

# Record Times

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June 2007

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

## A new Downtown Criminal Court is approved

In May, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$334 million in capital funding for a planned Downtown Criminal Courthouse. The new courthouse is projected to be completed in 2011.



The plans call for the new facility to be 16 stories and have 722,930 square feet for 32 courtrooms, a Clerk of Court's Office, a jury assembly room, Criminal Court Administration, Adult Probation Department, offices for attorneys, program services and secure holding cells. The design will provide separate circulation patterns for the public, judicial personnel, prisoners, jurors, and more.

The new courthouse will be located on the southwest corner of Madison and First Avenue, which will require the demolition of the Madison Street parking garage. During the building construction, the County will arrange for alternative parking in county facilities. More details about parking will be provided in the future.

It is estimated that it will take one year of architectural design and two years of construction before the facility is completed.

The plan to develop the Criminal Courthouse was achieved through a series of meetings and work sessions including judicial officers, justice system stakeholders, victim advocates, the media, the Court's Americans with Disabilities Act Committee, County Management, and Gould Evans - DMJM.

## Casey makes final appearances for the year



The Casey's have made their final appearances in the Office for 2007. Casey is the name of the Office's annual employee recognition award. During the months of April and May, the Casey's were distributed to employees who demonstrated outstanding service this past year. The names of employees who received the award at the Customer Service Center, Downtown, Northwest, and Northeast were announced in the April and May issues of the *Record Times*. Following are the names (and some photos) of employees who were Casey winners at Durango Juvenile and Southeast:

### **DURANGO JUVENILE C.A.S.E. AWARDS**

**Customer Service Award** - Robert Jordon, Lori Morris, and Priscilla Huff

**Leadership Award** - Dorothy King and Norma Barron

**Teamwork Award - Courtroom Clerk Team** - Arlene Chee, Tysia Nelson, Connie Marcum, Iris Crawford-Bush, Shannon Ward, Veronica Ybarra, Michael Lane, and Dawn Wood

...continued on page 2 - see Casey's

## Courtroom Clerk is retiring after 25 years

On July 2, Courtroom Clerk Elyssa Schneider is retiring



after 25 years of service to the Office. "I originally started as a Courtroom Clerk in 1979.

I then left in 1981 as my husband had a job transfer. We returned to Phoenix after two years and I attempted to return to the County in March 1983, but there was a hiring freeze and so I had to wait until October 1983 to return."

Schneider returned to the Office as a courtroom clerk at that time and has served in that capacity ever since. She said she is most proud of having worked two times for three different Judicial Officers. "As far as I know, this has never been done by a downtown courtroom clerk in modern days."

She said she will miss the people she has worked with the most, but has plans to rest, learn to play golf, travel, continue ushering for live shows at four theatres, and volunteer at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Office. She also will assist the Maricopa County Recorder's Office on a part-time basis to help with the upcoming General Election.

## An employee suggestion

Following is a suggestion from a Clerk of the Court employee concerning interoffice mail:

When sending an item interoffice mail, remember to put a note and date on the item so the receiver knows who the mail is from.



# Michael's

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Michael K. Jeanes  
Clerk of the Court

## A Maricopa County news update

**A**s I reported earlier this month, on June 6 the FY 2007-08 Performance-Based Salary Advancement Plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The percentage of the increases are currently being worked on and pending a final procedural approval by the Supervisors, the increases will be seen in the August 17 paychecks, with a retroactive date of July 2.

Now, here is some other noteworthy news from Maricopa County: This month the County Supervisors approved a \$2.3 billion budget that lowers property-tax rates and keeps up with the county's increasing growth. The Supervisors cut

the County's overall property tax rate by about 14 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is the lowest overall county-controlled property tax rate in decades. According to County Manager David Smith, there is an actual modest reduction for the average property taxpayer for the county portion of their taxes.

Furthermore, the supervisors received good financial news that both *Moody's* and *FitchRatings* (national bond rating agencies) bestowed upgrades to Maricopa County's bond ratings. In fact, *FitchRatings* assigned the County the highest possible 'AAA' rating. This rating allows county bonds to be issued with lower insurance premiums, as well as at lower rates. It also increases the County's liquidity by eliminating a debt service reserve requirement. Fundamentally, more can be done with fewer tax dollars.

## One good award deserves another



**I**n addition to the Office's Casey awards, some other awards have been presented to Clerk employees. They are:

- **Pictured on the left** is **Michael Jeanes**, who received the "Administrative Director's Administration of Justice Award" from the Arizona Supreme Court. He is pictured with Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor. He received the award for his outstanding service and innovation, and for being committed to improving customer service.
- The **Public Affairs Office** received two Awards of Excellence from the National Association of County Information Officers for its production of the annual report.

- The Legal Advice-Legal Information Task Force, on which Public Affairs' **Aaron Nash** served, received the Judicial Branch Achievement Award from the Arizona Supreme Court.
- **Cheryl Marzella** received a Rewarding Ideas Award from the Board of Supervisors for her suggestion to distribute the employee newsletter electronically.

## ...Casey cont. from pg. 2

### SOUTHEAST C.A.S.E. AWARDS

**Customer Service Award** - Ken Daniels, Al Ogawa, Sheila Sailer

**Excellence Award** - Jenny Shaska, Gozal Atabaeva-Coy, Linda Moya, Franci Diaz-Smock

**Leadership Award** - Janice Bray

**Teamwork Award** - **Juvenile Courtroom Clerks** - Sonia Canez, Joann Cumming, Katie Meade, Linda Moya /

**Filing Counter** - Mariam McTaggart, Regina Romero, Vanessa Martinez, Sheelagh Ponicki, Sharon Szakacs,

Angela Allegretti, Leslie Wilkins, Jessica Folts /

**License Services** - Iwan Tandyasraya, Judy Barney, Al Ogawa, Sharayah Dunst, Drayson Alcantar



Dawn Wood and Michael Lane



(From left) Sharon Szakacs, Jessica Folts, Sheelagh Ponicki, and Angela Allegretti



(From left) Judy Barney, Sharayah Dunst, Drayson Alcantar, Al Ogawa, and Michael Jeanes



Priscilla Huff



Ken Daniels

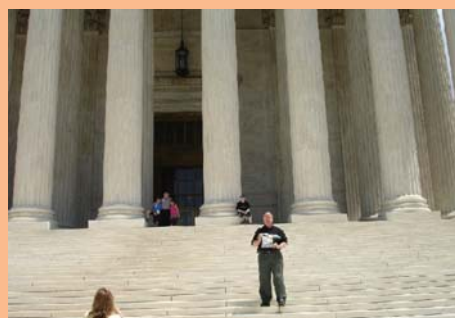


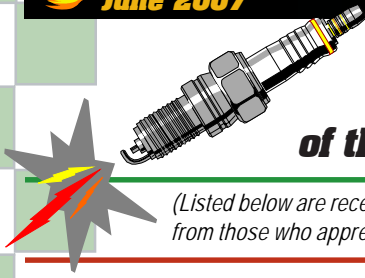
Al Ogawa

## Employees steps up get photo with newsletter at highest court

Each month, employees are invited to submit a photo of themselves reading the *Record Times*. Last month, the newsletter was spotted with an employee who was sitting by court of sports competition. This month it is seen with an employee standing at the highest court. Pictured here is Training's **Steve Weston**, who posed with the newsletter on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C.

You may submit photos of yourself reading the *Record Times* at any time. **TO SUBMIT** a photo, print a newsletter page(s), take your photo with the page(s), and send it to Public Affairs.





## Recordsetters of the Clerk of the Court' Office

(Listed below are recent letters, email messages, and phone calls about Clerk employees from those who appreciate their recordsetting efforts to provide excellent service.)

### CUSTOMER SURVEY CARD COMPLIMENTS

#### Civil Filing Counter

- "The staff was outstanding and sincerely appreciated."
- "Well mannered and friendly. You should have more employees like **Terrance**."
- "**Terrance Swan** was very friendly and had a great attitude."
- "I am a caseworker who came with my elderly client. **Angela Walker** helped us through the process and got my client a chair. She went over and above in customer service."

### CO-WORKER COMPLIMENTS

"I really appreciate the quick response and resolutions we get from **Kirt Jobe** to any badge access/security issues at Northwest." — *Diane Jamison*

"I would like to thank everyone at the Clerk's Office for making this a great place to work. Namely, **Erika Morgenstern, Penny Boettcher, Betty Finney**, and ALL of my fellow clerks for whom I would take up too much space listing them all and why I appreciate them so much. They have been a fabulous team and it has been my pleasure to have been a part of it. It has been more of an adventure than just a job. Thank you very much for that."  
— *Wendy Yank*

"There is a person in my office that goes out of her way to help when I have a question, and she is the sweetest person I have ever worked with. If you have a question, she will stop what she is doing and answer it, and not make you feel like you are bothering her. Plus, she will find the answer no matter what it takes. She isn't a trainer, she is a co-worker and has so much knowledge regarding what we do in Family Support Finance Services. I have learned so much from her. Her name is **Elisa McGrath**." — *Kenna Cumbley*

### OTHER COMPLIMENTS

Special Master of the Arizona General Stream Adjudication **George Schade, Jr.** sent an email to the Office to compliment some employees of the Clerk's Office. He wrote, "I would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance and help that I have received during the past year from **Tina Barrett** and **Giannina Franco** of the Clerk's Office. Tina has been a very supportive manager for the work of the Water Case. Giannina has been efficient, quick, and always helpful. She maintains the Water Case's files and prepares the monthly dockets for distribution. She has done a phenomenal job. Both Tina and Giannina merit the highest of kudos for a job well done!"

Family Court Services Manager **Don Vert** said that **Kim Gillespie** spoke about the Clerk's website ([www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov)) at the Statute Review Committee meeting. Don said that she told everyone how great the website was and wanted to pass this on to others. She stated that it is the best website she has seen.

Court Operations Supervisor **Kiera Molina** sent an email to Court Supplies **Richard Lopez** to commend him and the **Court Supply staff** on the great service they provide. She said, "Thank you so much for my toner (that was fast)! You and your staff are always so helpful and quick to respond. I really appreciate your efficiency."

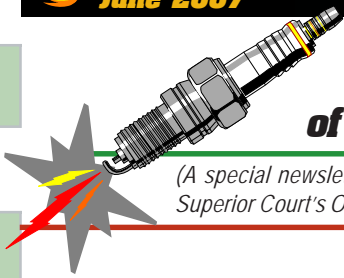


Forensic Service Unit's **Margaret Rutigliano** sent an email to Court Supplies to express her appreciation for the service **Fernando Cabral** provided to her. She wrote, "I want you to be aware that Fernando did a SUPERIOR job. He handled my requests promptly and very efficiently. He needs a raise."

ICJIS's **David Goodwin** sent an email to **Michael Jeanes** to let him know about the great work that was performed by Business Analysts **Liz Kauffman** and **CJ Allen**. He wrote, "I had the pleasure of presenting Peak Performance Awards to Liz and CJ in recognition of all their efforts in making electronic warrants a reality. I firmly believe we would not yet have achieved this without their participation in the project. Their knowledge, dedication, flexibility and teamwork were invaluable. Working with them has been a truly enjoyable and rewarding experience."

CR Document Management Supervisor **Brenda Townsend** sent an email thanking Facilities' **Larry Spoehr** and **Ron Pitts**. She said, "I want to thank you for remodeling Window 1 for us today. It looks fantastic! I cannot tell you how much we appreciate you doing this for us. It will really help the staff, along with the ability to provide better customer service."





# Employee News of the Clerk of the Court' Office

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

## BIRTHS

- Congratulations to Courtroom Clerk **Trinette Ellman** on the birth of her 6 lb. 11 oz. baby boy on April 12. Her new son's name is Terrance Charles.
- Congratulations to Probate Docket EDM's **Erica Bradford** on the birth of her 8 lb. 2 oz. baby girl on June 15. Her new daughter's name is Alesia Yvette. Congratulations on this birth is also sent to Micrographics' **Alesia Bookman** who is the baby's grandmother.
- Congratulations to Courtroom Clerk **Lisa Hoskin**, who became the proud parent of a 6 lb. 8 oz. baby girl on May 28. Her new daughter's name is Kaylee.



## MARRIAGES

- Congratulations to Criminal Financial Obligation Unit's **Traci Ranft**, who got married on June 2 to Don Mansmith. They are going to Hawaii for their honeymoon this winter.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

- **CCB Family Court Docket/EDM** - Shawn Healy, Jessica Talbot
- **Civil Docket** - Lauren Luke
- **Civil EDM** - Clara Nava
- **Civil Exhibits** - Alejandra Torres
- **Criminal Filing Counter** - Stacy Kennow
- **Criminal Financial Obligations** - Kandi Peck, Christine Morris
- **Fileroom/QC3 Audit Section** - Maria Gonzalez
- **ITG Technical Support** - Dennis Benzer
- **Management Resources** - Wendy Johnson
- **Notary Bond** - Cori Moler
- **SEA EDM** - Alison Knapp



## OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees celebrates milestone Office anniversaries in June:

### 25 YEARS

Dan Sullinger

### 20 YEARS

Aurora Avina

Michael Jeanes

### 15 YEARS

Jolie Matlack

### 5 YEARS

Don Vert, Donna Kenney, and Carly Zamora



## ON THE MOVE

- Courtroom Clerk **Cynthia Kelly** transferred to NE Night Court/Saturday from Downtown.
- Courtroom Clerk **Brandy Lambert** transferred from Downtown Family Court to Northeast.
- **Keri Wade** was promoted from Court Operations Specialist to Lead position at the NW Regional Facility.

## SPOTLIGHT



**Name:**

Yolie Allen

**Department:**

Courtroom Services

**Hometown:**

Los Angeles, Calif.

**Family:**

Son - CJ

(who also happens

to work at the Clerk's Office)

**Birthday:** July 1

**Years With Clerk's Office:** 20 years

**Favorite Activity:** Gardening, swimming, and reading

**Least Favorite Activity:** Shopping

**I'm Proud Of:** Landscaping my front and back yards and then getting a letter from the HOA stating my front yard was an "inspiration" to the community.

**The Most Adventurous Thing That You've Done:** Learning to slalom (one water ski) when no one in our group of nine in the boat had ever done it and, of course, they couldn't suggest to me how to stay up on the ski! The first time was a very short one!

**My Favorite Meal:** Green chile and steak

**A Dream I Have Is To:** Travel all over the U.S.A.

**A Pet Peeve:** Being late

**Two people who you would like to have dinner with:** Sean Connery and Sandra Day O'Connor

**What Was Your First Job:** Typist in the Maricopa County Personnel Dept.

**Nobody Would Believe It If They Knew...** that I received an invitation 28 - 30 years ago by NASA mechanics to visit their facility at Edwards Air Force Base. I got the "golden" tour of the different programs, which included seeing the prototype for the lunar landing module and special permission to enter the "top secret" hanger that contained two SR-71 Blackbirds.

Have a safe  
and enjoyable



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Chief Deputy Chris Kelly / Editor Len Keso