

RECORD TIMES

The eMagazine

DECEMBER
2021

Vol. 27 / No. 12

A monthly magazine for employees of the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office



Much sock-cess, toy-rrific effort

Staff displays great generosity in the Annual Holiday Drive

The *Record Times* is pleased to report record generosity for this year's Holiday Drive, which was held Nov. 3 - Dec. 8. The **Annual Office Holiday Drive**, which consists of efforts to collect socks/toiletries for the homeless and toys for children, had some new records set in the time frame of the last few years through the generosity of employees.

With many staff working remote and having challenges caused by the pandemic, Clerk employees still made an impressive effort to help those in need during this season. Here are the final 2021 Office Holiday Drive results:



TOYS

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SOCKS - In its 21st year, for this effort employees donated **314** pairs of socks (the highest in the last nine years), **92** bars of soap (47 higher than last year), **120** tubes of toothpaste (highest in seven years), **123** toothbrushes (a new record), **84** bottles of shampoo/conditioner (highest in five years), and **144** razors (a new record), plus many more needed toiletry items. All of the donated items are used to help the homeless in the community through the Shoebox organization.



TOYS FOR TOTS - In its 18th year, for this effort, employees donated a total of **130** new, unwrapped toys. This amount more than doubled last year's amount of 51 donations. Through the Marines, the toys get distributed to various agencies/organizations for children in the community who would not have otherwise had a toy for the holiday season.

Over the past 21 years of conducting the Office Holiday Drive, Clerk staff have donated a total of **6,460 pairs of socks** to the homeless and **4,321 toys** for children in the community.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

CLERK CONNECTION

Some important dates in the upcoming year

The following two lists provide the paid holidays and pay days for County employees in 2022:

PAY DATES -

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
5	2	2	13	11	8	6	3	14	12	9	7
19	16	16	27	25	22	20	17	28	26	23	21
		30					31				

OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS -



- **New Year's Day - Fri., Dec. 31**
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Mon., Jan. 17**
- **President's Day - Mon., Feb. 21**
- **Memorial Day - Mon., May 30**
- **Independence Day - Mon., July 4**
- **Labor Day - Mon., Sept. 5**
- **Veterans Day - Fri., Nov. 11**
- **Thanksgiving Day - Thurs., Nov. 24**
- **Day After Thanksgiving - Fri., Nov. 25**
- **Christmas Day - Mon., Dec. 26**

The Annual Report provides light on Office's innovative spirit



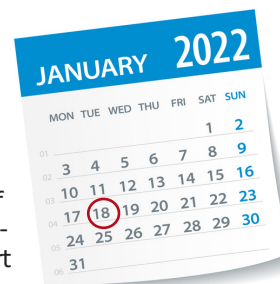
The Office's 2020-2021 Annual Report was recently completed and is available to view on the Clerk of Court's website in the "[Publications](#)" section. Titled "**Our Spirit of Innovation - A Past Glance / A Present Glimpse**," the report provides an overview of the Clerk of the Court's Office using a creative theme with light bulbs to depict the Office's past and present innovative spirit.

The annual report also highlights many of the Office's accomplishments during the past fiscal year, contains some interesting yearly statistics, shows the organizational structure and leadership of the Office, and takes a look at the big news from milestone years of the past and a few news items that are planned for the future.

A jump on January news

On January 11 - Clerk of the Court **Jeff Fine** will present the Office's budgetary needs for the upcoming '22/'23 Fiscal Year to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. It is a highly important meeting for the Office, as the Board is the entity that determines the funding for the Office.

On January 18 - the **Law Library Resource Center (LLRC)** File Counter Window is reopening for service. It has been closed since Feb. 8, 2021 due to COVID measures. The LLRC is designed to provide services to those in need of legal information and assistance with court matters. It offers a wide array of court forms and instructions. With the reopening, there will be no charges for information packets. The LLRC first opened in 2017. It is located in the East Court Building, first floor.



CLERK CONNECTION

Nancy Johnson's work with new portal makes history



Courtroom Clerk **Nancy Johnson** is a "trailblazer" by being the first person in the Office and State to work in the new Digital Evidence Portal. She recently completed her first trial managing the exhibits using the new CaseLines Digital Evidence platform. CaseLines is a state-of-the-art digital evidence management platform used for the submission, management, and storage of electronic exhibits.

"This new digital evidence platform may help define the future of the court in Maricopa County and across the state. Moreover, Arizona is the first state in the country to attempt to adopt this way of presenting digital evidence! **This makes Nancy, not only a trailblazer for Maricopa County and Arizona, but also for the entire country,**" said Courtroom Services Deputy Director **Valerie Clark**.

"This unprecedented undertaking was very courageous of Nancy and she completed the trial successfully, with the support of her team," Courtroom Services **April Covarrubio** said. "After Day 4 of managing exhibits using the new platform Nancy reported that she was happy to report that everything had been going smooth as ice!"

Other comments about CaseLines include a court reporter who said she loved it and its ease, plus the fact that she can view documents for spelling of names, etc.; a Counsel commented that he was nervous using it at first, but that the Clerk made it easy to use...which was a very nice compliment about Nancy.

Courtroom Services commends Nancy this month for stepping up to the plate and making history for the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office and in Arizona, and the nation through using this new transforming portal.

submitted by Courtroom Services Supervisor April Covarrubio

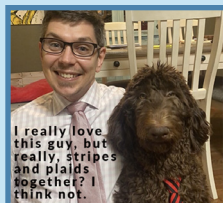
Send in a nomination for the Employee of the Quarter

If you have someone in the Office you would like to nominate for the Employee of the Quarter for October – December 2021, please send your recommendation by **Wed, Dec. 29**. To send in your nomination: **1)** In an email, provide the person's name; department; and four to five sentences on why you feel the person should be selected; **2)** Send your email to the following person overseeing the area your nominee works for:

- Deputy Director **Michael Nimitz** (for Financial-Accounting Services / Family Support / Administrative Services / Customer Service Center / Document Services / the Regional Facilities)
- Deputy Director **Valerie Clark** (for Adult and Juvenile Courtroom Services and Juvenile Court Operations)
- Chief Technology and Innovation Officer **Rich McHattie** (for ITG & Business Analysts)

Every picture tells a story...here's how to tell yours

Photos are an important part of the *Record Times* and you have two fun opportunities to have your own photos published in the monthly publication. Your photos are needed for two ongoing features. They are: **1)** photos with the newsletter itself while traveling; **2)** photos with the new cutout character Flat Stamp-Ley. [See page 12](#) for details on both opportunities.



Clerk employee comes up with a pet-icularly clever caption for contest

Congratulations to Courtroom Services' **Margaret Brickman** whose caption was selected for Maricopa County's "Pet Caption Contest" that is featured in the County's "Currents" newsletter. See the photo and Margaret's humorous caption to the left. The caption reads, "I really love this guy, but really, stripes and plaids together? I think not." Employees may submit photos of their pets to be used for this feature to jason.berry@maricopa.gov. Employees can also submit a caption for the current photo being used for this feature, by visiting the [caption website here](#).

Timely Service

Timely Service - A section of recent email messages, note cards, phone calls, and letters about Clerk employees who provided *timely service*.

CO-WORKER COMPLIMENTS

About: Support Services, Marriage Licenses & Passports, and Recording Services staff

From: Cheryl Marzella

"Thank you to **Support Services, Marriage License and Passports, and Recording Services** staff for working together to accomplish the enormous amount of customer requests this year. It has been a very trying year with vacancies and still dealing with Covid. I appreciate all of you for jumping in to get the job done on time."

About: Juvenile staff

From: Alicia Burd

"I am incredibly grateful and honored to work with all of the **COC staff at each Juvenile facility**. Each staff member, from Operations to Courtroom Services, strives to provide the best possible customer service to both internal and external customers. They are kind and considerate, and most importantly, demonstrate the epitome of what team work should be! My wish for all of them in the upcoming year is one of peace, health and happiness!"

About: DTI Desktop Support Team

From: Dave Rosenthal

"I would like to thank the **DTI Desktop Support Team** for their continuous effort this year on all things DRP (Desktop Refresh Project) related. Replacing every single computer and monitor in an organization as large as ours is no small feat. Without your diligence, hard work, and several early mornings and weekends sacrificed, we would not have been able to meet our deadline...and you all did so much more than that! We were able to keep the day-to-day running smoothly while we had this huge project hanging over our heads all year. The amount of effort and sacrifice that goes into that does not go unnoticed. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you! Here's to a more relaxed 2022!"

About: Holiday Drive Donators & the NW staff

From: Len Keso

"A BIG thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Holiday Drive. I particularly want to give an extra special thanks to the **NW staff (Evelyn, Jackie, Savanna, Jessica, Josh, Aurora, and Michelle)**, who took time to make many neatly-organized baggies of different items for the Socks Drive. The extra efforts are greatly appreciated!"

About: Jan Price

From: Anna Castaneda

"**Jan Price** formally announced her upcoming retirement in February. Jan has worked with the County for 35 years and has been an incredibly remarkable resource for many in both COC and Juvenile Divisions. She is dedicated to excellence in her work and takes great pride in accuracy and detailed information. She gladly assists with the historical events over the course of the 35 years in order to supply her partners with the whys they seek, when it comes to the JUV world. Jan has contributed so much to the COC Office and will be missed."

About: CSC Marriage Licenses & Passports staff

From: Ramon Flores

"I want to thank the **ML and Passports team** for continuing to give great customer service and helping in other departments when asked. They are very dedicated to their job and always have smiles on their faces. Happy Holidays and next year will be even better."

About: SEA Courtroom Clerks and Specialist

From: Kris Gilmet

"I want to thank all the **SEA Clerks and our Specialist**. During these challenging times, they've proven they can handle anything thrown their way. They have mastered all of the electronic processes and flawlessly handle their assignments, whether in person or remote. They jump in and assist divisions needing help and come into the office if they've got an in-person hearing without ever having to be told to do so. They roll their sleeves up and get the work done while remaining positive and productive every day. I'm amazed at what they can and have accomplished with their can-do attitudes. I am thankful for each and every one of them!"

CUSTOMER COMPLIMENTS

About: Susan Loe

A customer sent an email to Court Operations Supervisor Ken Shipley recently to let him know about the wonderful service of his employee **Susan Loe**. The customer said Susan went above and beyond to help with her request. She said Susan's positive attitude and professionalism was refreshing and it was a pleasure working with someone so willing to take time to listen.

We Got Spirit!

Photos from the recent "Flannel Shirt" Spirit Day



Carol Miller and Tamara Hight



Suzanne Lambries and Pam Stockley



Lori Demski, Iris Molina, Melynda Cabrera and me Elizabeth Flores



Ravi Goud



Lia Farr, Angela Romero and Kelly Marquez



Desiree Bahe, Danielle Garcia and Charlotte Concholar



Laura Martinez and Andrea Garcia



Tracy Heninger



Shannon LaSpaluto, Mercedes Smith, Gozal Atabaeva-Coy, Leticia Gutierrez, Terri Molchan, Sharon Szakacs and Nikki Swiss



Mike Nintz, Len Keso, Nancy Rodriguez, Kelsey Lewis, Zane Varnum, Jeff Fine and Lori Fiscus (kneeling).



Mayra Antelo, Susan Loe, Idella Hamilton, Cecilia Alfaro-Arndt and Melanie Fay



April Covarrubio, Shannon Stulz, and Shoni Boling

We Got Spirit!

Photos from the recent "Twins" Spirit Day



Tracy McMillian and Shannon Stulz

Twin-credible Day!



Emily Morris, Charlotte Concholar, Rene Smyth, and Kathy Kruse



Pierretha Kavanagh and Lazaar Overton



Kendra Tiero and Janice Calkins



1st Row - Yesenia Houghton, Ezra Johnson,
2nd Row - Lori Fiscus, Terri Ham, Carmen Rico,
3rd Row - Esmeralda Canez, and Lisa Kellar



Rene Smyth and Charlotte Concholar



Kimmi DeSanna and Anne Pagel-Spaulding

Twins Day



A HOLIDAY QUESTION

What is your favorite Holiday scent and/or food?

Kris Gilmet: **SCENT** - Cinnamon! It makes the house smell like baking and festive at the same time.
FOOD - Our family tradition is butterscotch pie and I make the best!

Cecilia Cuellar: **SCENT** - Apple cinnamon, makes it feel homey and feel like Christmas.
FOOD - Tamales (same reason and only have them once a year).



Dora Sandoval: **SCENT** - A real pine Christmas tree. It takes me back to my childhood when Christmas with my family was the best.
FOOD - Tamales! Tamales are a staple in our Christmas meal and culture, plus they are delicious!

Kelsey Lewis: **SCENT** - Bath and Body Work's Crushed Candy Cane!
FOOD - Crescent rolls, because who doesn't love bread.



Andrea Wood: **SCENT** - The smell of gingerbread cookies!
FOOD - It's a tradition in my family to have Menudo and/or Pozole and Tamales.

Terra Owen: **SCENT** - A fresh cut Christmas Tree as it reminds me of my childhood and the magic of the holiday season.
FOOD - Any and all hor d'oeuvres and appetizers we prepare and serve every Christmas Eve while we visit and open gifts.

Jeanette Farrison: **FOOD** - Any food that I am able to share with my loved ones (friends and/or family), any time of the year!

Jocelyn Payan: **SCENT** - Cinnamon, because cinnamon is a wonderful additive to holiday drinks, ie apple cider, or egg nog.
FOOD - Homemade warm apple pie with ice cream, because growing up making this from scratch was, and has become, a tradition handed down from generation to generation.

James Wood: **SCENT** - The mixture of fresh baked cookies and peppermint, because it always helps liven up the mood and gets every one in a more festive spirit.

Anna Castaneda: **SCENT** - Balsam Fir candles or essential oils are so crisp and refreshing. It smells like cool snow.
FOOD - Cinnabuns on Xmas morning have been a part of my favorite Holiday times with my mom.

Michael Fisher: **SCENT** - Balsam pine. My Grandmother had these Balsam pillows that she only put out after Thanksgiving, but it would make her whole house smell like Christmas Trees. To this day that smell still takes my back to my childhood.
FOOD - Brown sugar glazed ham with cloves studded throughout the Ham itself. Both sweet and spice hints in every bite.



Andrea Rodriguez: **SCENT** - My favorite Holiday scent comes from our family Tamale-making parties. I love the aroma of all the spices used to make our tamale meat and red chile. I would not want it in a candle though. Getting up and lighting a candle is not as fun as getting together with your family and working together to create that scent.
FOOD - Tamales are my favorite Holiday food. They are made with love and family.



David Wolff: **SCENT** - Fresh pine tree / **FOOD** - Stuffed shells or lasagna on Christmas.



A HOLIDAY QUESTION

What is your favorite Holiday scent and/or food?

Alicia Burd: **SCENT** - Walking into my home and it smelling like cinnamon, apples, cookies, and laundry soap. There is no other way to describe it except for the smell of "home." It makes me smile and brings me comfort!

Jennifer Escarcega: **SCENT** - Cookies baking. Reminds me of when I was a child and we made tons of cookies during the holidays since there were seven of us kids.



FOOD - Either ham or machaca. Yum!

Carmen Rico: **SCENT** - Winter Candy Apple scent, because it smells like Holiday cheer!

FOOD - Bunuelos are a dessert made from fried dough covered in cinnamon sugar. Takes me back to my childhood in my Nana's kitchen.



Rocio Venegas: **SCENT** - The combination of boiling apples, oranges, cinnamon, lemon and cloves. I boil these items and simmer them for hours on Christmas Eve while I'm making my favorite family Holiday Food... Tamales!

FOOD - Tamales - Yes, a classic Mexican dish, but done properly and eating them the day after, fried, with sour cream and salsa...takes it to a whole other level.

Melissa Flanagan: **SCENT** - Woodwick candle: Fireside scent. This smell brings home the smell of camping/winter weather, where fireplaces are scarce or electric. The sound of the woodwick crackling, mimics the sounds of a fireplace also and it completes the Holiday ambiance.

FOOD - Cheesecake. It's versatile! It can be traditional, or altered to fit a theme with just a few changes. It's the best Holiday food.



Nikki Swiss: **SCENT** - Anything warm and cozy smelling with cinnamon, or that smells like baked goods. It makes me think of my favorites as a child, cinnamon scented pine cones, and baking with my grandma.

FOOD - Anything peppermint! Peppermint ice cream, peppermint bark, peppermint milk shakes, etc. I just love peppermint!

Taylor Sachse: **SCENT and FOOD** - I make sweet and sour meatballs every year for my annual Christmas party! It is my mom's recipe and always a guest favorite! The smell from the crock pot is a reminder that the holidays have arrived!

Ryan Harris: **FOOD** - Fudge. It's always everywhere during this time of year and deliciously difficult to resist eating more than one!



Ravi Goud: **SCENT** - Nothing beats fresh pine scent of a Christmas tree, sipping cinnamon tea, next to fire place and exploring all five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing)

Jordan Paul: **SCENT** - Cinnamon, it's so nostalgic!

FOOD - My dad's special deviled eggs. I look forward to them every year.

County Offerings

Gift ideas through Maricopa County

If you would like to give yourself or a co-worker a gift during the holiday season that reflects Maricopa County, then you need look no further than Maricopa County itself. Here are some options for yourself and/or a co-worker:

How about a permanent visit from Santa Claws?



If you are *purr-suing* a special gift, the Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) may *pet-tentially* be the place to look to adopt a pet for you or someone you love. Adoption fees range from \$25 - \$300. Adoption fees include spay/ neuter surgery, rabies vaccination, and a license. More information about adopting a pet is available by calling MCACC at 602-506-PETS. The ACC has a [website available](#) with photos and information about adoptable pets.

The gift that keeps on living - County Parks



Looking for a gift with the outdoors in mind...the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department provides an option. All county employees are eligible for an employee discount for an Annual County Park Pass. The cost of the discounted pass can even be deducted from your paycheck. Visit the Park's [Employee Discount page](#) for more information.

Discounted gift cards available through Benefairs

Maricopa County employees can buy gift cards at discounts of up to 10 percent. *Benefairs* offers a Gift Card Outlet where you can buy gift cards from popular brands in almost any category including: restaurants, entertainment, clothing & accessories, travel, and more. To visit the site, you will need to log in first and then you may explore the [available saving options](#).

This gift that has the right ingredients

Maricopa County Wellness Works Program may have the right recipe for a healthy gift...they actually have 43 recipes to be specific. The Wellness Program compiled a cookbook filled with recipes from county employees for items such as Appetizers, Breakfast, Main Dishes, Side Dishes, and Desserts. You may view the [cook book here](#).



Free self-administered Covid test kits through Library District

The Maricopa County Library District has information on its website that it is distributing free fast self-administered home Covid 19 tests supply kits at various library locations. More details [here](#).

Employee Spotlight

This Month: **David Wolff**



Department: Administrative Services

What Are Some Of Your Job Responsibilities: Driving to various court facilities; delivering & picking up mail from judges and various departments; and assisting in the Distribution Department...and occasionally COC facilities.

Years with Office: 13 years, 4 months

Something You Enjoy About Your Job: Meeting and talking with people.

Your First Job: Retail at Grand Central

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota

A Hobby/Favorite Activity: Using a lathe to turn wood into bowls.

Something Memorable That You Have Done: Bailing hay on my uncle's farm at 15 years old and throwing it up in the loft afterwards.

Best Vacation Spot: Moorea, Tahiti // **Where Would You Like To Travel To Next:** Zambia

If You Could Live Anywhere In The World, Where Would It Be: Hawaii

Favorite Meal: Spaghetti and meatballs // **Favorite Place to Eat Out:** So many and such little time. I am foodie.

Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Vikings // **Someone You Would Like to Meet:** My great grandparents

Favorite TV Show/Movie: Any criminal detective show / Movie: *Elf* // **Favorite Show Growing Up:** *Star Trek*

Something You Are Proud Of: Owning and maintaining my own home.

Something On Your Bucket List: Learning how to swim.

Nobody Would Believe It If They Knew ... I was voted City of Chandler's "Neighborhood Leader of the Year" for my hardwork with the community and with my neighbors.

What Do You Like Most About This Office: All the hardworking people who make it happen.

Who Would You Like To See In Concert: Huey Lewis

What Do You Like To Do In Your Spare Time: Cook and bake and create items for my recipe book that I plan on publishing.

An Ability You Wish You Had: More wisdom

What Would You Like To Be For A Day: A billionaire to end homelessness

Your Dream Car: Tesla // **Favorite Animals:** Dogs and then cats

A Pet Peeve: Dirty bathrooms

Who Has Been An Influential Person In Your Life And Why - My mom was a single mother with two kids. She taught me hard work and perseverance.

What Skill Would You Like To Learn: Electrician skills

Three Important Business Skills You Think Are Important: Time management, Teamwork, and Customer Care.

Any Hidden Talents: I can change my voice to imitate different voices. I was also at one time, the official Clerk of the Court voice for the interactive system.

Best Advice Someone Has Given You: Don't think like a cow with one step at a time. Think ahead!



The Inside Track

on Employee News



BIRTHS

- Congratulations to Court Operations Manager **Sheri Jaffe** on the birth of her 9 lb. 7 oz. grandson on Nov. 12. Her new grandchild's name is Declan Tyler. He measured 22.5 inches.

OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES



The following employees celebrate milestone anniversaries with the Clerk of the Court's Office in December:

35 YEARS - Jan Price and Maridel Soileau

15 YEARS - Micaela Rios, Idella Hamilton, and Robert Jordan

5 YEARS - Sushmy Ballachanda

NEW EMPLOYEES

The Clerk of the Superior Court's Office welcomes the following new employees:

- **Criminal Financial Obligations Unit - Angie Santos and Schkella Haskins**
- **Southeast File Counter - Carol Perfetti**

EMPLOYEE MOVES

- Congratulation to **Kaylan Gehr**, who was promoted to the Lead position in the RCC/EDC and CR Operations Department.

THE FINE JOB AWARD

The following Clerk of the Court employee's names were recently provided to the newsletter as receiving the "Fine Job" Award. Congratulations to each of them for this special employee recognition honor:

Marisela Martinez, Sandra Rodriguez, Maria Adame, Jamie Eaton, Leslie Resendis, Kathy Ballard, and Leticia Gutierrez



Special Features



Where in the world has the Record Times been?



Tree-rrific photo opportunity at a national park

Each month, employees are invited to submit photos of themselves with the newsletter at different destinations. Last time, the newsletter was seen with an employee who was next to the ocean water. This month, the newsletter appears with an employee who next to the lake water.

Pictured in this photo to the left is Communications Officer **Len Keso**, who is sitting on the trunk of a tree that forms a nice chair at String Lake in the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

You may submit a photo with the *Record Times* at any time. To submit a photo: **1)** Print the newsletter front page; **2)** Take a photo(s) with the page during your outing (in the community, state, or out-of-state); **3)** Email the photo to Len Keso with your name, department, and a photo description, along with any other interesting details of the photo/vacation. Anyone who submits a photo for this feature will receive a Maricopa County lapel pin (pictured here to the right).



Where in the world has the Record Times' Flat Stamp-Ley been?



A friendly family welcome for FS

In January, the *Record Times* introduced a new photo feature called **Flat Stamp-Ley (FS)**. FS is a character print-out for employees to either send to a family member/friend to take a photo of it somewhere interesting, or for the employee to take a photo of it somewhere interesting. Here's the details of this month's Flat Stamp-Ley appearance:

Photo Submitted By: Maye Patterson

Where is FS: Tuy Batangas Philippines

Description: Maye (in black) is pictured with her sisters and brothers. Her sister who is sitting is holding Flat Stamp-Ley. Her brother on the left is

holding the Record Times.

To submit a photo of Flat Stamp-Ley:

- 1)** Print it ([available here](#)); **2)** Then either **a)** send FS to a family member/friend to take a photo of it somewhere in the world; or **b)** take a photo yourself of FS somewhere interesting;
- 3)** Send the photo to Len Keso with your name, department, who FS is with, where FS is located, and any other interesting note about the photo.

Happy Holidays and Thank You!



From your Executive Team

from left: Chief Technology and Innovation Officer Rich McHattie, Chief Deputy Nancy Rodriguez, Clerk of the Court Jeff Fine, Deputy Director Valerie Clark, and Deputy Director Mike Nimtz