

JOHN NAPPER
PRESIDING JUDGE
DIVISION 2



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Arizona Superior Court
YAVAPAI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
120 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA 86303

October 8, 2020

Dear Chief Justice Brutinel:

Pursuant to Rule 28.1, Rules of the Supreme Court, the Presiding Judge of the Yavapai County Superior Court requests the Arizona Supreme Court adopt the proposed amendments to the Local Rules of Practice. The proposed amendments provide consistency with statewide rules, allow flexibility in case assignments, and eliminate rules that have proved unnecessary. The proposed amendments are approved by all current judges on the Yavapai County bench.

The main feature of the new Rules is to allow flexibility in assigning cases throughout Yavapai County. Currently, there are three different Superior Court buildings in Yavapai County. These include the downtown Courthouse, the Camp Verde Courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Center. The current rules create only two districts and limit how cases can be assigned to these districts. There is no mention of the Juvenile Justice Center. The new rules allow the Presiding Judge of the County to create judicial districts and assign cases based on the actual needs of the County.

Similar to the old local rules, cases will primarily be assigned to the Judicial District where the events leading to the case being filed occurred. As always, parties will be allowed to request a change in District when appropriate. The Presiding Judge will also be able to move cases between Judicial Districts when needed to preserve judicial resources. Recent experience with COVID – 19 has proven the Courts need to be as flexible as possible to ensure cases are heard in a timely manner. The amended rules will modernize the practice of law in Yavapai County, while preserving the historic dedication to having cases heard throughout the County.

The proposed amendments were posted on the Yavapai County website, along with an invitation for the submission of comments. They were posted for a period longer than 30 days. The Supreme Court clerk concurrently circulated the proposal to the distribution list from Supreme Court Rule 28(C), along with an invitation for the submission of comments during the same period. Only one comment was received on the County website.

Accordingly, Yavapai County seeks to amend its Local Rules of Practice as set forth in the draft attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of October 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JNL", written over a horizontal line.

eSigned by Napper,John 10/08/2020 10:58:01 BB8.D6dV

HON. JOHN NAPPER
Judge of the Superior Court