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Record Times



A monthly newsletter for Clerk of the Superior Court employees

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A look at the first Clerk of the Court – William E. Thomas

In recognition of the upcoming **100th Anniversary of Arizona's statehood** in February 2012, the Public Affairs Office recently completed a research project on information about the people who have served as the Clerk of the Superior Court for Maricopa County starting in 1912 when Arizona was first created. The article below is a summary of the information found about **William E. Thomas**, who was the first Clerk of the Court. He served in office from 1912 - 1914.



William E. Thomas was born in Lynchburg, Virginia on Nov. 8, 1852. He received his education at Roanoke College in Virginia. Prior to graduating, he accepted a position as deputy clerk of the County and Circuit Courts, and also acted at the same time as deputy recorder. He was employed there for three years. In 1874, he took a business course at the Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Baltimore, Maryland and after graduating he became a bookkeeper in Baltimore. In 1876, he entered the grocery business for two years. In the Spring of 1880, he married Hallie Pleasants Orme from Baltimore. She was the great granddaughter of General Jeremiah Crabb, who was of revolutionary war fame. Soon after marriage, the couple moved out west to seek larger possibilities. They moved to Leadville, Colorado where he was appointed as the deputy county recorder of Lake County. He later became the postal carrier for the Leadville Post Office. Due to the failing health of his wife, the couple decided to make a change in climate and surroundings. They moved for a short time to Los Angeles County, California and then in October 1883 he moved to Phoenix, Arizona.

In Phoenix, Thomas got involved with town affairs and for a time served as a deputy sheriff, and also became associated with the Assessor's Office of Maricopa County. For three years, he was the deputy recorder of Maricopa County, and was appointed the postmaster of Phoenix under President Cleveland's administration. From 1888 - 1891, he was involved in the real estate and loan business and was successful in this and other enterprises. He purchased a ranch (consisting of 160 acres, one-and-a-half miles north of Phoenix on Central Avenue) and ran it while he continued with his other activities until he was selected as postmaster in 1894.

In an article in the *Historical and Biographical Record of the Territory of Arizona* it says, "William E. Thomas' life has been characterized by constancy of purpose, conscientiousness, undoubted ability and energy, and as a natural result, he is one of the substantial men of Maricopa County, and has the respect and esteem of all acquainted with him."

In an article in the *Portrait and Biographical Record of Arizona* it says that Thomas "has won the confidence and esteem of all who come within the radius of his good-will and devotion to the general well-being, and that while he has witnessed many changes in the general aspect of an originally wild and uncultivated region, the public estimation of his honesty of purpose and character has never undergone a change."

The articles found about Thomas were written before his time serving as the Clerk of the Court. It was not discovered why his term was only two years, or how he became the Clerk. In looking at his prominence in Phoenix and the large amount of land he owned in the Central Phoenix area, it makes one wonder if Thomas Road is named after the very first Clerk of the Court?



Information on Arizona's Centennial celebration

A special website commemorating Arizona's Centennial Celebration has been set up by the Arizona Centennial Commission. To visit the site, you may go to www.arizona100.org. The website provides information on events, facts, projects, and other information related to Arizona's upcoming 100-year anniversary of statehood.





Michael K. Jeanes
Clerk of the Court

A Minute with Michael



Pin presentations at Munch meetings this year

As announced earlier, the distribution of the Clerk of the Court and Maricopa County service pins has been changed this year from being presented at the annual CASE Award event to my Munch meetings (with the exception of the Downtown location due to the higher amount of employees who are scheduled to receive a pin). This change will make it so that it takes a little less time for you to receive your pin.

We have been distributing the service pins for the past several years to employees who reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service. These are milestone years and it is nice to be recognized for achieving that service mark. This year, our Office has a beautiful newly designed service pin to present to employees. The service pins for the **Northwest** and **Northeast Office** locations were recently presented to employees (see page 7 for photos). Following are the remaining dates/times/locations that this year's service pins will be presented:

- **Downtown** - 12:15 p.m. / Tuesday, May 24 / Supervisors' Auditorium
- **Customer Service Center** - Noon / Wednesday, June 1 / Sonoran Room
- **Southeast Adult** - 12:30 p.m. / Tuesday, June 7 / Conference Room
- **Durango Juvenile** - 12:30 p.m. / Wednesday, June 8 / COC Conference Room
- **Southeast Juvenile** - 12:30 p.m. / Thursday, June 16 / Cactus Room



If you are receiving a service pin this year, I look forward to seeing you at the Munch. After the pin presentation, you are welcome to stay if you like and be a part of the regular Munch meeting.

Arizona History - How much do you know?

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Arizona's statehood approaching on Feb. 14, 2012, Training and Development's **Steve Weston** is providing a series of articles over the next few months related to the history of Arizona, Maricopa County, the Court, and the Clerk's Office. This month's article is part 2 of the series.

Do you know why Abraham Lincoln's silhouette is on the Clerk of the Court's official seal? The answer is not what you might think, as he was not President of the United States when Arizona became a state. The story of the seal actually begins during the Civil War, when in March of 1861, Colonel John Baylor's division of the Confederate Army defeated Union troops with the territory. Shortly thereafter, President Jefferson Davis of the Confederate States of America annexed the New Mexico Territory as part of the Confederacy, making Colonel Baylor our first territorial governor in January of 1862.



On April 15, 1862, in the Battle of Picacho Pass, Confederate soldiers ambushed a small contingent of Union troops scouting the pass. During what was a fairly small skirmish, the Confederates, who held the high ground, forced the numerically-superior Union troops to withdraw until the remainder of the 1,400 California volunteers arrived to reinforce them. Realizing that they were heavily outnumbered and without sufficient supplies to continue the fight in Arizona, the Confederate soldiers (all that remained of the original 75) retreated from their post in Tucson, meeting up with the Confederate Army of West Texas on the Rio Grande River on May 27th; thus, surrendering Arizona and the rest of New Mexico Territory to the Union Army.

On February 26, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared Arizona to be a new and separate territory of the United States of America; hence the reason for Lincoln's bust in the center of our seal. *(by Steve Weston)*



The Extra Mile



(Listed below are recent letters, email messages, note cards, and phone calls about Clerk of the Court employees who went the extra mile to provide excellent service.)

CUSTOMER CARD COMPLIMENTS

Southeast Juvenile

- “I am so thankful for all the help I received at this office. I loved my experience.”

Customer Service Center Public Records Counter

- **Rick Stefano** – “Rick helped me tremendously working the microfilm machine. Give him a raise.”
- **Connie Estrada** – “Connie is super!”
- **Debra Cooper and William Cruz** – “Well-informed, kind, and professional. Made my day. It’s hard to find good help. It’s hard to find great customer service like this. Thank you.”
- **Stella Rodriguez** – “Stella was fantastic!”



**Award-winning
service!**

Northeast Marriage License & Passports

- **Hector Castaneda** – “Hector was very courteous and helpful.”
- **Nancy Rodriguez** – “Nancy was very kind and courteous! Great asset to the system.”
- **Jean Walker** – “Jean was exceptional. Outstanding service!”
- **Janeene Carrillo** – “Your staff was great in getting me the information I needed to get my passport. Very courteous, yet professional. Janeene was wonderful.”

Northwest Marriage License & Passports

- “This was my first time here and I was given a great first impression. Excellent service.”



Northeast Filing Counter

- **Kelly Sleseman** – “Kelly was so helpful and courteous!”
- **Veronica Ledesma** – “Veronica is great and always upbeat. Thank you!”
- **Sean Donahoe** – “Sean does an excellent job.”
- **Wendy Powley** – “Wendy was extremely helpful in explaining my next steps.”
- **Sandy Seeley** – “Sandy was excellent.”
- **Martha Wanke** – “Martha was great. Very helpful and professional, a pleasure to be helped by her.”

CO-WORKER COMPLIMENTS

“I just want to give a HUGE thank you to **Laura Dagna**. She is transferring within the Office to a new position. When I first was assigned to RCC Downtown, I had tons of questions and Laura was there to answer them for me. She really helped to make my transition to RCC-Downtown less stressful. She has been a great resource to refer to whenever questions arise. I wish her the best of luck in her new position and she will be greatly missed down here.” – **Anita Treacy**

“I would like to thank **Angela Orrala** at the SEA Family Court Filing Counter for assisting with the Order of Protection Queu. She has helped on several different occasions. Her help is greatly appreciated.” – **Clarissa Quinonez**



... **more extra miles**

CUSTOMER COMPLIMENTS

Judge Myers sent an email to Training Coordinator Betty Finney to let her know what a terrific job that Courtroom Clerk **Lisa Timpauer** recently provided in his division. He said, “She was a pleasure to have in the division and her work was excellent. The Clerk’s Office is fortunate to have an employee like Lisa, and any judge to whom she is assigned will be lucky to have someone of her caliber. If Linda is ever out during my remainder on this assignment, I would be happy to have Lisa fill in again.”

ITG’s David Griego sent an email to Northwest Supervisor Diane Jamison to express his appreciation for the **NW staff**. He said, “I just wanted to say that you gals are the best group of people. Seriously. You made me smile several times each day I was at NWR.”

Court of Appeals Judge Barker sent a letter to the Office to convey his gratitude for the work that Appeals’ **Pam Crawford** provided to him. He wrote, “I want to express my sincere thanks for your assistance in expediting the transfer of a record to us here at the Court of Appeals. It was a huge file and we asked you to collect it on very short notice. Your professionalism and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Also, I congratulate Michael Jeanes on having a teamplayer on his staff. Again, thank you so much.”

An employee from the County Attorney’s Office sent an email to CFO Supervisor Angie Smith to commend one of her employees – **Amy Taylor**. She wrote, “Amy was tremendously helpful to me in figuring out restitution information for a victim. Amy made what could have been a very tedious and frustrating situation into a reasonable one. I was very grateful for her assistance and follow-through.”

Courtroom Clerk Lisa Porter sent an email to the Courtroom Services Managers to share how pleasant Courtroom Clerk **Andi Gonzalez** is. She wrote, “I just want to say how nice and pleasant Andi is. Most of all, each time she has covered the calendar, she takes the expartes with her. Even yesterday when she saw all my ‘EDC’ files, she volunteered to grab my expartes again. Just wanted you all to know what a great teamplayer she is.”

SE Juvenile’s Marlene Rivera-Guthrie sent an email to SE Juvenile Supervisor Diane Hoy recently to tell her about the great service that **David Lett** provided to her. She wrote, “David was extremely helpful to me this morning in answering a question. He went above and beyond in locating information and I wanted to let you know he is a great teamplayer. Thanks.”

Durango Juvenile Supervisor Kiera Molina received a phone call from a customer who told her how impressed she was with the service of **Sofia Murta**. She said Sofia was very friendly and helpful to her and the rest of the customers before her. She also stated that Sofia explained everything to her and really helped her with what she needed to get done. She was extremely happy with Sofia’s service.



**Champions
of Service!**





Empty feeling is being welcomed

On September 17, 2010, the Appeals work unit at the Customer Service Center expanded the pilot of **eAppeals** to include the CV case type, adding to the existing list of FC, FN, and PB case types where the record on appeal is electronically transmitted to the Court of Appeals. By adding the CV case type to the pilot, it has brought the electronic transmissions from the Clerk of the Court's Office to the Court of Appeals to approximately 45 percent. The work unit has gained efficiencies in the processing the record on appeal, saved on operation costs, and decreased storage space as there is no longer a need to retain a paper copy of the record on appeal for these case types.

by Vonda Culp



Some of the shelving units at the Customer Service Center are going paperless thanks to the eAppeals pilot program.



Snip-Snap

(A section of snippets and snapshots)

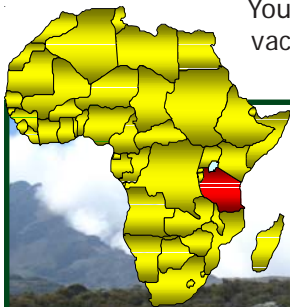
Newsletter adds another continent to destination list

Each month, employees are invited to submit a photo of themselves reading the *Record Times* (RT). Last month, the newsletter was spotted in a small town in Colorado. This month, the newsletter went on a big adventure and traveled for the first time to a new continent.

Pictured in the photo below is ITG's **Andrea Wolfe**, who is in Tanzania, Africa. She is hiking Kilimanjaro, which is one of the seven summits at 19,344 feet. This is the newsletter's first appearance in Africa. The newsletter has now appeared on six continents – North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa.

You may submit photos of yourself reading the RT while on vacation at any time for this monthly newsletter feature.

To submit a photo: 1) Print the front-cover newsletter page; 2) Take your photo(s) with the page during your vacation; 3) Email the digital photo or interoffice mail the print photo to Public Affairs Office's Len Keso (mail code DJC/PA) with your name, department, and a description of the photo. You may submit more than one photo.



Birthday card facts

According to Hallmark Cards, Inc.;

- Approximately 1.2 billion birthday cards are given each year.
- About five million people celebrate birthdays in the U.S. each week (for an average of 700,000 birthdays each day).
- More than a fourth of all birthday cards are given to friends.
- Nearly two-thirds of all birthday cards are mailed.

Happy Birthday





The Employee Track

(A special newsletter section devoted to news about employees of the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office.)

BIRTHS



- Congratulations to RCC/EDC **Christina Saunders** on the birth of her new son on March 25. His name is William Anthony and he weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz.

MARRIAGES



- Congratulations Court Operations Supervisor **Kristin Edwards**, who got married on April 23 to Matthew Wolfe. The newlyweds went on a Mexican Riviera cruise for their honeymoon.

OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following Clerk of the Court employees celebrate milestone anniversaries with the Office in April:

5 YEARS

Donna Courtemanche, Debra Pluff, and Elizabeth Ramirez

10 YEARS

Cindy Malnar

15 YEARS

Lora Gilbert, Barbara Navarro

20 YEARS

Darlene Anderson, Kelle Dyer



NEW EMPLOYEES

- Courtroom Clerks - **Gina Ball, Kaci Johnson, and Jaymi Polanco**
- Human Resources Analyst - **Alejandra Larios**
- Human Resources Manager - **Cecilia Dahl**
- Juvenile Courtroom Clerks - **Penny Dalton, Cathy Feskens, Valerie Ideus, and Alyssa Vitucci**

EMPLOYEE MOVES

- **Annette Cordell** transferred from Financial Services to become a courtroom clerk.
- **Shannon Stulz** transferred from the Civil Filing Counter to become a courtroom clerk.
- **Susan Hack** transferred from Civil Filing Counter to become a courtroom clerk.
- **Rosemary Lake** transferred from Civil Docket to Family Court Services.





The Employee Track *continued*

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Name: LaVerne Willkomm / **Department:** Courtroom Clerk, Durango Juvenile
Hometown: Bismark, ND / **Family:** Two grown sons and an awesome dog, who understands French

Years With Office: 17, I think...could be more...who's counting.

What is One Thing That You Enjoy About Your Job: there are just too many to mention.

Favorite Activity(ies): reading, beading, antiques, garage sales, thrift stores. I am the queen of thrift stores and garage sales.

Least Favorite Activity(ies): exercise and housework

The Most Adventurous Thing That You've Done: Moving to Washington D.C. when I was 21 to work on Capitol Hill. On my first day at work when taking the city bus from Arlington, VA to Capitol Hill and returning on the bus, I kept thinking, "What am I doing?" I ended up staying there eight years. Unfortunately, every politician I worked for didn't win their election.

What is Something You Are Proud Of: that I have made it to be this old and I am still standing and smiling.

Favorite Meal: Please...who can pick...there are just too many.

Your Favorite Place to Eat Out: Po Po's at 67th Ave. and Indian School.

Favorite Movie or TV Show: **Movie** - *Rear Window* with Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly. **TV** - *Criminal Minds* and *NCIS* - because I remember Mark Harmon when he was the Marlboro Man...my my.

A Dream I Have Is To: live at the beach on the Gulf of Mexico with a full moon at night, sitting on the sand in a chair with my feet in the water, smoking a cigarette, and sipping a scotch on the rocks. Hey, when you get to my age, you can dream can't you?

A Hobby or Special Collection: I have a mannequin in my front room named Abigail, who is dressed in a \$400 designer gown that I picked up for \$20 at a resale shop. She changes clothes with the seasons.

What Has Been Your Favorite Vacation Destination: Sanibel Island, FL. We stayed four days in a condo on the beach. It was fabulous. I spent all day on the beach walking, reading mysteries, and listening to the waves. Also, on the pier at Fort Myers Beach at 10 p.m. smelling the ocean, watching people fish, and enjoying the mist, and turbulence of the atmosphere. Awesome.

Where Would You Like to Travel To Next: Sanibel Island, FL.

Two People With Whom You Would Like to Have Dinner: Janis Joplin, Cher, Tina Turner - it's a toss up.

What Was Your First Job: working at the Coca Cola Bottling Company while I was in high school.

SERVICE PINS

Below are employees from the Northwest and Northeast Offices who recently received service pins:

NORTHWEST



Sandra Manzo - 5 years

NORTHEAST



5- Year Pin Recipients
(from left to right):
Brandy Lambert, Leslie Slaughter, Travis Joy, Sandy Seeley, and Kelly Sleseman

NORTHEAST



(from left)
June Nothwehr - 10 Years
Sheri Jaffe - 15 Years