

**Arizona Commission on Access to Justice
SRL-LJC Workgroup
NOTES**

July 29, 2016

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Present: Judge Rachel Torres Carrillo (Chair), Chris Groninger, Ellen Katz, Todd Lang, Judge Bill Rummer, Judge Lawrence Winthrop

Telephonic: Judge Thomas Berning, Stacy Butler, Millie Cisneros, Paul Julien, Steven Keist

Presenters/Guests: MJ Cartwright (Court Innovations), Judge Steven McMurry (Maricopa County Justice Courts)

AOC Staff: Theresa Barrett, Julie Graber, Kathy Sekardi

Matters Considered:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

With a quorum present, the July 29, 2016, meeting of the SRL-LJC Workgroup was called to order by Judge Rachel Torres Carrillo, Chair, at 1:30 p.m.

2. Update on Workgroup Projects:

Julie reported that any additional work on the eviction forms, such as formatting changes and translation to Spanish, have been put on hold due to the pending rule petition. Julie informed the workgroup that the script on “So You Just Got Served Eviction Paperwork” is currently in production using GoAnimate.

3. Demo of the Matterhorn Platform

MJ Cartwright presented a demo of the Matterhorn platform, an online case resolution solution for traffic tickets, parking tickets, warrants, suspended licenses, family court, and small claims. Ms. Cartwright discussed the online/mobile processes for a warrant and civil infraction using the Matterhorn platform:

1. The citizen enters basic information
2. The platform triaging checks initial eligibility and configurations
3. The citizen requests a review and provides information
4. Law enforcement recommends an offer based on the request and situation
5. The citizen accepts or rejects the offer; the court sets the fine; and the final resolution notification is sent to the citizen.

She reviewed the impact and cost savings on the courts:

- Combined court staff time per hearing decreased from 157 minutes to 27.36 minutes with Matterhorn
- Time to collection improved from up to 2 months to less than 8 days
- Increase access to justice when 43% would not have been able to come to court
- As a result of the increase access to justice, there was an increase of overall cases and fees (7%) and overall decrease of costs (30%)

- Close to 50% of citizens resolve their cases using a tablet, 50% using a smartphone

She reported that judges and prosecutors like the ability to resolve cases remotely using a tablet. She noted that the platform does not take away any rights.

Comments:

- How have prosecutors reacted? Although prosecutors were hesitant at first, positive feedback has been received because they find more access to data and better resolutions.
- Do users pay more in person or online? Data is currently being pulled for comparison.
- What happens if a court had a question? The interaction is not in real time and is based on an asynchronous model, which works for these types of cases. A synchronous model could be added.
- Have you implemented new rules of court? The scenario has not yet occurred.

4. Rule Petition regarding Stipulated Judgments in Eviction Cases

Ellen Katz discussed the proposed rule regarding stipulated judgements in eviction cases that would require both parties to appear.

- Judge Steven McMurry, Maricopa County Justice Courts, opposed the proposal offered by Ms. Katz. Judge McMurry noted that through their summer pilot program done in collaboration with Community Legal Services they discovered that litigants assume they are talking to court employees outside the courtroom, not the landlord attorneys. Therefore, he argued that the proposed rule change does not solve the problem and rather, the rule will cause more defaults in SRLs cases. Judge McMurry presented Downtown Justice Center’s video (first draft) regarding eviction cases. Discussion ensued. Questions raised included:
 - Do we need a rule that stipulated judgements are not accepted unless both parties appear?
 - Is this a Maricopa-only issue?
 - What if the tenant appears but does not want to stay?
 - Should a standardized form be created?
 - Should a possible waiver be addressed?
 - Do litigants understand what a judgment is?

ACTION: Paul Julien volunteered to lead the sub-workgroup with Pamela Bridge, Ellen Katz, Todd Lang, Judge Bill Rummer, and a Justice of the Peace representative from Maricopa County. The group will meet the week of 8/8/16 and submit an agenda item by 8/12/16.

Motion: To move forward in concept and create a sub-workgroup to amend and make the proposed rule more concise regarding stipulated judgments in eviction cases. **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ellen Katz, **Seconded by** Paul Julien. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion on the Use of Videoconferencing in the Courtroom for Limited Jurisdiction Courts

The workgroup discussed the expanded use of videoconferencing in limited jurisdiction courts and recommended a new workgroup to develop best practices to include, but not limited to:

- Workgroup members should represent diverse backgrounds and stakeholders (rural, urban, limited jurisdictions)
- Partner with justices of the peace to pilot videoconferencing in some courts
- Identify space and cost issues, and minimum equipment needs
- Which types of hearings would benefit the most from videoconferences?
- Which case types would be the most appropriate to videoconferencing?
- Develop scripts for the different case types

Motion: To recommend the establishment of a workgroup to develop best practices that would support the expanded use of videoconferencing and teleconferencing in limited jurisdiction courts. **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Todd Lang, **Seconded by** Chris Groninger. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next SRL-LJC Meeting: TBD