

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

Date Action Requested:	Type of Action Requested:	Subject:
June 19, 2017	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Judicial Branch Strategic Agenda "Advancing Justice Together" Update

FROM:

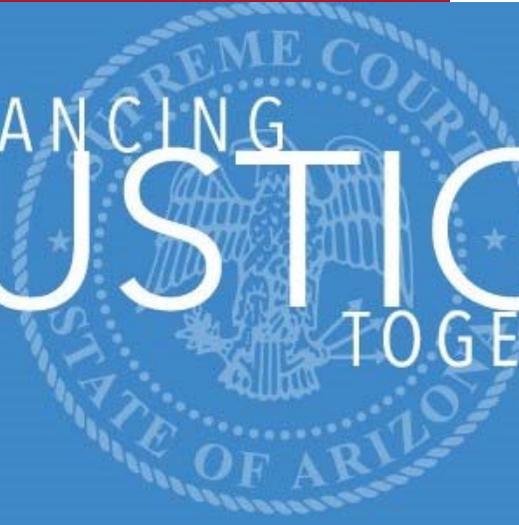
Mr. Mike Baumstark, Deputy Director, Administrative Office of the Courts

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Baumstark will highlight the "Advancing Justice Together" initiatives that have been completed during the past year and give the Council a preview of the many initiatives planned for the coming year.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Information only.

The seal of the Arizona Supreme Court is centered in the background of the graphic. It features an eagle with wings spread, holding a shield on its chest. The seal is circular with the text "SUPREME COURT" at the top and "STATE OF ARIZONA" at the bottom, separated by a rope-like border.

ADVANCING
JUSTICE
TOGETHER

2017 Update

I am pleased to present this update on the Judiciary's Strategic Agenda. We are more than halfway through our five-year agenda and continue to make great strides thanks to the efforts of judicial officers, other court personnel, and volunteers throughout Arizona.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing justice together.

— *Scott Bales*
Chief Justice



Goal 1

Promoting

ACCESS

to Justice

The Arizona Commission on Access to Justice is moving forward with several initiatives approved by the Arizona Judicial Council in June 2016.

- ◆ The Superior Court in Maricopa County received a three-year AmeriCorps grant funding thirty-eight college students to assist self-represented litigants in family court matters. Self-help classes and volunteer lawyer clinics are planned.
- ◆ The Superior Court in Coconino County is piloting a new virtual legal resource center at its law library, which hosts workshops and training webinars presented by volunteer attorneys.
- ◆ The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education launched a statewide virtual legal information website www.AZCourtHelp.org. The website offers court forms, instructional videos, recorded clinics, and a mapping feature identifying courts based on jurisdiction and geographic location. The site is compatible with computers, tablets, and smart phones.



Justice Court Initiatives

- ◆ The Pima County Consolidated Justice Courts implemented an evening Warrant Resolution Court to increase access for those who work or have other obligations during the workday.

Language Access Initiatives

- ◆ The Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing program launched in January 2016. To date, eighty-three interpreters have earned certification credentials.
- ◆ A new Arizona Court Interpreter Registry was established to help courts identify interpreters.



PROTECTING

Children, Families, and Communities

Pretrial Initiative

- ◆ Pretrial assessment and supervision are now used in the Superior Court in all fifteen counties, and some limited jurisdiction courts are also using pretrial assessments.
- ◆ Pima County received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge to support efforts to reduce its jail population while maintaining public safety and addressing ethnic and racial disparities among those in jail.



Evidence-Based Practices for Probation Supervision

- ◆ New or updated sessions on evidence-based practices were added to the Intensive Probation Supervision Academy and the Juvenile Intensive Probation Law and Order class.



Dependency Cases

- ◆ The Dependent Children Services Division trained 113 attorneys at an *Introduction to Dependency Representation* program for parents' counsel in juvenile dependency cases.

Human Trafficking

- ◆ The Judicial Education Center offered training programs for judges, along with a session on human trafficking at the 2016 Judicial Conference.
- ◆ A course on issues related to human trafficking was added to the Intensive Probation Supervision Academy. Probation officers are now trained to recognize signs of trafficking.

Juvenile Detention

- ◆ The Arizona Judicial Council revised the standards for juvenile detention operations.

Goal 3

Improving Court

PROCESSES

to Better Serve the Public

Task Force on Fair Justice for All

- ◆ In March, Chief Justice Scott Bales established the Task Force on Fair Justice for All: Court-Ordered Fines, Penalties, Fees, and Pretrial Release Policies. In August, the Task Force issued a report detailing eleven core principles and offering sixty-five recommendations to improve Arizona's system for imposing court-ordered sanctions and making pretrial release decisions.
- ◆ In October, the Arizona Judicial Council approved the report and a legislative agenda to advance its recommended reforms.
- ◆ In December, the Supreme Court approved bail-related rule changes recommended by the Task Force.



Civil Justice Reforms

- ◆ The Committee on Civil Justice Reform (CJR) filed its final report and recommendations for rule changes, a pilot project, and judicial training to reduce the time and expense of civil litigation.
- ◆ The Arizona Judicial Council approved the CJR report and recommendations, and a related petition for rule amendments will be filed in January 2017.
- ◆ 764 cases were assigned to the pilot commercial court in the Superior Court in Maricopa County during the first fifteen months of the three-year program.
- ◆ Based upon recommendations by the Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court adopted a comprehensive set of civil rule amendments, effective January 1, 2017. These changes reflect the first comprehensive revision of the rules since 1955 and not only simplify and modernize the rules, but also include discovery reforms based on proportionality.

Criminal Justice Reforms

- ◆ The Chief Justice established the Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure to restyle and modernize the criminal rules. The Task Force is due to submit its recommended changes in January 2017 for possible implementation the following year.

Goal 3

Improving Court

PROCESSES

to Better Serve the Public

Other Rule Initiatives

- ◆ The Chief Justice established the Committee on Improving Small Claims Case Processing to identify possible rule changes and other ways to better manage small claims cases.



Technology

- ◆ New cyber security standards were implemented for all courts and probation departments.
- ◆ Education Services partnered with the Information Technology Division to offer interactive online training on cybersecurity for judges and court employees.
- ◆ More than 3,500 computer workstations supporting courts and probation across the state were upgraded to Windows 10.
- ◆ New case management systems for juvenile probation departments continue to be implemented in courts statewide.

Court Facilities

- ◆ The Court Security Standards Committee, established by the Chief Justice, recommended standards to improve security in courts statewide. The Committee's final report, Ensuring Secure, Open, and Publicly Accessible Courts, was approved by the Arizona Judicial Council in December 2016.



Arizona Case Processing Time Standards

- ◆ The Arizona Judicial Council approved several new case processing time standards this year including small claims, juvenile delinquency and status offenses, and eviction cases. Progress continues to be made in establishing time standards for all types of cases and in deploying computerized reports to monitor progress.

Goal 4

Enhancing

PROFESSIONALISM

within Arizona's Courts

Ensuring Fairness

- ◆ A program on implicit bias was offered statewide through Education Services reaching more than 500 court staff, probation officers, and judges.
- ◆ Sessions on forensic science were featured in education programs, including the 2016 Judicial Conference and the Governor's Office for Highway Safety training for judges.



Regulation of Legal Services

- ◆ The Supreme Court took final action on recommendations made by the Task Force on the Review of the Role and Governance Structure of the State Bar of Arizona, adopting rule changes to clarify the mission of the State Bar Board of Governors, specifying qualifications and term limits for members of the Board, and requiring the State Bar to conduct its meetings and maintain records under public access policies adopted by the Supreme Court.

Recognition of Court Achievements

- ◆ The Superior Court in Cochise County received a National Association for Court Management's Top 10 Court Technology Award for its Remote Video Court Reporter Services project.
- ◆ Chief Justice Scott Bales earned the Polly Rosenbaum Award from the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Department.
- ◆ Arizona Supreme Court Staff Attorney Patience Huntwork earned the 2015 Citizen of the Year award from the Horace Rumpole Inn of Court for her efforts to establish the Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court and other community activities.
- ◆ Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Andrew Klein earned the James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award from the State Bar of Arizona Board of Governors for his role in implementing the Maricopa County Probate Court mediation program that has resolved contested complex cases expeditiously and substantially streamlined the litigation process.
- ◆ The National Association of Counties honored the Guadalupe Teen Court for innovation in addressing first-time violations by juveniles.
- ◆ Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer earned the Scottsdale Bar Association's 2016 Award of Excellence.
- ◆ The Arizona Justice of the Peace Association selected Justice of the Peace Arthur Markham to receive its highest honor, the Sherry Geisler Award for Justice of the Peace of the Year.
- ◆ Retired Judge and Special Consultant to the Courts, Ron Reinstein, was named to the Distinguished Fellows of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy.
- ◆ Vice Chief Justice John Pelander was honored with the Judicial Excellence Award by the Arizona Association of Defense Counsel.

Goal 5

Improving Communications and

COMMUNITY

Participation

Community Outreach

- ◆ The Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals regularly hold oral arguments and question-and-answer sessions at off-site locations such as schools or performing arts centers to help Arizonans throughout the state better understand the workings of our courts. Outreach events in 2016 included visits to the law schools at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University, Cochise and Greenlee counties, and the City of Surprise.
- ◆ Division One of the Arizona Court of Appeals held Connecting with the Community events at Kingman High School in Mohave County and at Shadow Mountain High School in Phoenix.
- ◆ Judges from Division One also offered legal education programs to attorneys in Apache, Coconino, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, and Yuma counties.
- ◆ Division Two of the Arizona Court of Appeals held high school outreach events in Santa Cruz and Pinal counties on the topics Pathways to the Bench and Fundamentals of Courts and Law for students who might be interested in pursuing careers in law or public safety.
- ◆ Division Two heard arguments at University High School and Sunnyside High School in Tucson.
- ◆ A seven-member delegation from Nepal's justice system visited Arizona in June. It was the second visit by Nepalese judges. The delegates chose to return to Arizona to learn more about access to justice and addressing the needs of minorities, women, and victims of crime.



Court Volunteers

- ◆ The Chief Justice and the Administrative Office of the Courts continued a campaign to recruit volunteers to serve on Foster Care Review Boards or as Court Appointed Special Advocates. Outreach and volunteer recruitment efforts have reduced the statewide board vacancy rate from 30% to 10%.
- ◆ The home page for the www.AZCourts.gov website features a "We is More Powerful than Me" spotlight on volunteer recruitment that remains a popular resource and recruitment tool.





Prepared by Arizona Supreme Court
Communications Office

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