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Record Times



A monthly newsletter for Clerk of the Superior Court employees

November 2009

Vol. 15 No. 11

The 2009 Costume eVent winners are...

The results are in from the **4th Annual Office Costume eVent**. A total of **309** votes were cast by Clerk of the Court employees. The eVent began on Oct. 30 when employees, who dressed in Halloween costumes, were photographed. Sixteen costume categories were then created from the photos and a survey was made that allowed employees to see the costumes and vote for their favorite ones. Below are the costumes that were voted the best in each category by employees.



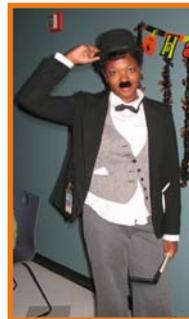
FUNNIEST
"Old Man"
David Wolff



SCARIEST
"Freddy Krueger"
William Cruz



BEST DECADES
"20s Flapper"
Evelyn Laborin



BEST CHARACTER
"Charlie Chaplin"
Chinue Moore



HALLOWEEN SPIRIT
"Skeleton"
Emmy Greth



BEST IMPRESSEION
"Inmate Woman"
Feliz Bustamante



MOST SPOOK-TACULAR
"Auchman"
Valerie Leon



CUTEST
"Mimes"
Ramona Velasquez and Maria Gatica



BEST SMALL GROUP
"Land of Oz"
Alison Knapp, Charlotte Levine, and Alison Cole



BEST LARGE GROUP
"It's A Small World"
Antoinette Brown, Cynthia Coronado, Jenela Fierro, Benny Lopez, Anna Valenzuela, Sandra Valdez, and Clarissa Quinonez

COSTUMES VOTED AS BEST OVERALL IN THE OFFICE

A separate category was created that allowed employees to list which costume they thought was the best overall. Here are the results of that vote:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1st - It's A Small World | 5th - Flavor Flav |
| 2nd - Old Man | 6th tie - Auchman, Mimes, 50s Lady |
| 3rd - Zombie Wizard | 7th tie - Charlie Chaplin, Hunchy |
| 4th - High Rollers | Freddy Krueger, Inmate Woman, and Things 1 & 2 |

... photos of more costume winners and contestants are listed on page 2.





...more costume category winners

"Most Fun-derful" – Costume That Makes You Think of Having Fun



"Sports Fans"

Kathy Kruse, Mary Young, Kate Folk, and Tawnie Wells

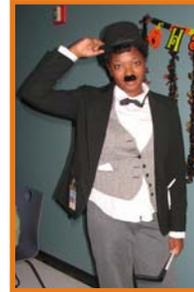
"Most Awe-thenic Looking"



"It's A Small World"

Antoinette Brown, Cynthia Coronado, Jenala Fierro, Benny Lopez, Anna Valenzuela, Sandra Valdez, and Clarissa Quinonez

Best Costume From Movie/Entertainment World



"Charlie Chaplin" Chinue Moore

Best Use of Stripes



"Inmate Woman" Feliz Bustamante

"Best Express Lane Costume" - Four Items or Less Purchased



"Old Man" David Wolff

Best Use of Head/Face Costume Accessories



"Flavor Flav" Gerry-Lynn Cohen

BEST OVERALL COSTUME "It's A Small World"



More costumes

(photos to lower, left)

#1 - **Things 1 and 2**
Angela Northrop and Carmen Carabajal

#2 - **Zombie Wizard**
Deborah Payment

#3 - **High Rollers**
Franci Diaz-Smock, Mariam Jordan-McTaggart, Nicki DeLaCruz, Ana James, Sheelagh Ponicki, and Regina Romero

#4 - **Lady Card Dealer**
Sharon Szakacs

#5 - **Valley Girl**
Eva Aguilar

#6 - **Black Cat**
Rebecca Shanks

#7 - **50s Poodle Lady**
Margaret Gardner

#8 - **Hunchie**
Sofia Murta

#9 - **Wicked Queen**
Aide Estrada





Happy holiday happenings here

The following is a brief update on the various holiday activities that are occurring in the Office:

- **The Socks Drive** ends on Dec. 4. This is the eighth year the Office has participated in this effort. The Shoebox organization's goal is to collect 40,000 pairs of socks to give to the homeless in the community.
- **The Toys for Tots Drive** ends on Dec. 11. This is the fifth year the Office has participated in this effort. Toys for Tots is sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.
- The Customer Service Center's **Operation Cobbler** will be held Nov. 30- Dec. 4. Staff donate used and unwanted shoes that are repaired and given to those in need as part of this effort.
- The NE Office is conducting a **Blanket Drive** to help the homeless. No date is set yet when this drive will end. Staff donates blankets that are given to the homeless as part of this effort.
- The SEA Office is conducting a **Pet Drive** to assist the Arizona Humane Society. Staff can donate canned food, toys, towels, and other items for cats and dogs. The drive ends on Dec. 31.



Office staff participate in National Adoption Day event



On Nov. 21, the Clerk's Office participated in the Court's **National Adoption Day Event**. There were **206** petitions filed, **12** calendars going, **38** judges and commissioners presiding, **13** courtroom clerks covering hearings, and **two** Office staff making certified copies of the final orders of adoption and accepting payment for the **adoption of 278 children**. The Clerk's staff who participated were: **Connie Marcum, Cheryl Hancey, Jennifer Herman, Rosalie Cabrera-Razo, LaVerne Willkomm, Maria Aldaba, Linda Moya, Robert Jordan, Kathryn Martin, Katie Meade, Kathy Waldner, Iris Crawford, Patricia Rolling, Sofia Murta, and Yardan Paz.**

This year marks the 10th anniversary of National Adoption Day, a national day of celebration of adoptive families and an opportunity for courts to open their doors and finalize the adoptions of children from foster care. Since 2000, more than 25,000 children have had their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day.

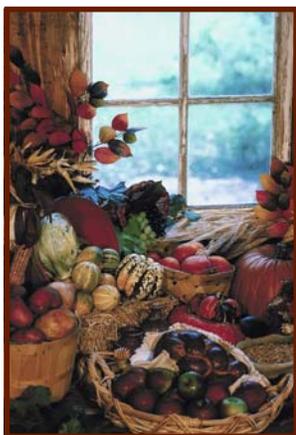


The news corner

- The Public Affairs Office recently made some changes to the **office website**, among those changes were: a new section called "eGovernment" that provides links to the Office electronic initiatives; a new link that provides information for people filing from outside of Maricopa County; and two new sections called "Newsflashes" (for news articles and fliers) and "What's New" (for new website features, publications, or services).
- Between June to the present, approximately **475** attorneys and legal support staff have been trained in eFiling by staff members **Aaron Nash** and **Joe Silberschlag**. The training included on-site and off-site demonstrations to law firms, State Bar employees, and other legal organizations. There are several more demonstrations and classes scheduled before the end of the year, which will bring the total number of people trained in eFiling since this past summer to approximately 600.
- In the first week of the Office's new **cash receipting system** (which launched on Sept. 13), there were 13,953 payments made and the receipts totaled \$2,090,439.
- Maricopa County is sponsoring a **golf tournament** on Dec. 3. More information is available by calling Jacob Pacini at 602-372-0641 or by email at pacinij@mail.maricopa.gov.



Thanksgiving Tributes — Who in the Office are you thankful for?



“I am thankful for all of the hardworking staff in the File Room, QC3 / 02-06, D&C and Disposition/Abstracts. Over the past year, they’ve managed to do more with less and have kept a positive attitude while doing it. I am truly grateful for all of them. So, thank you and Happy Thanksgiving to **Ed Morris, Sylvia Anderson, Tina Barrett, Ramon Flores, Cecilia Alfaro-Arndt, Charlotte Concholar, Donna Davault, Ron Lopez, Patricia O’Reilly, Elvia Rojas, Maria Saenz, Teresa Stemmons, Linda Wagman, Annette Young, Jackie Balderrama, Liz Castaneda, Lorenzo Fuentes, Idella Hamilton, Ken Lindler, Veronyka Lockhart, Sally Valdez, Mary Young, Chinue’ Moore, Kate Folk, Kathy Kruse, Cathy Diaz, Tawnie Wells, Rene Smyth, and Sharon Wilson!**” – *Donna Hall*

“I am thankful for our receptionist, **Sandra Strange** and her ability to always maintain composure and professionalism on the phone, even when the caller is being a ‘challenge.’ It gives our Office a very positive reputation. Thanks Sandra.” – *Wendy Johnson*

“I am thankful for **Melody McGee, Stacy Kennow, and Laura Sam.** It has been such a pleasure working with you and having the friendship we have. I will always remember you for your kindness, sense of humor, and teamwork.” – *Jo Harbour*

“I am thankful for **Don Vert** and **Elisa McGrath** and the staff in **Family Court Services.** They have the arduous task of insuring that all Orders of Assignment for support go out timely and correctly. They often have to double-check court orders and minute entries. I appreciate all they do to see that those who need the monetary support get it quickly.” – *Susan Morris*

“I am most thankful for my courtroom services manager **Evonne Gonzales.** She surpasses the role of supervisor and transcends to comrade. It’s a good feeling to know a direct supervisor like Evonne is there to go to bat for her clerks.” – *Hollice O’Shaughnessy*

“I am thankful to **Christina Saunders** for recently being a great help to me. She was very prompt in responding to my question and thorough in her follow-up. I was impressed.” – **Jonathan Reeves**



“I am thankful for my mentor clerk, **Rebecca Miller.** She has taken me under her wing. She is a true blessing.” – *LaVonnia Diggs*

“I am thankful for **Terri Ernster** in Juvenile. She is always so helpful to our department, Billing and Deferral. If it wasn’t for her assistance, it would make our job very difficult when billing Juvenile accounts.” – *Edie Friss*

“I am thankful for employees like **Sheelagh Ponicki.** Someone had suggested that it would be a good idea to have a recycle bin. Sheelagh took it upon herself to bring in a recycle bin and placed it in the break room for all to use. She also takes it upon herself to provide garbage bags. Every week, she hauls all the trash to recycle it properly. Thank you Sheelagh for all your thoughtfulness of the area and the environment. Go green.” – *Vanessa Martinez*

“I am thankful for the **Durango Juvenile Office staff.** They are such a great team to work with, and they are very helpful and courteous.” – *Kiera Molina*

“I am thankful for the members of the **ITG Help Desk,** especially **Diane Barnes** and **Dustin Herrington,** who are always very knowledgeable and patient in assisting with computer problems. You might say they have a ‘nitch for the glitch’ Thanks for your help.” – *Laura Nixon*



“I am very thankful for Court Operations Administrator **Vonda Culp.** She has provided me with so much opportunity and always expresses her gratitude. It is a pleasure to work for such an outstanding and intelligent individual.” – *Christopher Kilgus*

Thanksgiving Tributes continued on page 5...



... Office thanksgiving tributes continued



“I am so thankful for my fantastic job and all of the terrific people I have worked with over the last 32 years and the dear friends that I have made. My current assignment with Judge Scott McCoy, J.A. Sally, and Bailiff Laura has been amazing, and I am so thankful that they have included me as a member of their division family. I am also very thankful for **Michael Jeanes** for being such a tremendous, caring, and inspirational boss, as well **Marian Catt** and **Laura Eng**, who have been wonderful supervisors/administrators to me over the years. My direct supervisor **Karen Stone**, and co-supervisor **Susan Morris**, have been so informative, supportive and caring. I am very thankful to have been lucky enough to have been under their supervision. I am thankful for all my **fellow courtroom clerks** and the lovely ‘**Chamber Maids**,’ whose friendship I cherish. Last but not least, I am thankful for **Len Keso**, who is an amazing person and wears many hats. I am a very blessed to have worked with, and known, all of you.” – **Tracey Fenton**

“I am thankful for my dear friend **Tracey Fenton**, who has been a continual inspiration to me and my fellow clerks. Her leadership, kindness, friendship, and customer service have distinguished her as an outstanding courtroom clerk for 32 years of service to the Clerk’s Office. She will be greatly missed by many of us when she retires this month.” – **Laurie Wistuber**

“I am thankful for **Lauri Thomas** and **Correnia Honaker** for being supportive in finding ways to improve processes for our areas. I am thankful for **Mark Leong**, **Franci Diaz-Smock**, and **Charlotte Levine** for their willingness to learn new skills, process different ways, and for stepping up to ensure our areas have coverage and assistance.” – **Kathy Whittiker**

“After being with the Office for 20 years, I am very thankful for everyone I have worked with. They have been kind, supportive, funny, positive, and have helped me to grow and change in areas that I have needed to grow in. When you think of being 40 and suddenly 60, you realize what people can mean in your life and how worthwhile a job can really be.” – **Lori White**

“I am thankful to my Clerks/Courtroom Services Managers family for their support these last few weeks. I was able to make it to California in time to have a last couple of days with my Dad before he passed away.” – **Kathy Wendroff**

“I am thankful for **Rosemarie Scott**, who keeps me thinking on my feet; for **Lisa Bonilla**, who’s simply a breath of fresh air; for **Spencer Quissel**, who can really dance a frizzel; for **Belva Nasingoetewa**, who’s really quite a gal; for **Patricia Burnett**, who’s a family history buddy; for **Maria De La Cruz**, who helps me when I am down; for **Scott Buckman**, who’s handy to have around; and for **Russel Vojir**, who can keep the party platter going.” – **Mary Rogers**

“We are thankful for all of the file counter, records center, and exhibits area staff; courtroom clerks; supervisors; and managers for their help throughout the year. Through intense time pressure and complex issues, they have always come through and are the key ingredient in responding to requests from the public, media, law enforcement, and other government agencies. Thank you for your outstanding efforts!” – **Aaron Nash, Darlene Anderson, and Len Keso**

“I am thankful for the Marriage License & Passports gals – **Angela DeLucia, Angelique Rodriguez, Araceli Rodriguez, Carmen Diaz, Maria Gatica, and Ramona Velasquez**. They help me on a daily basis with the numerous County Attorney requests.” – **Sue Baldwin**



“We are very thankful for: **Kim Dollins**, who is always right there when we have a question or problem; the **SE Filing Counter staff**, who work hard to make sure the file stamp and case numbers are legible; the **RCC team**, who helps with prepping so often; and for the help and support of the **Docketing staff**. These people are awesome to work with.” – **Alison Cole and Alison Knapp**



“We are thankful for the **Downtown FC courtroom clerks**. This group continually strives to produce work of excellent quality. Their continual positive attitude and hard work make every day a day to be thankful.” – **Karen Stone and Susan Morris**



The Employee Track

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

BIRTHS

- Congratulations to ITG Technical Support Manager **Dennis Benzer** on the birth of his 8 lb., 20½ in. grandson on Nov. 10. His new grandchild's name is Liam Jonathan.
- Congratulations to SEA Courtroom Clerk **Teresa Nestor-Donohue** on becoming a grandmother for the third time on Nov. 16. Her new grandson's name is Michael James and he weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20½ in. long.

OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

10 Years - **Charlotte Concholar, Irasema Martinez, and Steve Greth**

5 Years - **Cynthia Rego, Jeanine Skuza, and Pamela Dougherty**



EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT



- On Nov. 30, Courtroom Clerk **Tracey Fenton** is retiring after 32 years of dedicated service to the Office. She began working for the Office in 1977. Her name was submitted to Maricopa County for the Service Pillar ceremony tentatively planned for the Spring. In sharing a few final words of wisdom to employees Tracey said, "Truly enjoy your job and your life outside of your job. If you're not happy or giving 100 percent to both, then you are cheating yourself. Be good to yourself and to others!"

EMPLOYEE PHOTO FEATURE

Newsletter travels from the big outdoors to the big city

Each month, employees are invited to submit a photo of themselves reading the *Record Times* while they are on vacation or traveling somewhere. Last month, the newsletter was spotted in the big outdoors with one current employee and three former Clerk of Court employees. This month, the newsletter is found in the "Big City" with an employee and her daughter.

Pictured to the right is Office Project Manager **Wendy Johnson** and her daughter Naysa, who posed for a picture with the newsletter while they were vacationing in New York City, New York.

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 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 (mailcode CD-PA) with your name, department, and a photo description.

