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Record Times



A monthly newsletter for Clerk of the Superior Court employees

December 2011

Vol. 17 No. 12

The 2011 Ho-ho-holiday Drive results

It turned out to be yet another *sock-cessful* and *toy-riffic* Holiday Drive for the Clerk of the Court's Office this season. Here are the final results and photos of the Office's recently concluded **2011 Holiday Drive**:



SHOEBOX - This *sock-cessful* holiday drive activity concluded on Dec. 2. Employees donated **507** pairs of socks, thousands of toiletry items (soap, shampoo, razors, tooth brushes, toothpaste, and more), plus many empty shoeboxes. All of the donated items will be used to help the homeless in the community through the Shoebox organization. Shoebox Program Director Laura Borgeson said this about the Office's donations, "Thank you so much. Donations have been down this year and so your office's efforts will really help. Everything given is greatly appreciated." Over the past 10 years, the Clerk's Office has donated **4,791** pairs of socks for this holiday activity.

TOYS FOR TOTS - This *toy-rrific* holiday activity concluded on Dec. 14. Employees donated **253** new, unwrapped toys for children in the community, who would not have otherwise had a toy for the holiday season. This is the eighth year the Office has participated in this effort. The Toys for Tots Drive is sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The donated toys are provided to the Marines, who separate the toys by age and gender and then distribute them to various agencies/organizations. Over the past eight years, the Office has donated **2,859** toys for this holiday activity.



Important dates in 2012

PAY DATES - The following is a list of the pay days for employees in 2012.

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
4	1	14	11	9	6	3	1	12	10	7	5
18	15	28	25	23	20	18	15	26	24	21	19
	29						29				

OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS - Following is a list of the scheduled holidays for 2012:



- New Year's Day - Mon., Jan. 2
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Mon., Jan. 16
- President's Day - Mon., Feb. 20
- Memorial Day - Mon., May 28
- Independence Day - Wed., July 4
- Labor Day - Mon., Sept. 3
- Veterans' Day - Mon., Nov. 12
- Thanksgiving Day - Thu., Nov. 22
- Thanksgiving Day After - Fri. Nov. 23
- Christmas Day - Tues., Dec. 25



Michael K. Jeanes
Clerk of the Court

A Minute with Michael



It is the end of another year



**"Don't say the sky is the limit –
there are footprints on the moon."
– Unknown**

As 2011 draws to a close, I look back on all that we accomplished this year with amazement and gratitude for all of your efforts. It was a very productive year filled with many successes. We can feel proud of the challenges we overcame and the innovation that was demonstrated. However, I know that there is much more progress that we need to make in 2012. We have not reached our limit. We can go further in our efforts to improve service and leave our footprints where we never thought would be possible years ago. So, let's continue to shoot for the moon this upcoming year and provide service that is out of this world.

Also, as this year comes to an end, I want to express my appreciation for your generosity during our recent Holiday Drive. It is always incredible to see all of the donations after they have been collected. Your thoughtfulness will help make it a happier holiday season for many in our community. It is very gratifying for me to be a part of organization that cares about the community it serves. I am proud of you and extend my best wishes to you and your families for a very happy and safe holiday season. I look forward to a bright new year.

County launches "Open Books" transparency website

(Excerpt from a Maricopa County News Release)

With a single click of a mouse, Valley residents can see a breakdown of Maricopa County government spending, revenues, tax bills, bond ratings and other key information with the launch of the county's "OpenBooks" transparency site. The site, produced in-house by county staff, is online at <http://www.maricopa.gov/openbooks/>.

The creation of an easily-accessible online presence for detailed financial information has been a priority for County Manager David Smith and County Supervisor Andy Kunasek. It was one of the recommendations of a county staff committee on Public Trust and the subject of legislation approved in 2010, which requires a transparency website for local governments in Arizona by 2013.

Smith said that most, if not all, of the county's financial information has been online for years, but scattered throughout individual websites of various departments and within separate reports. "This new site organizes that information onto one single webpage that links to specific information. It goes a long way toward improving user-friendly transparency," he said.

Information available on Maricopa OpenBooks includes financial reports, budgets, audits, strategic plans and results-based reporting. In addition, the site includes a detailed explanation of property tax bills and links to allow homeowners to look up their assessed valuations and other specific information.

The home page includes a contact e-mail address, openbooks@mail.maricopa.gov, for suggestions and questions from users, according to Shelby Scharbach, the county's chief financial officer who headed the county task force that created OpenBooks. "We see this as evolving, changing and improving over time," Scharbach said.

Maricopa County is the first county in Arizona to have a specific website dedicated to transparency and linked to the state website. The second phase of the site will include a searchable database of detailed revenue and expenditures.





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

Customer Service Center Marriage License & Passports

- “The person at the Clerk’s Office was very helpful and courteous while I asked several questions on passports.”
- “I received excellent service while getting my marriage license. **Angela Delucia** and **Marcella Carrillo** were very nice.”
- “Excellent service getting my marriage license. You guys are the bomb!”
- “The staff was very helpful and courteous. Service was excellent.”
- “We received excellent service!”



Southeast Adult Marriage License & Passports

- **Ken Daniels** - “Ken was fast, courteous and enjoyable to work with.”
- **Rubi Rojas** - “Rubi was informative and friendly.”
- **Judy Barney** - “I had a very pleasant experience.”
- **Al Ogawa** - “I was very happy with my service.”
- **Lori White** - “Lori was courteous and answered all of my questions in a friendly manner.”

Southeast Adult Filing Counter

- **Adriane Noyes** - “Adriane was very kind, understanding and patient with me. She was very pleasant, helpful and very respectful. Thank you.”
- **Margaret Carpenter** - “Margaret was very helpful and professional. Thank you.”
- **Nicki De La Cruz** - “Nicki was very professional, courteous, and very helpful.”
- **Regina Romero** - “Regina was very helpful and friendly.”
- **Sharon Szakacs** - “Sharon was helpful and polite.”



Southeast Juvenile

- “Thank you for your kindness. It is appreciated.”
- “Excellent service. Thank you very much.”

Northeast Filing Counter

- **Sandy Seeley** - “Sandy is great! She is knowledgeable and professional.”
- **Wendy Powley** - “Wendy was so helpful and very sweet. Thanks Wendy, you did a great job.”
- **Marenda Sullivan** - “Marenda was extremely kind and polite during an emotional and stressful situation.”

Northeast Public Records

- **Tamra Phillips** - “I was afraid to come in, but Tamra was so nice and welcoming. Extremely knowledgeable and went the extra mile.”
- **Nancy Rodriguez** - “Nancy was very pleasant and helpful; she made this a good experience.”





... **more extra miles**

CO-WORKER COMPLIMENTS

"I would like to send a thank you to the **ITG staff** for all of the great work they do. This year has brought many challenges; from upgrading 100's of PCs, to eFiling Foundation development and all those TR's and RFS' in between. I have been impressed not only by their dedication to their work, but also for their genuine concern to complete their tasks in a timely and professional manner. It's been a great year working with you!" – **Rick Hutton**



"I would like to thank all of the girls at the **Southeast Adult Filing Counter** for being such great co-workers, and especially Franci and Vanessa for being such great leaders. Thank you for all that you do. Happy Holidays to the SEA Clerk of Court!" – **Adriane Noyes**

"I would like to give a huge THANKS to **Scott Hensel, Debra McNeill, David Griego, Adrian Roberts, Dar Unger, Fernando Cabral, and Freddie Rubalcaba** for their enormous contribution to the Chambers move. Without them, the project would not have gone seamless. Thank You!" – **Wendy Johnson**

"I would like to extend my best wishes to Courtroom Services Manager **Karen Stone**, who is retiring this month after 23 years of dedicated service to the Office. Karen is well known for her listening skills, her encouraging smile, and warm, friendly personality. She will be sorely missed by all those who have been blessed with the opportunity to work with her. I would also like to extend my best wishes to Courtroom Services Manager **Erika Morgenstern**, who also retires this month after 16 wonderful years with the Office. Erika brightens each day with her unforgettable sense of humor, her expressive personality, and warm, friendly disposition. The Office will not be the same without her." – **Laurie Wistuber**

"I want to send my **CFO** family a 'Happy Holidays and Happy New Year' wish. I will miss each and every one of them and hope the New Year will bring all they desire." – **Regina Ruiz**



"We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to **Lorenzo Rodriguez** for locating and fixing the heat issue in the Customer Service Center Marriage License and Passport area. We appreciate your quick response and help in keeping us warm this winter." – **Angela DeLucia**

CUSTOMER COMPLIMENTS

Lori Morris sent an email to Cindy Malnar to express her gratitude for the assistance of the **Durango Juvenile court clerks**. She wrote, "I want you to know how much I appreciate the court clerks helping to docket the JA documents that come in. I would be even more behind if it were not for them. I just wanted to let you know how special I think they are for going above and beyond their duties to help me out. I think you have a great group of clerks."

ITG's Candy Terry sent an email to Accounting Manager Jane Tewksbury to make her aware of the great job two employees did. She wrote, "I want to let you know that **Angela Smith** and **Kandi Peck** exceeded my expectations on helping ITG with testing RFR in Windows 7. I appreciate all their effort and quick response. I know it's always hard when there is extra work to take on, so I wanted to express our gratitude. I commend them on a job well done and quickly done."



... more *extra miles*

Clerk of the Court Michael Jeanes received a phone call from a customer who stated that he does research at courthouses all over the country. He frequently visits the Clerk's Northeast Office and wanted to let Michael know that **Nancy Rodriguez** and **Jean Walker** have provided outstanding service. He also said the service he receives at NE is among the best he receives compared to other courthouses across the country. He also said he appreciates the ability to do research at NE for all Superior Court in Maricopa County records instead of having to travel to all of the courthouses.

Southeast Juvenile Supervisor Diane Hoy received an email from Lori Morris saying, "I just wanted you to know how grateful I was for **Gozal Atabaeva**. I had quite a few SEF files and film that I needed to get for copying records and she was able to get them for me immediately and even message CSC for one of them before I could. This has helped me in getting these requests completed timely. Thanks."



A customer from Washington sent an email to Document Services Supervisor Maridel Soileau to compliment two employees for their 'number one service' with a guardianship issue. The customer said, "I want to drop a note for a couple of exceptional employees. Both **Olivia Gable** and **Carmen Carabajal** were great help walking me through the process. I was in a hurry to catch a plane and was overwhelmed by the paperwork. Your employees made it possible for me to conduct the necessary business and to catch my plane. My experience has been that many people today are in the habit of doing a mediocre job, just going through the motions. What a welcome relief to find such fine people willing to go above and beyond their job and offer more than what is expected. Please give Olivia and Carmen my best and thank them for the good work they do."



Snip-Snap

(A section of snippets and snapshots)

Newsletter travels to another country

Each month, employees are invited to submit a photo of themselves reading the *Record Times* while they are on vacation. Last month, the newsletter was spotted in the big city of New York City. This month, the newsletter is seen outside the USA in a small country. Pictured below is Management Analyst **Pat Percival**, who posed for a picture with the newsletter while she was traveling in Brussels, Belgium.

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



To submit a photo:

- 1) Print the front-cover newsletter page;
- 2) Take a photo(s) with the page on your vacation;
- 3) Email the digital photo or interoffice mail the print photo to Public Affairs Office's Len Keso (mailcode CD-PA) with your name, department, and a photo description.

You may submit more than one photo from your vacation and you may submit photos more than once from other future vacations as well.

December weather averages/records for Phoenix

- Average High Temperature - 66.2 degrees.
- Record High Temp. - 87 degrees (1950)
- Average Low Temp. - 41.8 degrees
- Record Low Temp. - 22 degrees (1900, 1911)
- Average Rain - 1.0 inches
- Record - 4.0 inches (1967).





The Employee Track

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

BIRTHS

- Congratulations to Criminal Financial Obligations' **Cathy Bridget** on the birth of her 8 lb., 4 oz. grandchild on Dec. 5. Her new grandson's name is Robert Joseph. This is her seventh grandchild.



OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES



The following employees celebrate milestone Office anniversaries in December:

5 Years -
Idella Hamilton, Robert Jordon,
Maria King, and Micaela Rios

25 Years -
Janet Price

EMPLOYEE MOVES

- **Patricia O'Reilly** transferred from Disposition/Abstracts to Court Operations Auditor at the Customer Service Center.
- **William Wong** transferred from Civil Electronic Document Management to the Customer Service Center Quality Control section.



AWARDS/HONORS



Lois Rees and Chris Kelly

Congratulations on certification achievement

Chief Deputy **Chris Kelly** and Office Administrator **Lois Rees** recently received two certifications for completing programs sponsored by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Administrative of the Courts (AOC). They received a Certified Court Manager certificate from the NCSC and the Arizona Court Manager certificate from the AOC. Participants of the program are required to take several courses on the court, judiciary, court issues, management, and court processes. In addition, the program is designed to help participants further develop skills and abilities in specific subject areas.

Employee selected for the Clerk of the Year Award

Family Court Services Manager **Don Vert** was recently named the "2011 Clerk of the Year" by the Arizona Family Support Council (AFSC). He was nominated by a staff member of the Administrative Office of the Court for handling referrals from the AOC and the Governor's Office to assist military services members stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan who had child support issues. The AFSC's purpose is to enhance the delivery of efficient and effective family support services to those entitled to such services under the laws, rules, and regulations of Arizona.





...The Employee Track continued

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Name: Michael R. Meija

Department: Civil Filing Counter

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ / **Birthday:** June 7

Family: Skrunchalufagus (Dog - 10 years)

Years With Office: Six years

Favorite Activity(ies): Singing the wrong lyrics at karaoke / **Least Favorite Activity(ies):** Singing the right lyrics at karaoke

The Most Adventurous That You've Done: When I went on a road trip exploring small town Arizona. No reservations. No set destinations. Met scores of fantastic people.

What is Something That You Are Proud Of: I have not read a single *Twilight* novel. The temptation to do so is unbearable at times, though.

Your Favorite Meal: History has provided many a memorable meal, but I think I will go with what Achilles and Odysseus had before the Trojan War: pizza and wings.

Your Favorite Place to Eat Out: Crazy Jim's on Fridays. The salmon is phenomenal.

Your Favorite Movie or TV Show: **Movie** - "Empire of the Sun." A wonderful film set with World War II as a backdrop.

A Dream I Have Is To: Have a gallery exhibition of my art work in the Roosevelt District.

A Hobby or Special Collection: I spend hours per week trying to find a correlation between the success of "Jershey Shore" and the failure of modern art.

Your Favorite Vacation Destination: Acapulco, Mexico

Place You Would Like to Travel To: Hogwarts (from Harry Potter series)

A Pet Peeve: Folks with a quicker wit.

Two People With Whom You Would Like to Have Dinner: Tom Waits and Bob Dylan. Dinner will not be served until they collaborate on a ballad.

What Was Your First Job: Sunday morning paperboy. I would read the comics hours before the rest of the neighborhood, routinely spoiling the ending of *Family Circus* for everyone.

Nobody would believe it if they knew... I once had a brief conversation with Danny Glover in which I slyly addressed him as Murtaugh and chatted what it was like working with Steven Spielberg.

Construction Corner

by Wendy Johnson,
Special Projects Manager



Move & Remodel

South Court Tower (previously referred to as the Criminal Tower): The Criminal Exhibits pre-move is less than three weeks away! The first move, which consists of the RCC/EDC Courtroom Clerks and staff and Criminal Exhibits, is February 17-20. The second move, which includes the Criminal File Counters and designated Criminal Courtroom Clerks, is February 24-26. Staff informational meetings will be scheduled shortly for those moving.

CCB-WCB Remodel: The project is on track for Phase I construction to begin March 5, 2012. Phase I will be completed by November 30, 2012. The next group to move to the Chambers building is the non-Criminal Courtroom Clerks currently located in the WCB floater pool. This move will occur February 3-5.



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Chief Deputy Chris Kelly
Newsletter Editor Len Keso





This month's history lessons

Interesting items from the past in recognition of Arizona's upcoming 100th anniversary of statehood



A look at the ninth and current Clerk of the Court, Michael K. Jeanes

For the past several months, the *Record Times* has featured a past Clerk of the Superior Court. Last month, Judith Allen, the eighth Clerk of the Court was highlighted. This month Michael K. Jeanes, the ninth and current Clerk of the Court, is featured.



Michael K. Jeanes

Michael Jeanes was born in Chicago, Illinois. His father was a Chicago police officer and his mother was a homemaker. Growing up in Chicago, he was a "big time" Chicago Whitesox baseball fan and loved attending their games. He also enjoyed waterskiing as a child. He went Bogan High School where he was a disc jockey for the school radio station. His show was called "Mike on the Mike." Upon his high school graduation, he enrolled at Loyola University in Chicago where he got a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science. He selected this area of study for his degree because he intended to go to Law School and Political Science and English degrees were the two most popular degrees for Law School applicants. Later on, he decided against Law School.

After graduating from Loyola, he moved to Arizona to attend Arizona State University to pursue his masters degree in public administration. He finished this degree in 1985; however, while attending ASU, he began service with Maricopa County in 1980 as an intern for the Office of Management Analysis. His strong work ethic quickly impressed those in the office and it led him to accepting a full-time position with that office where he served as a management analyst/project manager. He continued to shine and make positive impressions and he was offered a position as a management analyst for Superior Court. He served well and after two years the word was out about his talents and so the newly elected Clerk of the Court Judith Allen hired him to be the senior administrator for the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office. After seeing his excellent work, she promoted him to associate clerk. He served in this position for several years until 1997 when Judith Allen resigned to pursue a job in the private sector. Judy looked to Michael to fill her role as the Clerk and recommended him to Governor Hull as the person to be appointed. Governor Hull recognized he was extremely qualified and appointed him to serve the remainder of Judy's term. In 1998, the Maricopa County voters then elected him to the Office. Since then the voters have continued to show their approval of his leadership and re-elected him in 2002, 2006, and 2010.

During the past 13 years, Michael has been a strong advocate of excellent customer service. Among some of the significant achievements the Office has made to improve service during his tenure are:

- the implementation of the Electronic Court Record, which allows court records to be available immediately and simultaneously, customers can eFile documents, processes are more efficient, and less paper and storage are needed.
- Michael (collaboratively with the County) opened the Customer Service Center to provide convenience in one location for customers to obtain various services.
- To accelerate delivering court minutes to law firms, a program called MEEDS was implemented that automates the entire minute entry process.
- For his fiscal management, Michael was awarded two distinguishing awards from the Office of Management and Budget.
- Other improvements include: creating measures to help crime victims receive court-ordered restitution; installing filing depository boxes to allow customers to file documents anytime, offering free on-line court forms; and enhancing many communications efforts.

As Clerk, Michael and his Office have received several awards including: the "Top 10 Court Website in the World;" Best Government Service Awards three different times in the *New Times* "Best of" issue; several NACO awards; the best county government publication for his annual report; and in 2007 Michael was selected as the recipient of the Supreme Court's prestigious "Administrative Director's Administration of Justice Award."

Michael's leadership and commitment to serve also goes beyond the Office. He serves and has served in numerous state and national organizations including the president of the Arizona Association of Counties. He currently serves on NACO's Board of Directors. In 2009, he was appointed by Governor Brewer to the Information Technology Authorization Commission and the Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice appointed him to the Arizona Judicial Council.

Continued on next page...



...Michael Jeanes continued from page 8

Michael said two aspects of his more than 30-year career with Maricopa County that he has enjoyed is “having the satisfaction in knowing that we are making a difference” and “having the opportunity to be a part of a very dedicated, hardworking team.”

Michael met his wife Jill when he began working for Maricopa County. She was employed by the County’s Human Resources Department. The couple married in 1982. They have three sons – Eric, who is assistant director of Technology for the University of Arizona; Nathan, who is a Lieutenant in the US Army; and Garrett, who is a sophomore at Northern Arizona University.

Outside of the Office, one thing that Michael is well known for his Christmas and holiday decorations. He has a collection of more than 100 Santas and his house has been decorated with tens of thousands of lights during the holiday season. In fact, his house has even been listed in the newspaper in the Holiday Lights Map.

Arizona History - How much do you know? (Part 10)

In recognition of Arizona’s 100th statehood anniversary approaching on Feb. 14, 2012, Training and Development’s Steve Weston is providing a series of articles related to the history of Arizona, Maricopa County, the Court, and the Clerk’s Office.



On June 20, 1910, President William Howard Taft signed the Enabling Act, allowing the Arizona Territory (as well as the New Mexico Territory) to hold a constitutional convention. This act did not admit Arizona as a state, but rather conditioned statehood on the ability of its citizens to adopt a constitution that would meet with presidential approval.

In September 1910, territorial voters elected 52 delegates – 41 Democrats and 11 Republicans – to attend the convention and frame the new constitution. The delegates convened in Phoenix at the territorial capitol on October 10, 1910 and formed 21 committees to consider and draft various constitutional provisions.

While it is impossible to know the source of every provision of the Arizona Constitution, it is clear that the constitution adopted by the convention was, in the words of historian John R. Murdock, “in the forefront in every progressive notion of the hour.” With the progressives in control of the convention, several measures that were considered liberal at the time won approval, including those providing for initiative, referendum and recall, secret ballots, voter registration, direct primary elections and a strong State Tax Commission and State Corporation Commission. The new constitution also provided generously for public education and contained several wage and hour protections for laborers. Although convention delegates rejected constitutional provisions for prohibition and women’s suffrage, voters added both within three years of statehood.

More to follow next month on the uniqueness of Arizona’s State Constitution. *(by Steve Weston)*

A few fun facts about Arizona



Following are some fun facts about Arizona that were provided by Arizona100:

- Arizona has 3,928 mountain peaks and summits - more mountains than any one of the other Mountain states (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming)
- Arizona became the 48th state and last of the contiguous states on Feb. 14, 1912.
- Yuma, Arizona is the country’s highest producer of winter vegetables, especially lettuce.
- The “Five C’s” of Arizona’s economy are: Cattle, Copper, Citrus, Cotton, and Climate.
- Covering 18,608 square miles, Coconino County is the 2nd largest county by land area in the 48 contiguous US.
- Many of the founders of San Francisco in 1776 were Spanish colonists from Tubac, Arizona.
- Phoenix originated in 1866 as a hay camp to supply the military post Camp McDowell.
- Located on Arizona’s western border, Parker Dam is the deepest dam in the world at 320 feet.
- Mount Lemmon, in the Santa Catalina Mountains, is the southernmost ski resort in the US.
- The geographic center of Arizona is 55 miles southeast of Prescott near the community of Mayer.





Office losing 80 years of experience through retirements

The Clerk's Office is losing 80 years of experience this month through the retirements of four employees – Courtroom Services Manager **Karen Stone** (23 years), Employee Relations Manager **Diane Szaniawski** (22½ yrs), Courtroom Clerk **Eileen Bacarella** (18½ yrs), and Courtroom Services Manager **Erika Morgenstern** (16 yrs). The *Record Times* sent questions to each retiree. Below are the responses from those who participated:

KAREN STONE -

Where did you work before the Clerk's Office? I worked for a construction management firm as a contract negotiator.

What was your position when you first started here? Did you think you would work here as long as you have when you started? My first position with the Clerk's Office was as a courtroom clerk at SE in the small building across the street from what is now the current SE Facility. I definitely never thought I would work here as long as I have.

As you look back, is there a project/achievement that you are particularly proud of? I am most proud of the fact that I was a single mom of three awesome children who grew up to be three super awesome adults.

What is one of the biggest changes/challenges you experienced while working here? When I came downtown as a Courtroom Services Manager. It was a new facility, a new job, new co-workers, and meeting and getting to know the clerks.

What have you enjoyed about your job? Definitely my co-workers and the people I have met here! I have met so many people over the years that I greatly respect and care about and who have remained friends.

What will you miss? The people, the people, the people. Did I mention the people?

What are your plans for the future? To do whatever I want to do whenever I want to do it. Positively spending more time with my family and grandchildren. Possibly trying a few things I have never done before, taking a few trips, reconnecting

with old friends or making new ones, taking some interesting classes, certifying a therapy dog, doing some volunteer work, renewing old hobbies...maybe all of the above or none of the above.

Anything you would like to say to employees? It has been great working here. I will miss everyone. I wish everyone happiness and wonderful things in 2012.

DIANE SZANIAWSKI -

Where did you work before the Clerk's Office? At the Phoenician Resort for Charlie Keating.

What was your position when you first started here? Did you think you would work here as long as you have when you started? Assistant to Associate Clerk Jackie Crawford. I had no idea I would be here this long!

As you look back, is there a project/achievement that you are particularly proud of? Opening the Marriage License and Passport office on Saturdays at the old Chamber of Commerce Building.

What have you enjoyed about your job? Helping employees. It has been very satisfying.

What will you miss? I've worked with some wonderful people. I will truly miss them.

What are your plans for the future? At-home projects for a month or two and then I have accepted an offer of a part-time job. Exactly what I'd hoped for!

Is there anything you would like to say to employees? It's been a great ride!

ERIKA MORGENSTERN -

Where did you work before the Clerk's Office? I worked at U-Haul.

What was your position when you first started here? Did you think you would work here as long as you have when you started? I started as a courtroom clerk. Yes, I felt that I would most likely stay until I decided to retire because I really enjoyed the courtroom clerk position.

As you look back, is there a project/achievement that you are particularly proud of? I trained several new courtroom clerks, and many went on to become great clerks, so that made me proud because I felt I played a part in their successes.

What is one of the biggest changes/challenges you experienced while working here? It wasn't really a challenge, but when the Clerk's Office implemented the ECR and went paperless, the anticipation of things going wrong and getting messed up was on our minds, but everything went smoothly and worked out well.

What have you enjoyed about your job? I have enjoyed working with the courtroom clerks, judges and judicial staff I came to know, and people in other departments who I often interacted with.

What will you miss? My co-workers.

What are your plans for the future? I plan to spend more time with my family, and after a good rest, look into working part-time.

Is there anything you would like to say to employees? All I can say is try to enjoy what you do each day, and treasure the friendships you make.