Cohen was named Family Department Presiding Judge.

“When a judge moves from one judicial assignment to another, that judge brings to the next assignment a fresh perspective and expertise developed from prior judicial assignments in other departments,” Judge Cohen said. “This contributes significantly to the overall effectiveness of each department, where new approaches and best practices from other assignments can be shared and perhaps implemented on the new assignment.” ■

MARICOPA COUNTY ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Promoting and maintaining a safe and healthy community is a top priority for the Adult Probation Department, which serves a probation population of more than 46,000. This year, the Adult Probation Department celebrated its 50th anniversary and reflects on the evolution of the department.

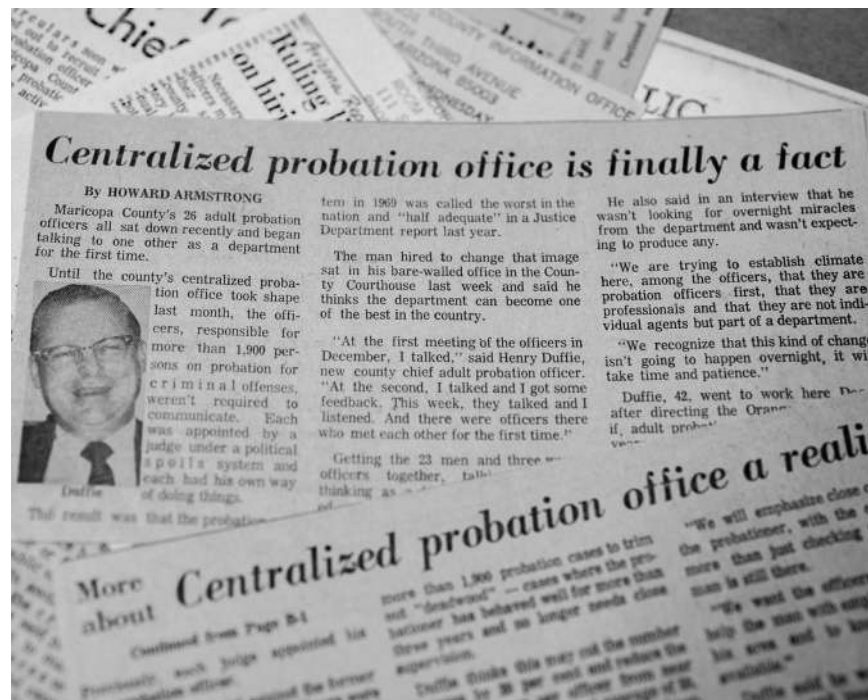
In 1972, the Adult Probation Department was established to assist justice-involved individuals by providing programs and services to help them overcome barriers to their success. By doing so, in 2021, nearly 90% of justice-

involved individuals successfully completed probation.

“Our department is proud to offer a vast number of services ranging from cognitive-based classes to general education. We serve many individuals in our community, not only those involved in the criminal justice system,” said Division Director David Taylor. “By providing services and referrals for other resources, we hope to help strengthen the neighborhoods we serve within and provide opportunities for positive changes.”

According to the Adult Probation Department, research shows that if individuals involved in the criminal justice system make needed changes in the most critical areas, including relationships, thoughts and beliefs, they will have a lower risk to re-offend, therefore making the community a safer place for everyone. ■

“It is truly our privilege at Adult Probation to serve and resource the fourth largest trial court in the country and the residents of Maricopa County. We are so fortunate for the legacy of staff and previous leaders who have established such a rich history of excellence and innovation,” said Chief Probation Officer Michael Cimino. “We are honored, along with the Superior Court and Juvenile Probation, to be part of the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County. We are also grateful to the support we receive from the County Board of Supervisors, and County Administration, for their continued partnership of public safety. We look forward to continuing that innovative work and commitment to excellence as we begin our second 50 years.”



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

FIND SUPPORT

During the month of October, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month by its continued support of assisting victims of domestic violence.

Through its four Law Library Resource Center locations throughout Maricopa County and in partnership with AZ-POINT (Arizona Protective Order Initiation and Notification Tool), the Judicial Branch helped Maricopa County residents understand and navigate the process of obtaining protection orders to assist with domestic violence or harassment.

“The Law Library Resource Center is available to assist victims of domestic violence by providing the resources necessary to complete the paperwork in person or remotely. The centers have advocates available to assist those who are in need of services, such as safety planning, temporary housing or shelters, and other assistance as appropriate,” said Paula Collins, then-administrator of the Law Library Resource Center. “While the advocates are not court employees, they are available to provide help and resources to those seeking protective orders.” ■

SMILES OF HOPE PROGRAM

SUPPORTS DETAINED JUVENILES

Poor dental hygiene and dental decay are two common healthcare issues experienced by youth involved in the justice system. Many of them report not having any prior dental care. To alleviate this problem, the Juvenile Probation Department sought an innovative partnership with A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health to provide much-needed dental services to youth through the program known as Smiles of Hope.

"Many of our youth have either never received preventative dental care or have not received care in many years," said Dr. Chantay Banikarim, detention medical services director. "Dental caries (or tooth decay) is a leading healthcare issue in this population, and we are grateful for the opportunity to provide this service to our youth in custody."

"This partnership supports this outcome and the understanding that probation includes a wide array of support."

Eric Meaux,
Juvenile Probation Chief



According to Juvenile Probation Chief Eric Meaux, “Holding youth accountable, preventing reoffending, and treating youth fairly are necessary for public safety. A key element to promoting these outcomes is the development of genuine trust and rapport with our youth. This partnership supports this outcome and the understanding that probation includes a wide array of support. When youth see and hear caring adults working toward their overall wellness, we advance trust and rapport.”

To recognize the tremendous efforts of the Juvenile Probation Department in partnership with A.T. Still University, the Smiles of Hope program was selected as a 2021 Arizona Judicial Branch Strategic Agenda Award winner in the category of Protecting Children, Families, and Communities.

“The partnership between Maricopa County Juvenile Probation and A.T. Still University has been a phenomenal experience. After spending time at the detention center, dental students have expressed an interest in working within detention facilities after they graduate, and the youth are teachers for our students. They open the dental students’ eyes to the challenges they face and the barriers they must overcome. These experiences make our students better providers,” said Dr. Scott Howell, A.T. Still University’s director of public health dentistry and teledentistry.

The Smiles of Hope program began in 2017 and has continued serving detained youth throughout the years. During the last year, despite the pandemic, A.T. Still University’s dental team provided care to more than 140 detained youth. ■



JUDICIAL BRANCH CELEBRATES NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS WEEK

At speeds up to 300 typed words per minute, court reporters have some of the fastest fingers in the world.

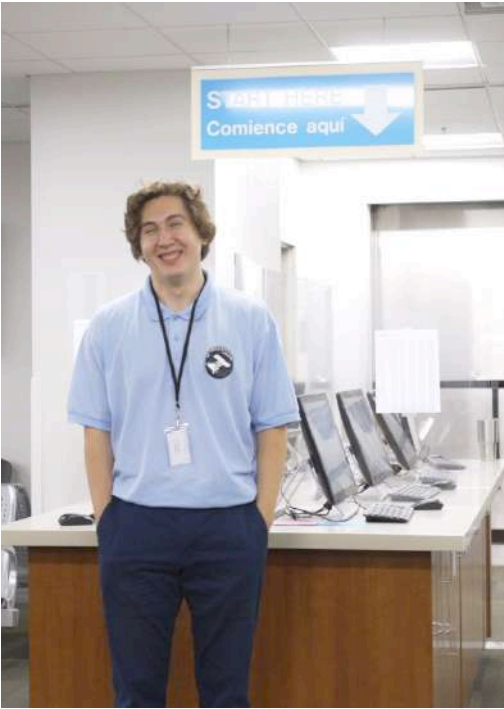
In February, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County recognized the amazing skill of court reporters and their dedication to the rule of law by celebrating National Court Reporting and Captioning Week.



“I would like to thank each of our court reporters for their dedication to the Judicial Branch, and their commitment toward the administration of justice. I recognize the work they do and appreciate their contributions to this court so we can meet our mission, vision and values,” said Christopher Bleuenstein, administrator of Court Reporting & Court Interpreter/Translation Services.

Court reporters not only have to type extremely fast, but they must type with 95% accuracy. They are trained to type as fast as people speak using shorthand on a stenographic machine. They document everything that is said, making them an essential function of what happens in the courtroom. Court reporters are responsible for ensuring a complete, accurate and secure legal record.

To become a court reporter in the state of Arizona, a person must pass the Registered Professional Reporter exam and a written Supreme Court of Arizona test. They must also complete a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education for state and national certification each year. ■



RESTORING CIVIL RIGHTS IS A SELF-SERVE PROCESS

When citizens lose their civil rights due to a criminal conviction, the consequences are significant. They can't vote, serve on a jury, possess a firearm or hold public office. The loss of these civil rights impacts the American way of life. There is a process, however, for people to have those rights restored.

"It is essential for people to know that this is a legal process that must be done at the Court. There are no fees to submit an application for restoration of rights, and affected individuals can complete this process on their own using the forms at our Law Library Resource Center," said

Criminal Department Administrator Nicole Garcia. "You may also wish to consult an attorney for assistance. Avoid scams and never give your personal information to anyone who claims they can complete this process for you. Your civil rights are important - make sure they are restored to you properly."

In Arizona, those whose civil rights were lost or suspended, or those who seek to have the ability to possess a firearm, must file applications with the Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court.

After the forms are filed, the Court will review the application and send written notice within 120 days. If the Court denies the application, petitioners may file an application for reconsideration. ■



FY22 LEGAL RESEARCH TOTALS

57
Bench
Requests

5
Admin
Requests

413.5
Hours

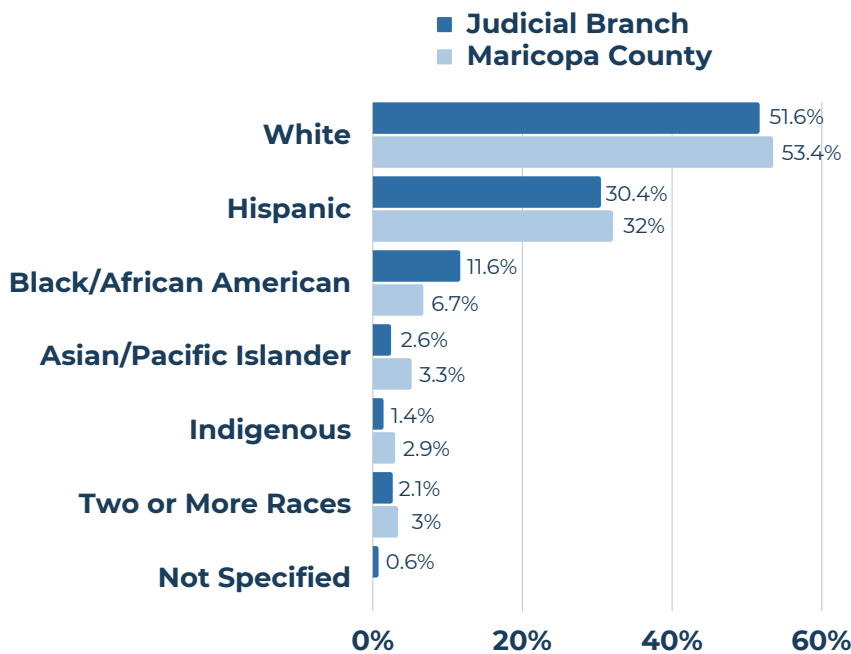
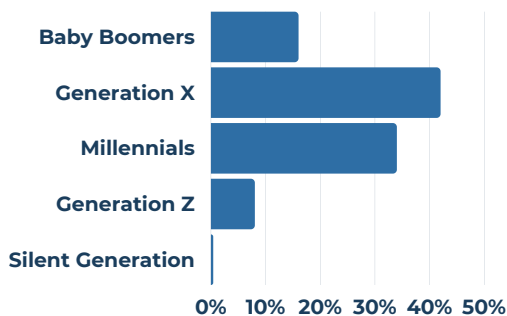
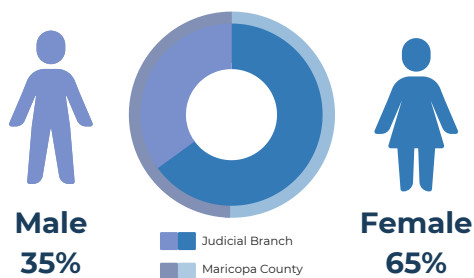
A group of approximately 15 diverse individuals, likely judicial staff, are posed for a group photo in a room. In the background, there is an American flag on the left, a Spanish flag on the right, and a circular seal for the Judicial Branch of Arizona. The seal features a central emblem with a scale of justice and the words 'JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA', 'IMPARTIALITY', 'PUBLIC SERVICE', and 'COURTESY'. A large, semi-transparent blue vertical banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'COMPETENT & ENGAGED WORKFORCE' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

COMPETENT & ENGAGED WORKFORCE

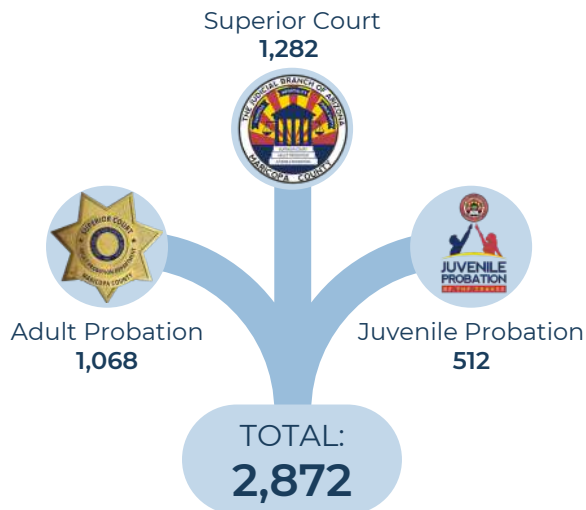
The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County is part of the Arizona State Judiciary. It is comprised of Superior Court, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation, which includes juvenile detention. The Judicial Branch in Maricopa County is the fourth largest trial court system in the nation, reflecting both the size and growth of the community it serves. The Superior Court in Maricopa County, one of the most innovative and progressive trial courts in the nation, has nationally recognized programs to serve the community, including specialty programs like Drug Court and Veterans Court.

There are 98 Superior Court judges in Maricopa County who are appointed to the Bench by the Governor through the merit selection process and remain accountable to the public through retention elections every four years. In addition to the appointed judges, there are more than 60 commissioners who are hired by the Court to serve as judicial officers. The judicial officers are supported by nearly 3,000 professional staff members serving across the Branch, from courtroom assistants to juvenile detention officers and probation officers.

WHO WE ARE



Employee Class Trends



MUSIC PROGRAM IN JUVENILE DETENTION HELPS YOUTH SUCCEED

Teaching youth to see the world through a different set of eyes is a challenge taken on daily by most juvenile detention officers while motivating detained youth to succeed. A music program in Juvenile Detention is giving officers another tool to help cultivate their talents.

From learning how to play the guitar to producing music, detained youth are getting the opportunity to learn a new skill while finding their true strength.

“When I was younger, I went through a lot. I didn’t have a childhood and most of my growing up was being abused,” explains one youth involved in the music program. “There weren’t a lot of things I was able to do but listening to music was the only thing that really helped me.”

These opportunities were advanced by Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson with a large donation of instruments from Raymond Pallanes’ Stir it Up Records, and a partnership with the foundation Restore Arts, which receives donated instruments and reconditions them to give to schools.

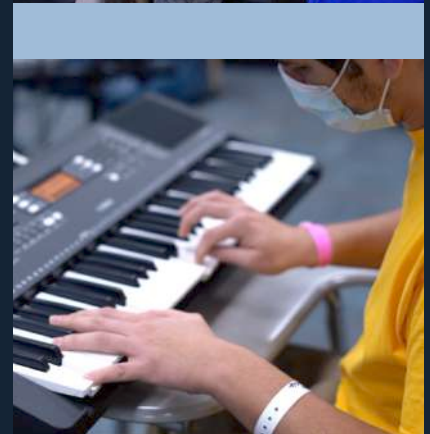
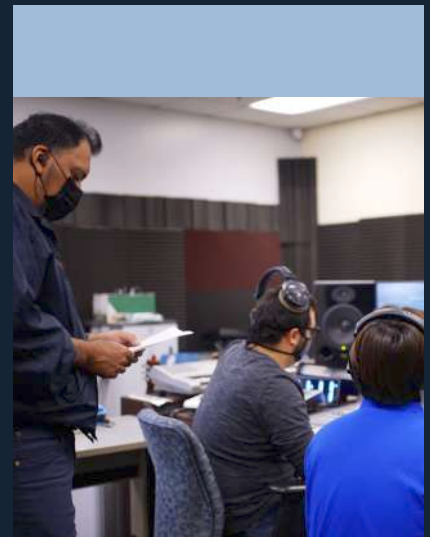
“We never know what might spark a student’s passion and inspire them to engage with school. That is why it is so important to offer them as many opportunities to find that passion as we can,” Superintendent Watson said.

The detention center saw a need to identify and implement more youth-oriented activities that allowed for growth opportunities grounded in positive development, which has been an ongoing organizational shift driven by research.

“I’ve seen students who have difficulty focusing or have anger issues or have just self-esteem issues really blossom through being able to create art and have a deeper understanding of both themselves and being able to have control of something because a lot in their lives, especially our students here, they don’t have control of so this gives them something they have complete control of and where they can express themselves,” Music Teacher Sage Satterfield said. ■

**“We get kids here
in detention who
are very talented.
Throughout the years,
we’ve seen
kids develop
themselves musically.”**

Alex Lopez,
Youth Development
Coordinator



HOPE CLOSETS HELP CLOTHE YOUTH

BEING RELEASED FROM DETENTION

While being released from detention, youth would often request to keep their detention clothes because they didn't have anything else to wear.

To provide youth some support, the Juvenile Probation Department created the Hope Closet Program to make sure kids who are in need leave detention equipped with at least a set of clothes to wear.

Justice-involved youth, both in secure care and on community supervision, can select items such as backpacks, clothing, toiletries and shoes at the Hope Closets located in the Durango Detention facility and the Durango Probation building. Resources from the Hope Closets are also available to the youth's immediate family members.

Most Hope Closet donations come from Judicial Branch employees, including Judicial Education Day when Superior Court judges donate back-to-school supplies to help uplift youth and provide them the resources they need to focus on their education.

"They've donated beautiful new backpacks and clothes and shoes, school supplies and everything a kid might need," said Juvenile Probation Detention Deputy Chief Michaela Aguilar Heslin. "So, after Judicial Education Day we meet them there and we accept the donations, and it fills the truck back to the detention center and it feels really great, and we really appreciate all the judges for adopting our cause."

This year, the Juvenile Probation Department partnered with Arizona State University's Maricopa County Leadership and Education Advancing Public Service program to host two full-time interns. One of those interns will be responsible for helping with the growth and maintenance of the Hope Closet. The Juvenile Probation Department welcomes new interns every semester, providing an opportunity for students to immerse themselves into the community and the culture of the Juvenile Probation Department. ■





SUPERIOR COURT

LANGUAGE INTERN PROGRAM

College students interested in jumpstarting their career as an interpreter or translator took part in the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County's Language Intern program.

The program included two sessions at the Downtown Phoenix Superior Court Complex. Students earned \$16 per hour while learning the skills necessary to help on their career journey to become court interpreters or translators. They also acquired skills to help them pursue other language-related professions.

Interpreters are those who convert information from one spoken language into another while translators are individuals who change written material from one language to a different language.

As an intern, students get the chance to shadow and learn from Arizona credentialed and certified interpreters. They have an opportunity to help interpreters prepare for court, observe court hearings, conduct research, and work on glossaries and other written materials. The program also features visits to local museums, detention centers, government agencies and historical sites to examine language access-related issues. ■

“The court interpreter internship program is always looking for motivated individuals interested in developing their interpreting skills to the highest standards by pursuing a long and successful career as a court interpreter,” Court Interpretation and Translation Services Administrator Christopher Bleuenstein said. “A number of staff interpreters have reached or are considering retirement. It is crucial to provide opportunities for well-seasoned staff to share skills and knowledge with aspiring new language professionals as soon as possible.”

SUPERIOR COURT'S

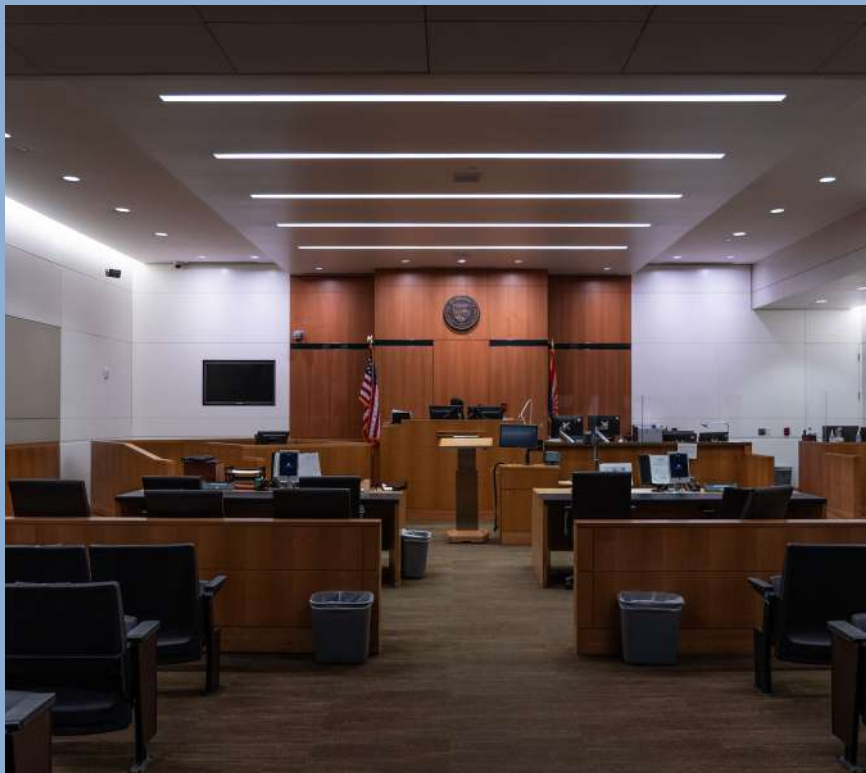
LEGAL EXTERN PROGRAM ENGAGES STUDENTS

College students with a passion for the rule of law got a chance to learn from some of the best jurists and legal minds in the country.

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County launched its 2022 Summer Extern Program. Enrolled law school, undergraduate and graduate students were afforded the opportunity to learn more about the court system.

Depending on their assigned judge, externships were either virtual, in-person or a hybrid. This past year almost 60 judicial officers participated in the program.

Each year, the summer externship is an unpaid position that provides students first-hand knowledge of how one of the largest court systems in the country operates. ■



“Through the years, we have received amazing feedback from students. They appreciate the enthusiasm and insights from judicial officers and seeing all of the little idiosyncrasies of the Court,” Judge Ronda Fisk said. “For many of them, this program will strengthen their resolve to become attorneys.”

PROBATION DEPARTMENTS CELEBRATE NATIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK



During the week of July 17-23, the Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments joined an effort to celebrate National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week. This year's theme, "Restoring Trust, Creating Hope" highlighted how probation employees are working to support and encourage behavior change that will lead to crime reduction and make the community a safer place.

"Community corrections is one of the most effective strategies to enhance public safety," said Chief Adult Probation Officer Michael Cimino. "We are grateful to see these professionals honored as they provide exceptional service to our Court and populations we supervise, provide the necessary accountability, and continually offer

hope by giving individuals opportunities to make positive changes. We are fortunate in Maricopa County to have the Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments serving our residents. We could not be prouder of them and the work they do."

Treating people with dignity and respect are values both adult and juvenile probation staff employ to support those under supervision and resource the Court.

This important work could not be done without the various support staff who work in the departments. These individuals work to ensure the officers have the support they need to enhance public safety. These invaluable staff include probation dispatchers, data

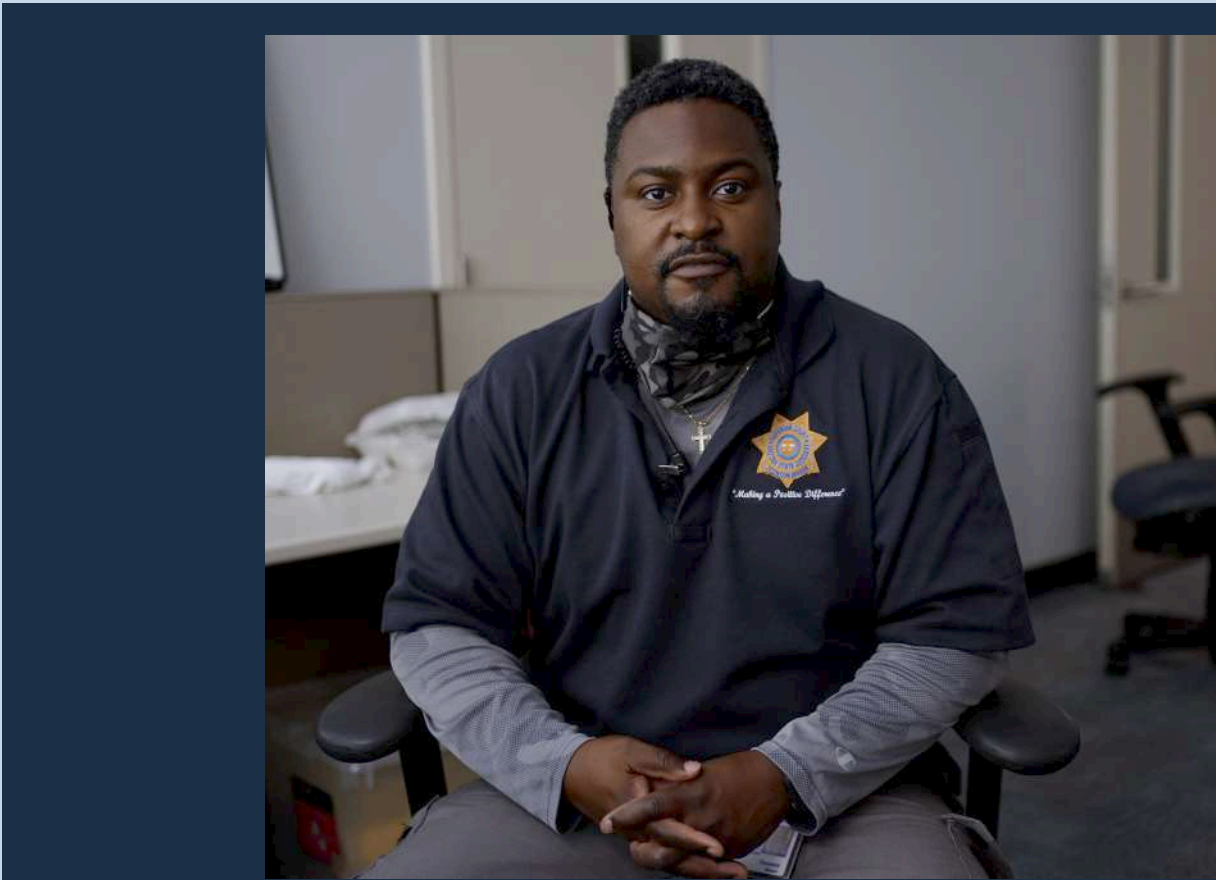
analysts, probation administration assistants, collectors, counselors, teachers and many more.

“The Juvenile Probation Department of the Superior Court in Maricopa County recognizes all the men and women providing critical public safety services to the residents of the fourth largest county, which includes over 600,000 youth between the ages of 8-17,” said Chief of Juvenile Probation Eric Meaux. “As a leader in youth-oriented juvenile justice services, the department provides public safety, enhancing case management and supervision services to over 2,500 juveniles annually within the community. In addition, over 5,000 juveniles are responsibly diverted from formal court involvement with age-appropriate accountability and services. These activities hold juveniles accountable while preserving public resources for

other necessary services and meeting our community’s needs. Juvenile justice services work in Maricopa County – thanks to our community corrections professionals.”

The Adult Probation Department serves a population of more than 46,000 people, while the Juvenile Probation Department had 1,929 youth placed on probation in 2020.

More than 1,100 Adult Probation Department staff are employed by the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County, while the Juvenile Probation Department employs nearly 600 staff. ■



REMEMBERING JUDGE ROSA MROZ



Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Rosa Mroz was struck by a vehicle while crossing a Phoenix intersection the morning of Feb. 2; she died a few days later at a Valley hospital as a result of the injuries she sustained.

Judge Mroz served on the bench since 2004 after being appointed by then-Governor Janet Napolitano. She was recognized as a leader among her peers, having led the court's Probate and Mental Health Department from 2010 to 2013 during a period of transformation that made it a model for other states.

"Judge Mroz was a gifted jurist, a dedicated public servant and a true friend," said Maricopa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Joseph Welty. "The thoughts and prayers of everyone in the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County are with her family."

**"JUDGE MROZ WAS
A GIFTED JURIST, A
DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVANT AND A
TRUE FRIEND."**

Hon. Joseph Welty
Maricopa County Superior Court
Presiding Judge

**“THE WORLD HAS LOST
A MOST GENEROUS
SPIRIT AND AN
EXTRAORDINARY
PERSON.”**

Hon. Meg Mahoney
Maricopa County Superior Court
Judge

In 2012, the Arizona Supreme Court presented Judge Mroz with the Judicial Achievement Award in the General Jurisdiction Category. The following year, the Superior Court’s Probate and Mental Health Department won achievement awards from the National Association of Court Management and the National Association of Counties.

Judge Mroz was an accomplished jurist who received accolades throughout her career. In addition to the awards she won on behalf of Superior Court’s Probate Department, Judge Mroz was the recipient of the 2020 Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law Judge of the Year, the 2020 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Trailblazer Award, and the 2014 Maricopa County Superior Court’s Penny Gaines Collegiality Award.



Judge Mroz’ judicial career included criminal, civil, probate and family department assignments.

“Rosa was the truest friend and colleague one could have. She was the brightest of lights and an example of the best in all of us,” said Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Howard Sukenic.

“Above all else, Rosa was a loving wife, an adoring mother to her two children and a devoted daughter. Rosa befriended everyone she met in life and treated each one of us as her closest friend. The world has lost a most generous spirit and an extraordinary person,” said Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Meg Mahoney. ■

MARICOPA COUNTY JUDICIAL BRANCH OFFERING PARENTAL LEAVE

Employees who are parents-to-be can look forward to a new benefit with the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County: paid parental leave.

In a policy effective March 14, paid leave for employees who work at least 20 hours per week was approved as a way to support new parents and continue to provide top-tier benefits for existing – and prospective – employees. The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County – which is comprised of the Superior Court, Adult Probation Department and Juvenile Probation Department, including juvenile detention – is among the first government organizations in the state to offer paid parental leave.

The policy allows for up to six weeks (240 hours) of paid leave for parents for the birth or adoption of a child; up to 480 hours is offered for multiple children. Employees who are interested in the paid parental leave must meet qualification criteria, including being eligible to use Family and Medical Leave Act time off, and are required to repay the value of the leave should they resign from the Judicial Branch within 12 months. ■



INTERNAL COMMUNICATION EFFORTS SUPPORT A **COMPETENT AND ENGAGED WORKFORCE**

For the first time ever, the Branch dedicated time and stories to highlighting the top four racial and ethnic groups in our community, as identified by the U.S. Census, to better inform our workforce. The intent of these month-long series was to show and learn about who and what makes up these populations and their contribution to the past, present and future of Arizona.

The Branch highlighted a month-long series on Arizona Indigenous and Native Tribes, Black People and Places who play a role in Arizona, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are part of Arizona’s population, and in the month of September highlighted the people and places around the Hispanic community in Arizona.

“This type of effort allows us to become aware and sensitive to all the people we serve in the courts,” said Internal Communications Director Cindy Reid. “Hopefully, it makes us aware that we are one Human Race.” ■



BRANCH INFRASTRUCTURE



JUDICIAL BRANCH SECURITY

With a commitment for a unified vision and shared sense of purpose, Judicial Branch Security management staff utilizes their significant expertise acquired through extensive law enforcement background and education to continually monitor and critically evaluate standards and procedures. Their aim is to ensure that all measures established and carried out by the security officers are as up to date as possible and appropriate to current and prevailing threats.

Ensuring the safety and welfare of Judicial Branch staff employees, visitors, as well as the building structure, our management staff has formulated a planned response of law enforcement and emergency personnel to duress alarms, threats, assaults, emergency evacuations, and many other situations that require security or medical attention.



627

TOTAL SECURITY INCIDENTS MANAGED

1,735

SECURITY CONCERN CASES PROCESSED

66,268

RANDOM SECURITY PATROLS CONDUCTED



TOTAL HEALTH SCREENING INCIDENTS MANAGED

442



EMPLOYEES HEALTH SCREENED

102,834



PROCESSED THREAT & INAPPROPRIATE COMMUNICATIONS

102 Cases



THREAT ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED

18

This includes off-campus events and Judicial Officer homes.

VIRTUAL COURT EXPANDED FOR IN-CUSTODY DEFENDANTS

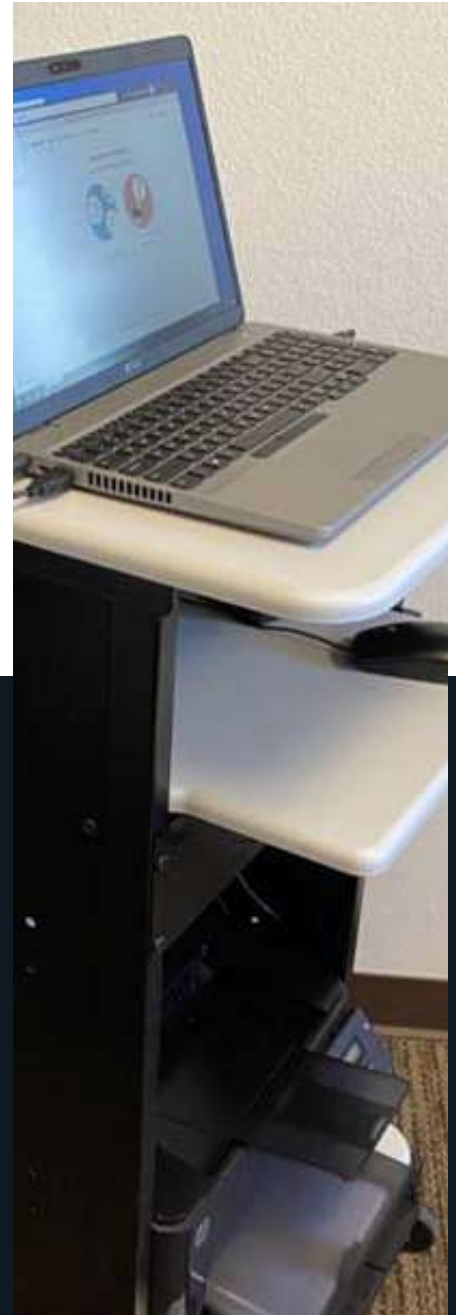
During the Coronavirus pandemic, virtual environments popped up all over the world, including Superior Court and the Maricopa County Jail.

At a time when courts across the country were trying to do more remote hearings, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County partnered with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to launch the Jail Tablet Initiative and the SMART (Sentencing via Mobile Access/Remote Technology) cart project. These two programs allow some in-custody defendants to participate in court without leaving the jail.

"The pandemic forced us to respond to problems and needs we have never encountered before as a judicial and law enforcement community," Deputy Criminal Department Administrator Chris Candelaria said. "We overcame setbacks, celebrated the small victories and stayed focused on the mission: providing access to justice while striving to keep staff, defendants and the public safe."

With these two technological innovations, the Court maintained health and safety protocols, while taking into consideration constitutional rights issues and public transparency.

"These two programs are worthy of recognition because multiple stakeholders came together to solve a series of problems. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Court Technology Services and the Court worked tirelessly to take some big ideas and turn them into a successful reality," Candelaria said. ■





“During the pandemic, livestreaming ensured the Court was fulfilling its constitutional duty to provide public access to court proceedings, while bolstering the safety of court participants.”

Judge Patricia Starr

SOME MARICOPA COUNTY COURT CASES

STREAMING ONLINE

With many Maricopa County Superior Court cases now streaming online, members of the public who are unable to travel to a nearby courthouse to observe proceedings now have an alternative. While not all hearings are streamed, the convenience offered for certain proceedings increases access for interested members of the public.

“During the pandemic, livestreaming ensured the Court was fulfilling its constitutional duty to provide public access to court proceedings, while bolstering the safety of court participants,” said Judge Patricia Starr.

In addition, Initial Appearance calendars, hearings conducted within the first 24 hours of arrest for the purpose of setting bail and release conditions, are streamed. IA Court, which is heard 365 days a year, begins at 2 a.m., 5 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Through the safety measures taken during the pandemic, which includes remote hearings, the Court has reduced foot traffic in its facilities from 14,000 a day to approximately 3,500 a day and has allowed the Court to continue to do business while keeping employees and the public safe. ■

JUDICIAL BRANCH FACILITIES

The Judicial Branch Warehouse team is responsible for carrying out the logistics of receiving, processing, storing and delivering inventory according to Purchase Orders and over-the-counter requests in the Branch's accounting and warehousing system. They focus on verifying that ordered products are received in full and delivered to Branch customers at the earliest opportunity.



The Warehouse team moved from being under Facilities to the Finance Unit in FY21



GENERAL PACKAGE DELIVERIES

1,682



WAREHOUSE - PRINTED REAMS OF PAPER

1,098

Numbers reduced due to Covid 19 restrictions & the greater shift to Teleworking



COMPLETED 28 TENANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS VALUED AT

\$450,000

In conjunction with the County Facilities Management Division



ON-CONTRACT SUPPLY DELIVERIES

5,772



PROCESSED INVENTORY ORDERS

841



SIGNS PRINTED

4,200

About 350 Per Month



GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY



Return Completed Surveys Here



In a biannual survey of Maricopa County Superior Court customers conducted in early 2022, 90% of respondents reported being treated with courtesy and respect, and more than 80% indicated that they were treated the same as others and that the judge listened to them before making a decision.

The findings of the Court Access and Fair Treatment Survey affirm the Court's values of Fairness, Respect, Integrity, Innovation and Safety.

"The judicial officers and court administrators at the Superior Court in Maricopa County are constantly working to improve the safe, fair and efficient delivery of court services," said Presiding Judge Joseph C. Welty. "Biannual customer surveys and self-reflection are critical to the process of improvement."

KEY FINDINGS

90% Agreement

Treated with
courtesy and
respect



90% Agreement

Felt Safe in the
Courthouse



87% Agreement

Court staff paid
attention to my
needs



78% Agreement

My case was
handled fairly



86% Agreement

Court removes
barriers to service



85% Agreement

Able to get business
done in a reasonable
amount of time



85% Agreement

"I know what to
do next"



82% Agreement

The judge had the
needed information to
make a good decision



AMERICORPS WEEK HELPS HIGHLIGHT MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS TO JUDICIAL BRANCH

Proving Access to Court Services AmeriCorps members are making a difference by providing access to justice for court customers daily. In honor of AmeriCorps Week, celebrated nationally March 13-19, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County highlighted their many contributions.

If you've visited one of our Law Library Resource Center locations, you've likely been greeted by an AmeriCorps member. They assist those who visit the court in many ways, including locating forms, helping customers with the protective order process, navigating the Judicial Branch's website and providing directions to the courtroom and other departments.



“The experience thus far as a member of AmeriCorps with the Law Library Resource Center has been extremely insightful,” said AmeriCorps member Danielle Moses. “This position has taught me sympathy and empathy, both crucial in implementing a more humanized process. This led me to have a strong interest in family court cases.”

By receiving a grant to provide service opportunities to individuals through the

AmeriCorps program, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County has been able to double its staff at Law Library Resource Centers, thus increasing the number of self-represented litigants the center can help.

“Those whom we serve often come into the court on some of the most challenging days of their lives. Our team of AmeriCorps members are empathetic, patient, thoughtfully explain court processes, and provide legal information in a way that our customers can understand,” said Melanie Simmons, Deputy Administrator of the Law Library Resource Center.

AmeriCorps programs bring people together, bridge divides, strengthen communities, and help communities tackle some of their most difficult challenges. Each year, the AmeriCorps program provides resources to more than 2,000 government and nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to community improvement. ■

Law Day is held on May 1st every year to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession.



**JUDICIAL BRANCH CELEBRATES
LAW DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL**



The Constitution is a flexible, living document that continues to keep America moving forward and preserve the rule of law.

Presiding Judge Joseph Welty and Arizona Supreme Court Associate Justice Katherine King, the two keynote speakers at the 2022 Law Day celebration, delivered powerful presentations at the Arizona State Capitol Museum on how the courts and the Constitution have adapted to crisis and times of change.

Each year, the American Bar Association selects a theme based on a particular aspect of the law that impacts the lives of Americans. The Law Day program continues to grow nationally and has spread to many countries around the world. ■

CASA FOCUSES ON ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN

April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and CASA of Maricopa County extended outreach seeking more dedicated members of the community to become CASA volunteers, to help end child abuse and neglect through supporting children and their families.

CASA volunteers, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, are everyday people who are recruited, screened and specially trained to advocate for children living in the foster care system and provide a consistent and safe adult presence for them during a

difficult time in their life.

“A CASA volunteer’s priority is to support keeping families together whenever it is safe to do so,” said Lisa Hitchens, development coordinator for CASA of Maricopa County. “Foster care should only be a temporary solution for a child who has been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. As a volunteer, you have an opportunity to advocate for the best interest of a child so they can grow up in a nurturing environment and lead full and productive lives.” ■



“The need for more CASA volunteers is great. By becoming a child advocate, you can take your efforts beyond just awareness to help support children and families in crisis.”

Lisa Hitchens,
Development
Coordinator for CASA
of Maricopa County



SUPERIOR COURT'S COURTHOUSE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM RELAUNCHES

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19, Courthouse Experience kicked off with a visit from 40 East Valley high school students.

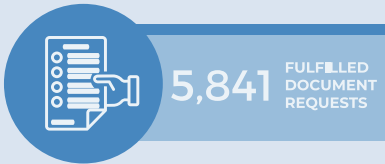
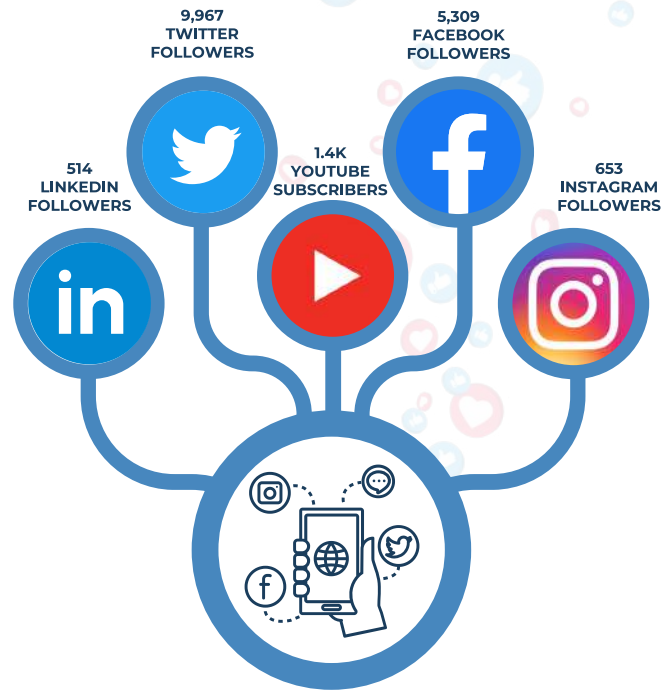
The students, a vocational rehabilitation summer class, observed Judge Frank Moskowitz and Judge Ronee Korbin Steiner's morning calendar and trial. They witnessed, firsthand, the important role of an independent judiciary.

"Courthouse Experience is our favorite community activity for preparing students for life after high school," Westwood High School Teacher Wendy Clifford said. "The students enjoyed seeing how a trial process works and learning the importance of making sure the judge and jury are listening to the facts. Also, it was cool how Judge Moskowitz talked to all of us about careers in the justice department and the importance of jury duty. Our class now has a good understanding of what to expect if they are ever called as jurors."

The Courthouse Experience is part of a larger effort by the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County to connect with local students to show them the importance of the judiciary, their future role as jurors and to help them better understand the justice system. Students are also told about the variety of jobs available within the Judicial Branch, including those in probation, juvenile detention, court support services and other professions.

Courthouse Experience allows middle and high school students from Maricopa County the opportunity to learn about the legal system and observe court as part of a guided tour. A typical tour often includes visits with judicial officers, observations of court proceedings, visits to the jury assembly room and informative question and answer periods. Classes are welcome to attend all different types of hearings and trials if the content is appropriate. ■

The Communications Office is responsible for the public communication from the Branch to the public, news media, community groups and other stakeholders. The office provides initial case information to news organizations, coordinates news cameras to be present in the courtroom, updates the public on significant and high-profile cases, facilitates court tours for hundreds of local students each year, and maintains the Branch's social media presence online.



JURY FRAUD SCHEME

ENSNARES VALLEY RESIDENTS

The Superior Court in Maricopa County has uncovered fraudulent activity where scammers are calling members of the community and threatening them with arrest for failing to appear for jury service. The scammers are directing people to pay fines and fees to avoid arrest and jail time.

The Jury Office found that some people were defrauded by as much as \$6,000.

“The scam is sophisticated, but the public must know that the Court does not fine people by phone for not appearing for

jury duty. The court issues failure to appear notices, and potential jurors are asked to reschedule jury service for a later date,” Jury Administrator Matthew Martin said.

The scam attempts to defraud people by having them pay fictitious jury fines with a prepaid debit or gift card. The scammer will request the person read them the scratched off number on the back of the card. Once the scammer has the number, they can deplete all funds placed on the card. ■

COURT CELEBRATES

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY WITH IN-PERSON EVENT

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," Judge Joseph Kreamer 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 in 2000. ■

NATIONAL

ADOPTIONDAY



JUDICIAL BRANCH CELEBRATES FAMILY REUNIFICATION MONTH

When children are removed from their home and placed into foster care, it takes hard work and commitment from parents to regain custody and make their family whole again.

In honor of those parents who have successfully reunified with their children, a coalition of government and community organizations – including the State of Arizona and the Maricopa County Superior Court – celebrated Family Reunification Month.

Family *Reunification* Month



Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey signed a proclamation declaring June as Family Reunification Month in Arizona. The month also included a virtual Family Reunification Day event that highlighted the long, challenging journey of more than 50 families who were successfully reunited. The event included inspirational stories from parents who graduated from the program as well as messages from Superior Court judges, members of community organizations and government leaders including Arizona First Lady Angela Ducey.

“Families who reunify are superheroes to us. To have your child taken away and to address the circumstances that brought your child into foster care is not easy,” Judge Joseph Creamer said. “The Court and the Department of Child Safety are here to help reunify parents with their children. One of the most powerful things you can see in court is when a family comes back together. There are a lot of tears and a lot of joy and that’s what we are celebrating this month.” ■



VIRTUAL REALITY

Life Skills of Struggling Classes



AWARDS

Every year, the National Association of Counties (NACo) reviews thousands of applications from county organizations that work on innovative programs to better assist the populations they serve. This year, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County was recognized with nine NACo Achievement Awards in various categories. The development of the award-winning programs not only improves court processes and efficiency but impacts a community forever changed by a health crisis.

Category: Children and Youth

SEX TRAFFICKING SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION TOOL

VIRTUAL LIFE SKILLS AND INTERNAL STRENGTHS CLASSES

Category: County Administration and Management

COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION UNIT (CRU) FILELESS PROJECT

ENHANCING STAFF ACCESS TO DATA

AUTOMATED ARBITRATOR FEED PROJECT

Category: Information Technology

VIRTUAL DELIVERY OF COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

CENTRALIZED PRODUCTION

Category: Personnel Management, Employment and Training

PRESENTENCE OFFICER VIRTUAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

JAIL TABLET HEARING AND SMART CART PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS



REBECCA CLARK

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SECURITY OFFICER

Category: Teamwork



RICHARD KOKES

DIA/JUVENILE PROBATION
MANAGEMENT ANALYST

Category: Innovation



URSULA SETTLES

JUVENILE
DETENTION OFFICER

Category: Customer Service



TIANA BURDICK

COURT ADMINISTRATION
SUPERVISOR

Category: Leadership

TRIAL ADVOCATES RECOGNIZE JUDGE PAMELA GATES AS JUDGE OF THE YEAR

The Phoenix Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates presented Civil Department Presiding Judge Pamela Gates with its Judge of the Year Award.

Over the course of the last year and a half, Judge Gates' efforts ensured Superior Court in Maricopa County remained an innovative leader among the nation's courts.

"I am extremely honored; however, I realize the true recognition is due to the court employees and judicial officers who thought creatively and worked determinedly to provide access

to justice during these extraordinary times," Judge Gates said.

Judge Gates, who was appointed to the Bench in 2009, has presided over the Civil Department since 2018. She previously served on Family and Criminal Department calendars that included a rotation as the Criminal Associate Presiding Judge from 2015 to 2018.

Founded in 1958, the American Board of Trial Advocates is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges. ■



"I realize the true recognition is due to the court employees and judicial officers who thought creatively and worked determinedly to provide access to justice during these extraordinary times."



Judge Welty was appointed as a Superior Court judge in 2007 and has served in the civil, criminal, family and juvenile departments of the Superior Court. During this time, he served two years as Criminal Department presiding judge and four years as associate presiding judge. In 2019, he was named presiding judge by the Arizona Supreme Court.

PRESIDING JUDGE JOSEPH WELTY NAMED JUDGE OF THE YEAR

The Maricopa County Bar Association named Judge Joseph Welty, presiding judge of the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County, the 2021 recipient of the Judicial Officer of the Year Award.

“During the pandemic, a time when many federal, state and municipal courts were closed for business, the Maricopa County Superior Court under Judge Welty’s leadership never closed,” said Tyler Carrell, president of the Maricopa County Bar Association. “He led our Superior Courts, Municipal Courts, and Justice Courts through uncharted territory with distinction.” ■



OUR LEADERSHIP



DEPARTMENT PRESIDING JUDGES

(Back) Hon. Joseph Kreamer, Juvenile Department/Associate Presiding Judge; Hon. Pamela Gates, Civil Department; Hon. Joseph Welty, Presiding Judge; Hon. Bruce R. Cohen, Family Department.

(Front) Hon. Jay Polk, Probate and Mental Health Department; Hon. Barbara Spencer, Criminal Department/Presiding Commissioner; Hon. Patricia Starr, Criminal Department; Hon. Danielle Viola, Tax Department.



JUDICIAL BRANCH EXECUTIVE TEAM

(Back) Sean Gibbs, Security Director; Bob James, Deputy Court Administrator; Dennis Carpenter, General Counsel; Cheri Clark, Deputy Court Administrator.

(Middle) Frances Dairman, Budget and Finance Director; Jennifer Fish, Human Resources Director; Charisse Richards, Chief Information Officer; Shawn Friend, Deputy Court Administrator.

(Front) Eric Meaux, Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Department; Raymond L. Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator; Michael Cimino, Chief Probation Officer, Adult Probation Department.



OUR JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS



WHY MERIT SELECTION?

MERIT SELECTION

The 98 Superior Court judges in Maricopa County do not run for office in partisan elections. The judges are appointed to the Bench by the Governor through the merit selection process, and remain accountable to the public through retention elections, occurring every four years. Every two years, the Judicial Performance Commission, a 32-member panel consisting of mostly public members, surveys attorneys, litigants, and members of the public concerning each judge's skills, judicial temperament and administrative performance. These results are made available to the public and allow voters to make informed decisions before casting their vote.

SUPERIOR COURT COMMISSIONERS

At the end of the 2022 Fiscal Year, the Superior Court in Maricopa County had more than 60 commissioners who performed a variety of judicial duties and responsibilities, and were vital to the success of the Court. Commissioner candidates must submit an extensive application. The minimum qualifications for application include being a United States citizen, a resident of Maricopa County at the time of appointment, of good moral character, a licensed member of the State Bar of Arizona, and having been a resident of the State of Arizona for at least the five years preceding appointment. All qualified applications are reviewed by the Superior Court's Commissioner Nomination Committee, chaired by the Court's Associate Presiding Judge. Following initial Committee due diligence review, candidates may be invited to interview before the Nomination Committee. A second level of due diligence review is completed, and then a list of potential candidates is forwarded to the Presiding Judge for consideration of appointment as a Superior Court Commissioner.

Selecting Maricopa County Superior Court judges through the merit selection process results in judges who are highly qualified and experienced. This practice also increases diversity within the Bench, supports a fair and impartial court, and enhances access to justice for all residents of Maricopa County.



APPENDICES

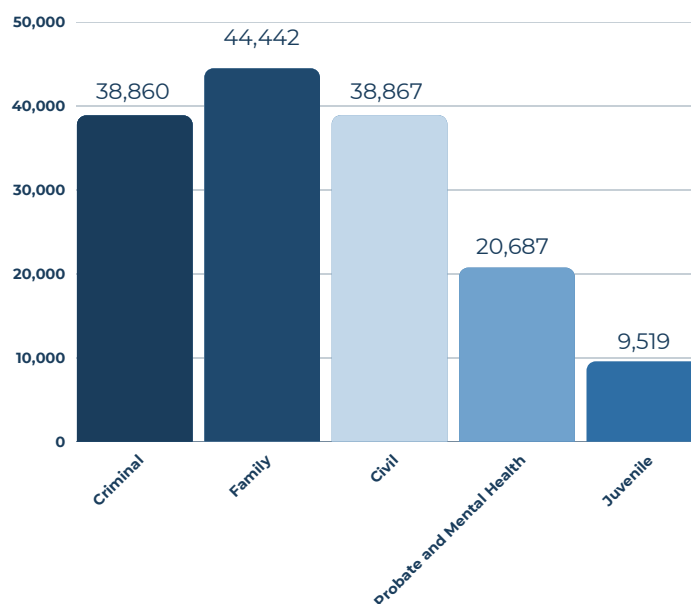
DISCLAIMER

The data used for this Annual Report was taken from data entered into the Court's case management system. As such, this data relies on hundreds of Judicial Branch employees and partners entering data into the system, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. We are confident that the numbers presented in this report accurately reflect the data available at the time of the Annual Report preparation. However, because data entry is sometimes delayed or corrected, there may be slight differences from numbers reported in prior or subsequent publications.

MEASUREMENTS

Appendix A through Appendix G detail the filings, terminations, clearance rates and median age of active pending cases for the five court departments: Criminal, Civil, Family, Juvenile, and Probate and Mental Health. Filings refers to the number of cases that were initiated within this Fiscal Year. Terminations refers to the number of cases that received a final decision within this Fiscal Year, so that no further court oversight is necessary, unless a post-judgment or post-decree petition or motion is filed by one of the parties. Clearance rate refers to the comparison of filings to the number of terminations, such that a clearance rate over 100% shows that more cases were terminated than filed, and a clearance rate under 100% shows that more cases were filed than terminated.

Total Number of Filings: 152,375



NEW CASES

22,941

PROBATION VIOLATIONS PETITIONS

15,187

POST CONVICTION RELIEF

732

PRE-DECREE

29,946

POST-DECREE

14,496

NEW CASES

27,625

POST JUDGEMENT

10,209

TAX

628

LOWER COURT OF APPEALS

405

PROBATE

10,205

MENTAL HEALTH

10,482

ADDITIONAL CASE TYPES

4,063

DELINQUENCY

2,695

DEPENDENCY

2,761



APPENDIX A - CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

Fund	Filings	Terminations	Clearance Rate	Ending Pending as of 6/30/2022	FY21-FY22 Filings % Change
Criminal Court	38,860	35,845	92.2%		4.3%
New Criminal Cases	22,941	21,461		18,560	3.5%
Person - Homicide	280	323		630	-20.0%
Person - Sex Offenses	468	488		638	-8.1%
Person - Kidnapping	257	297		281	-8.2%
Person - Robbery	457	534		363	-11.6%
Person - Aggravated Assault	1986	2167		1501	-13.8%
Person - Other Assaults	127	144		153	-15.9%
Property - Burglary	887	1007		659	-19.1%
Property - Auto Theft	979	925		752	-15.6%
Property - Other	2337	2633		2044	-18.0%
Drug - Possession/Paraphernalia	9647	7699		6613	27.9%
Drug - Sales/Other	1150	1296		1127	-13.9%
Weapons	1133	1091		953	-11.6%
Public Order	335	336		246	-1.5%
Motor Vehicle - DWI / DUI	1446	1122		1398	86.6%
Motor Vehicle - Serious Violations	56	31		63	43.6%
Motor Vehicle - Other	369	341		277	-8.7%
Other Felony / Unclassified	1026	1027		861	-16.3%
Misdemeanor	1			1	-50%
Post-Conviction Relief Petitions	732	915	125.0%		-13.6%
Probation Violation Petitions	15,187	13,469	88.7%		6.5%
Rule 11 - Mental Competency	1164	1191	102.3%	375	6.7%
Superior Court	961				-1.4%
Limited Jurisdiction	203				75%



APPENDIX B - CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Fund	Filings	Terminations	Clearance Rate	Ending Pending as of 6/30/2022	FY21-FY22 Filings % Change
Civil Court	40,230	32,704	*-	19,242	-3.5%
Pre-Decree	27,625	30,279	109.6%	19,064	-10.6%
Tort Non-Motor Vehicle	1662	1779	107.0%	2369	-11.2%
Tort Motor Vehicle	5125	5670	110.6%	5107	-11.5%
Medical Malpractice	216	252	116.7%	500	-8.5%
Contract	10,466	12,341	117.9%	6647	-16.2%
Tax	1	1	100.0%	1	N/A
Eminent Domain	86	88	102.3%	104	6.2%
Unclassified Civil	10,069	10,148	100.8%	4336	-3.4%
Lower Court Appeals	405	423	104.4%	121	6.0%
Post Judgment Filings	10,209	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.4%
Garnishment	9583	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.8%
Judgment Debtor Exams	413	N/A	N/A	N/A	-16.1%
Supplemental Proceedings	213	N/A	N/A	N/A	-45.9%
Injunction Against Harassment	1991	2002	100.6%	57	10.7%
Tax	628	632	100.6%	486	-4.6%
Cases of Record	572	540	94.4%	481	1.4%
Property	172	169	98.3%	270	-3.9%
Other	400	371	92.8%	211	3.9%
Small Claims	56	92	164.3%	5	-40.4%
Property	56	92	164.3%	5	-40.4%
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arbitration	10,737	6606	61.5%	6497	-23.8%

* An overall clearance rate across all civil court filings is not provided as terminations are not captured across all filing types.



APPENDIX C - FAMILY DEPARTMENT

Fund	Filings	Terminations	Clearance Rate	Ending Pending as of 6/30/2022	FY21-FY22 Filings % Change
Family Court	44,442	44,795	100.8%	19,341	-1.1%
Pre-Decree Cases	29,946	30,501	101.9%	11,946	0%
Dissolution	15,748	16,589	105.3%	8551	-5.6%
Dissolution with Children	6656	6893	103.6%	4255	-8.0%
Dissolution without Children	9092	9696	106.6%	4296	-3.8%
Paternity	2019	1997	98.9%	1222	0.7%
Annulment	217	226	104.1%	113	-2.7%
Establish Support	1293	1297	100.3%	408	-3.9%
Legal Decision - Making	2357	2141	90.8%	1221	17.7%
Legal Separation	403	379	94.0%	229	14.2%
Orders of Protection	7237	7230	99.9%	65	5.4%
Subsequent Proceedings	11	11	100.0%	2	-15.4%
Other Categories	661	631	95.5%	135	40.9%
Post-Decree	14,496	14,294	98.6%	7395	-3.3%
Family Court Orders of Protection	7237	7230	99.9%	65	5.4%

Other category includes foreign judgment, change of venue/transfer, and enforcement of custody and grandparents rights



APPENDIX D - JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Fund	Filings	Terminations	Clearance Rate	Ending Pending as of 6/30/2022	FY21-FY22 Filings % Change
Juvenile - Petitions and Citations					
Petitions	9519	9198	96.6%	7634	-6.2%
Delinquency	2205	1820	82.5%	1202	2.9%
Delinquency - Citations	99	104	105.1%	28	-25.0%
Delinquency - Violations of Probation	391	366	93.6%	121	-37.6%
Dependency	2761	2945	106.7%	4903	-11.2%
Guardianship	978	954	97.5%	308	5.3%
Adoption	1817	1741	95.8%	465	-5.4%
Adoption Certifications	380	523	137.6%	79	-11.2%
Severance	832	692	83.2%	518	2.0%
Emancipation	20	18	90.0%	8	-16.7%
Relinquishments	1	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
ICWA Relinquishments	2	1	50.0%	1	100.0%
Injunctions Against Harassment	33	33	100.0%	1	83.3%
Juvenile - Children Counts					
Delinquency	10,920	10,819	99.1%	10,259	-7.6%
Delinquency- Citations	1666	1324	79.5%	959	4.4%
Delinquency- Citations	77	84	109.1%	22	-28.0%
Delinquency - Violations of Probation	225	214	95.1%	103	-41.1%
Dependency	4219	4750	112.6%	7484	-17.5%
Guardianship	1297	1254	96.7%	406	14.1%
Adoption	2346	2261	96.4%	619	-4.5%
Severance	1041	886	85.1%	656	6.3%
Emancipation	20	18	90.0%	8	-16.7%
Relinquishments	1	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
ICWA Relinquishments	3	2	66.7%	1	200.0%
Injunctions Against Harassment	25	25	100.0%	1	92.3%
Existing Guardianships				15,622	-2.9%



APPENDIX E - PROBATE AND MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Fund	Filings	Terminations	Clearance Rate	Ending Pending as of 6/30/2022	FY21-FY22 Filings % Change
Probate Court	10,205	7674	75.2%	35,051	6.3%
Estate Probates and Trust Administrations	6987	4615	66.1%	14,290	9.0%
Guardianships & Conservatorships	2998	2839	94.7%	20,711	0.4%
Adult Adoptions	220	220	100.0%	50	6.8%
Mental Health	10,482	11,306	107.9%	6120	4.8%
Petitions for Court Ordered Evaluation	10,431	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0%
Petitions for Court Ordered Treatment	3771	N/A	N/A	N/A	-20.2%

Note: Rule 11 information is located on Criminal Department statistics page.



APPENDIX F - JURY DEPARTMENT

Fund	FY21 Totals	FY22 Totals	FY21-FY22 Filings % Change
Courtroom Services Data			
Summoned Jurors	345,862	465,125	34.5%
Superior Court	286,647	332,988	16.2%
City Court	41,637	93,807	125.3%
Justice Courts	10,104	24,652	144.0%
County Grand Jury	5994	12,182	103.2%
State Grand Jury	1480	1496	1.1%
Juror Pay	\$712,332.33	\$1,299,239.30	82.4%
Juror Pay	\$182,748.00	\$303,204.00	65.9%
Juror Mileage	\$394,688.70	\$725,968.55	83.9%
Lengthy Trial Fund	\$134,895.63	\$270,066.75	100.2%



APPENDIX G - COURT INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION (CITS)

Fund	FY21 Totals	FY22 Totals	FY21-FY22 Filings % Change
Court Interpretation & Translation (CITS)	25,597	23,177	-9.5%
Spanish Interpretation Events	22,894	20,093	-12.2%
Lesser Used Language Interpretation Events	2229	2619	17.5%
American Sign Language Interpretation Events	474	465	-1.9%



Appendix H - Finance - Expenditures



FY22 Superior Court Expenditures

Fund	FY21 Actual Expense	FY22 Actual Expense	Expense Increase/Decrease	FY21-FY22 % Change
General	\$97,307,090	\$ 106,893,448	\$9,586,358	9.9%
Superior Court Judicial Enhancement	\$505,288	\$425,537	(79,751)	-15.8%
Probate Fees	\$391,980	\$391,980		0.0%
Conciliation Court Fees	\$1,524,000	\$1,658,520	\$134,520	8.8%
Superior Court Special Revenue	\$4,742,418	\$4,809,523	\$67,105	1.4%
Law Library Fees	\$1,998,098	\$1,314,024	(684,075)	-34.2%
Superior Court Fill the Gap	\$1,861,751	\$1,875,400	\$13,649	0.7%
Expedited Child Support	\$522,972	\$506,786	(16,186)	-3.1%
Superior Court Building Repair	\$409,620	\$1,350,542	\$940,922	229.7%
Domestic Relations Mediation Education	\$145,152	\$129,024	(16,128)	-11.1%
Superior Court Grants	\$4,290,486	\$4,322,801	\$32,315	0.8%
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$9,569,523		(\$9,569,523)	-100.0%
Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery		\$533,826	\$533,826	N/A



Appendix H - Finance - Expenditures (Cont'd)

FY22 Adult Probation Expenditures

Fund	FY21 Actual Expense	FY22 Actual Expense	Expense Increase/Decrease	FY21-FY22 % Change
General	\$67,644,294	\$66,759,161	(885,132)	-1.3%
Detention Operations	\$40,802,698	\$42,145,385	1,342,687	3.3%
Adult Probation Fees	\$8,864,779	\$9,132,810	\$268,031	3.0%
Adult Probation Grants	\$1,971,491	\$2,228,958	\$257,467	13.1%
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$383,514		(383,514)	-100.0%
Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery		\$313,530	\$313,530	N/A

FY22 Juvenile Probation Expenditures

Fund	FY21 Actual Expense	FY22 Actual Expense	Expense Increase/Decrease	FY21-FY22 % Change
General	\$21,088,945	\$21,873,484	784,539	3.7%
Detention Operations	\$35,105,730	\$39,151,833	\$4,046,103	11.5%
Juvenile Probation Special Fee	\$2,161,036	\$1,811,232	(349,804)	-16.2%
Juvenile Probation Diversion	\$62,048	\$63,968	\$1,920	3.1%
Juvenile Probation Grants	\$3,139,704	\$2,929,173	(210,531)	-6.7%
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$1,108,199		(1,108,199)	-100.0%
Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery		\$466,593	\$466,593	N/A
Grand Total	\$305,600,814	\$311,087,537	\$5,486,723	1.8%



Appendix I - Finance - Revenue



FY22 Superior Court Revenue

Fund	FY21 Actual Revenue	FY22 Actual Revenue	Revenue Increase/Decrease	FY21-FY22 % Change
General	\$1,183,533	\$1,061,984	(121,550)	-10.3%
Superior Court Judicial Enhancement	\$451,771	\$496,502	\$44,731	9.9%
Probate Fees	\$407,112	\$434,253	\$27,141	6.7%
Conciliation Court Fees	\$1,597,899	\$1,741,185	\$143,286	9.0%
Superior Court Special Revenue	\$4,936,447	\$5,265,352	\$328,905	6.7%
Law Library Fees	\$1,159,297	\$1,398,438	\$239,141	20.6%
Superior Court Fill the Gap	\$1,901,405	\$1,818,927	(82,479)	-4.3%
Expedited Child Support	\$523,440	\$570,217	\$46,777	8.9%
Superior Court Building Repair	\$1,014,370	\$357,757	656,614)	-64.7%
Children's Issues Education	\$228	\$182	(46)	-20.2%
Domestic Relations Mediation Education	\$148,953	\$160,345	\$11,392	7.6%
Superior Court Grants	\$4,303,026	\$5,149,006	\$845,979	19.7%
Emancipation Administration	\$1,018	\$1,231	\$214	21.0%
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$9,569,523		(\$9,569,523)	-100.0%
Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery		\$533,826	\$533,826	N/A



Appendix I - Finance - Revenue (Cont'd)



FY22 Adult Probation Revenue

Fund	FY21 Actual Revenue	FY22 Actual Revenue	Revenue Increase/Decrease	FY21-FY22 % Change
General	\$22,473	\$17,334	(5,138)	-22.9%
Adult Probation Fees	\$9,024,673	\$9,259,197	\$234,524	2.6%
Adult Probation Grants	\$1,935,115	\$2,779,214	\$844,100	43.6%
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$383,514		(383,514)	-100.0%
Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery		\$296,216	\$296,216	N/A



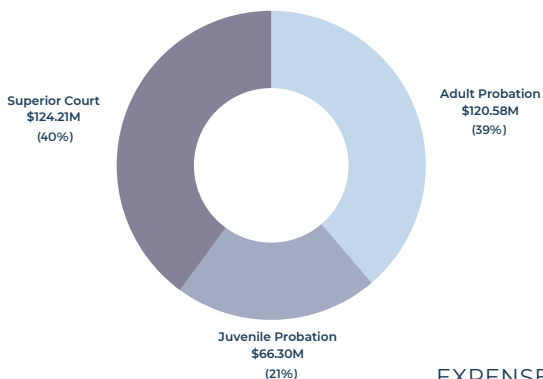
FY22 Juvenile Probation Revenue

Fund	FY21 Actual Revenue	FY22 Actual Revenue	Revenue Increase/Decrease	FY21-FY22 % Change
General	\$659	\$1,735	\$1,076	163.4%
Juvenile Probation Special Fee	\$2,165,125	\$2,289,895	\$124,769	5.8%
Juvenile Restitution	\$37,394	\$26,912	(10,482)	-28.0%
Juvenile Probation Diversion	\$61,737	\$77,544	\$15,808	25.6%
Juvenile Probation Grants	\$3,462,826	\$3,583,307	\$120,482	3.5%
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$1,108,199		(1,108,199)	-100.0%
Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery		\$466,593	\$466,593	N/A
Grand Total	\$45,399,736	\$37,787,150	(7,612,586)	-16.8%

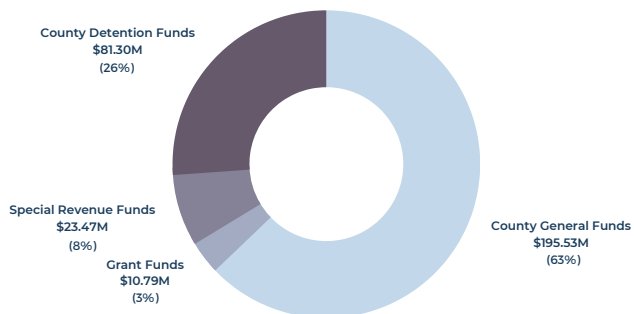
FY 2021-22 EXPENSES

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS = \$311.09M

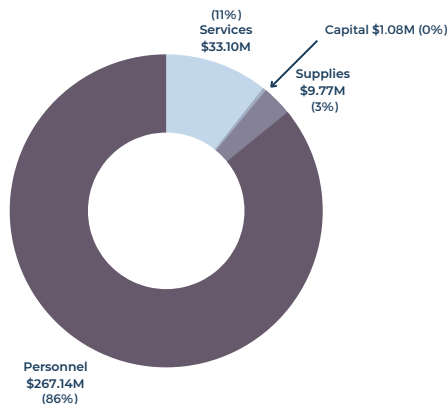
EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



EXPENSES BY FUND TYPE

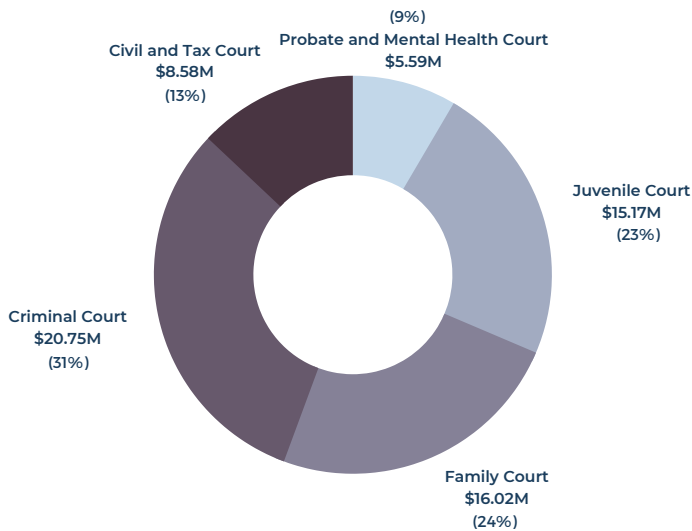


EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

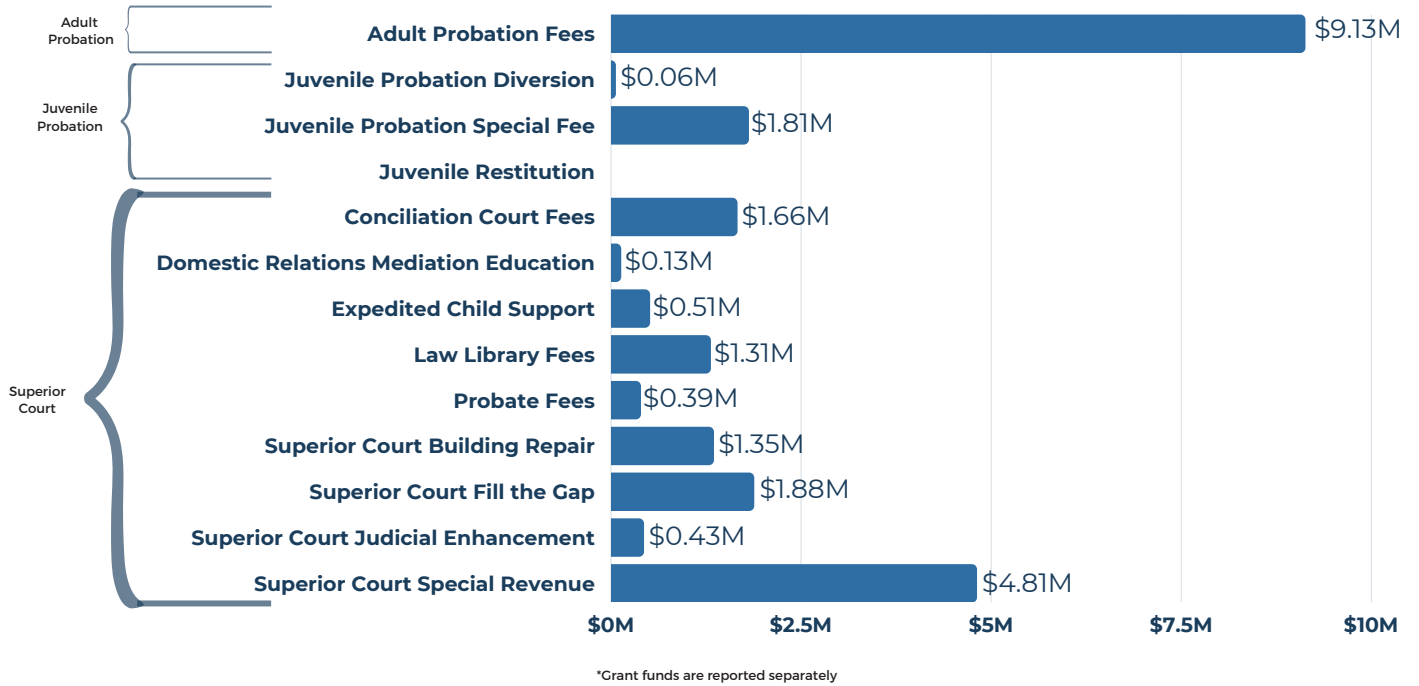


EXPENSES BY COURT DEPARTMENT

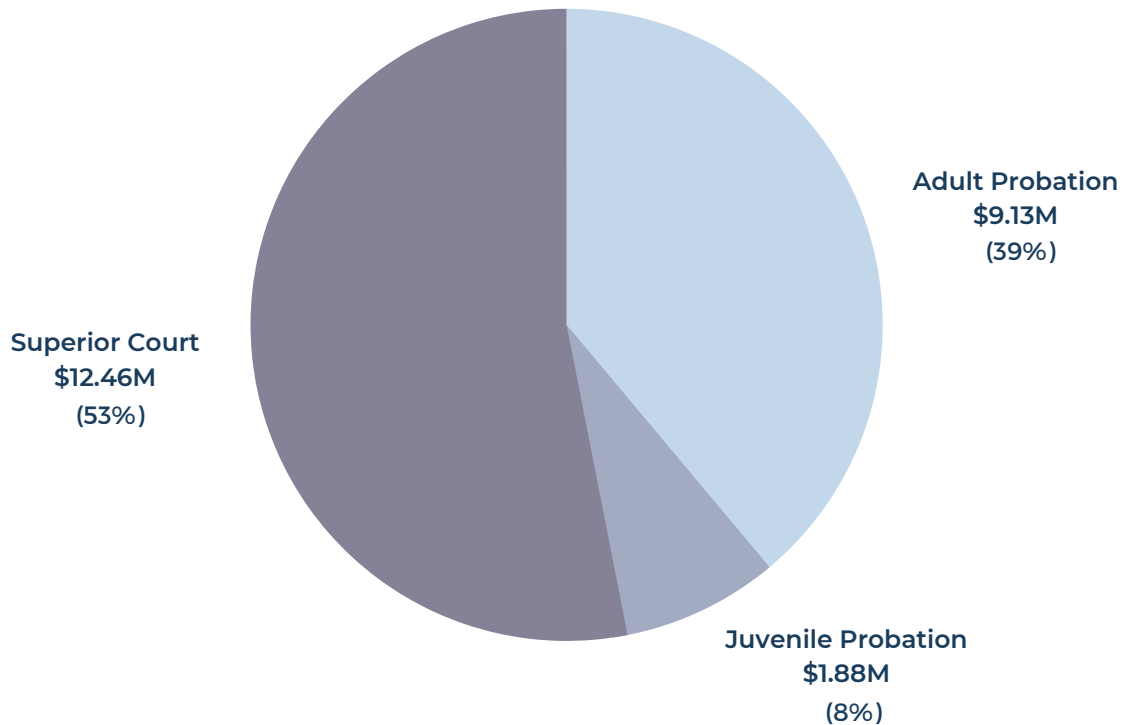
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS FOR APPLICABLE AREAS = \$66.11M



FY2021-22 Special Revenue Fund Expenses



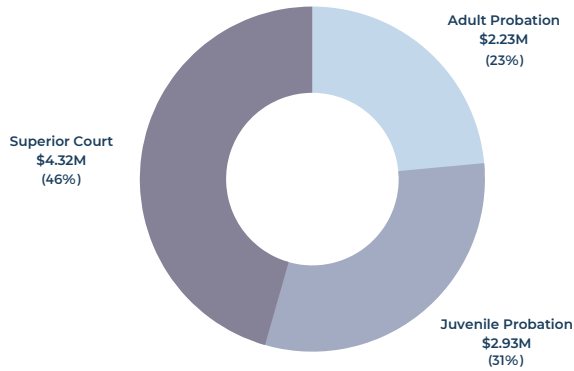
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



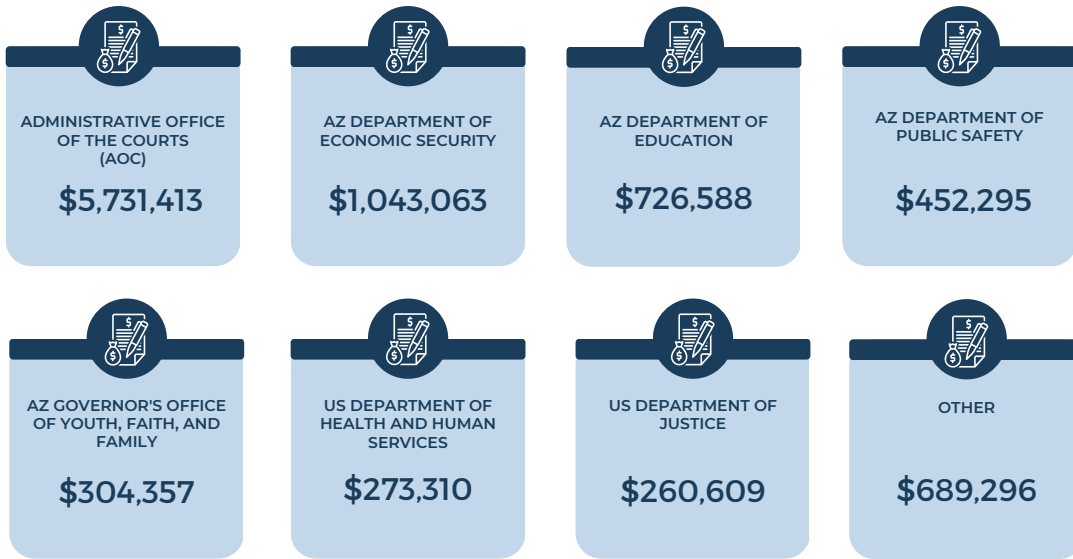
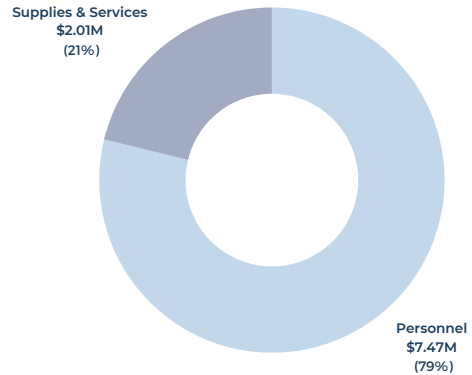
TOTAL OF SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS = \$23.47M

Judicial Branch Grant Expenses

GRANT EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



GRANT EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

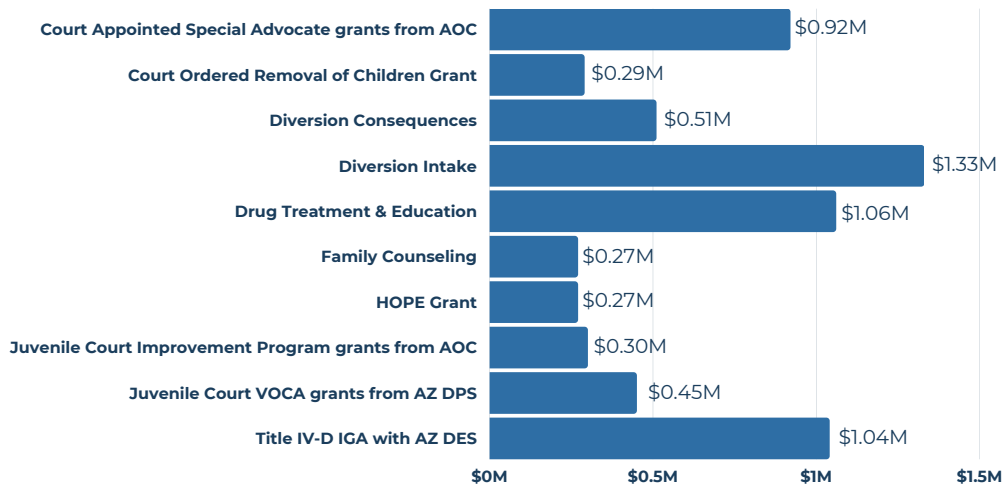


Grand Total: \$ 9,480,931

Above Excludes ARPA Covid-19 Relief Funds

FY2021-22 Top Ten Grant Fund Expense Totals = \$6.44m

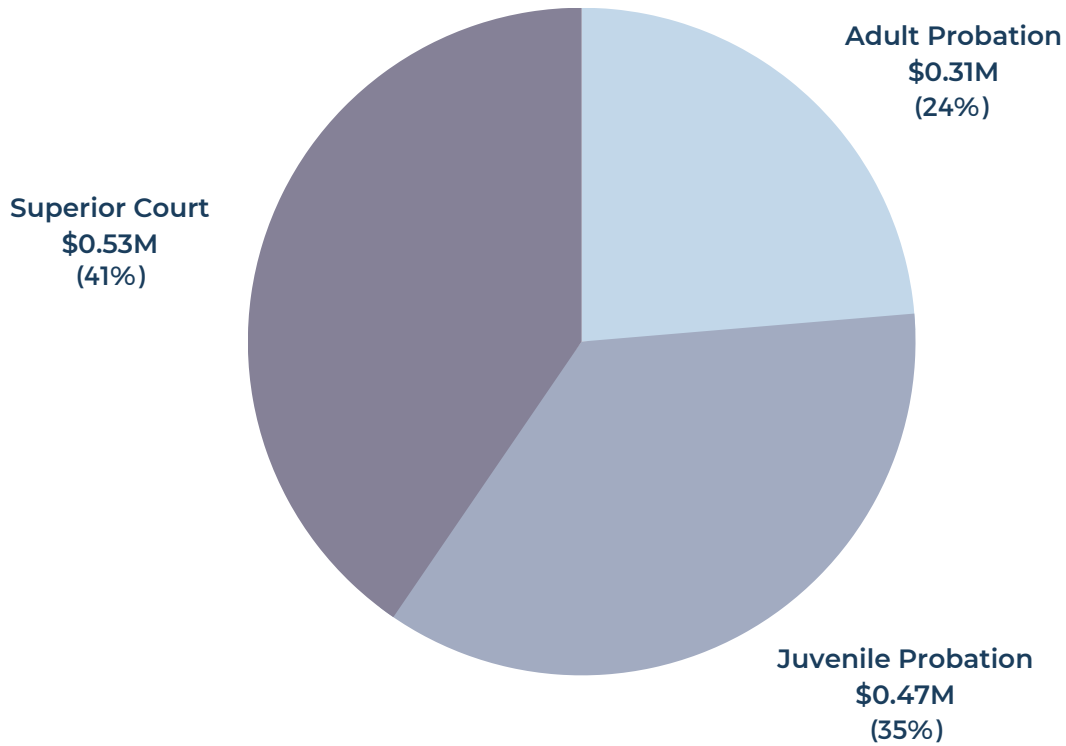
EQUATES TO 68% OF TOTAL GRANT SPENDING



*ARPA funds are reported separately

FY2021-22 ARPA CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUND EXPENSES

TOTAL OF ARPA EXPENSES = \$1.31M





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