

Arizona Supreme Court
Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards
AGENDA

March 4, 2026, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
State Courts Building, Room 331, 1501 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007
and [Zoom Webinar Link](#)
Conference Call Line 888-788-0099, Webinar 944 0352 2453, Passcode 563358
Meeting Materials located at [Meeting Information \(azcourts.gov\)](#)

1:15 p.m.	Meeting room and Zoom webinar open for Members, Public, Attendees and Presenters		Laura Ritenour, AOC
1:30 p.m.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roll Call - Opening Remarks - Membership Update – Thank you to Judge Don Taylor III for his service to the committee. He has been appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court. Recruitment for his replacement has started. 		Hon. James Beene, Chair, Arizona Supreme Court
1:35 p.m.	Discuss/Vote	Draft Minutes from December 2025 Meeting (Vote)	Hon. James Beene
1:37 p.m.	Call to the Public		Hon. James Beene
1:40 p.m.	Present/Discuss	Follow-up Report on Criminal Case Management Efforts in Superior Courts	Todd Zweig, Pinal County
1:50 p.m.	Present/Discuss	Strategic Agenda Goal 4.1.b. – “Presiding Judge Process to Review Compliance with Time Standards” Discussion	Hon. Michael Peterson, Graham County, and Laura Ritenour
2:10 p.m.	Present/Discuss	Data Standardization Advisory Committee Update	Michael Malone, Arizona AOC
2:15 p.m.	Present/Discuss	DUI Time Standards and Caseflow Management Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2025 GOHS Conference - complete - 2026 Judicial Conference - upcoming 	Laura Ritenour, AOC
2:20 p.m.	Present/Discuss	Time Standards Report Accuracy Workgroup Update	Laura Ritenour

2:35 p.m.	Reminder - Next Meeting: June 3, 2026, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., AOC State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington Street, Zoom webinar and Conference Room 331, Phoenix AZ 85007 Meeting Information	Hon. James Beene
2:40 pm	Closing Comments and Adjournment	Hon. James Beene

All times are approximate. The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda. For any item on the agenda, the Committee may vote to go into executive session as permitted by Arizona Code of Judicial Administration §1-202 (C)(5)(c). Please contact Laura Ritenour at (602) 452-3675 with any questions concerning this agenda. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Laura Ritenour at (602) 452-3675. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.

STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE AND DATA STANDARDS

December 3, 2025

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Hybrid Attendance - In Person and Zoom Webinar

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Hon. James Beene, Hon. Robert Brooks, Ms. Rachel Cameron, Hon. Thomas L. Chotena, Ms. Jennifer Curtiss, Ms. Niltza Flores, Ms. Shawn Friend, Ms. Tina Mattison, Hon. Douglas Metcalf, Ms. Donna McQuality, Hon. Heidi Owens, Hon. Michael Peterson, Ms. Nancy Rodriguez, Hon. Don Taylor, and Hon. Trevor Ward

Members Absent: Mr. Jeff Schrade

Presenters and Guests: Ms. Sharon Yates, Ms. Jennifer Ferguson, and Mr. Daniel Paulson

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff: Ms. Jennifer Jones, Mr. Michael Malone, Ms. Laura Ritenour, and Mr. Michael Wise

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The December 3, 2025, meeting of the Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards was called to order by the Chair, Justice James Beene, at 1:30 p.m. Justice Beene conducted member roll call, established a quorum, and mentioned the meeting was being recorded.

B. Approval of the September 3, 2025, Minutes

The draft minutes from the September 2025 meeting of the Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards were presented for approval. Justice Beene called for any corrections to the minutes, and none were made. A motion was made by Judge Michael Peterson and seconded by Niltza Flores to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

C. Call to the Public

Justice Beene announced that the Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards moved the "Call to the Public" section to the beginning of its meetings to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak. Justice Beene made a call to the public for comments. There was no answer.

D. Follow-up Reports on Criminal Case Management Efforts in Superior Courts

Sharon Yates from Coconino County presented updates on criminal case management efforts. She reviewed the criminal caseload plan, noting it was modeled after the civil tiered process and recently updated with the new felony time standards. In the updated process, case management conferences occur after settlement conferences, and cases that are not resolved then or do not meet plea agreements are moved to the trial track tier. Fiscal year data over the past three years showed improvements across all time standards tiers of about 10%.

Challenges discussed included cultural change within the courts, a significant increase in filings, limited judge availability, and increased caseloads for county attorneys. Committee members discussed the overall success of the project from 2022 to the present and noted the benefit of having outside observers provide insight. The private bar has been supportive of efforts to move cases more efficiently. Work is ongoing on a continuance policy for limited jurisdiction misdemeanors, and settlement conferences are intended to be final.

Todd Zweig from Pinal County is scheduled to present at a future meeting.

E. Update on Implementation of Administrative Order 2025-67 – Revisions to Time Standards

Laura Ritenour presented an update on AO 2025-67, which affects DUI, felony, and juvenile cases. All limited jurisdiction courts implemented the DUI changes by the end of Fiscal Year 2025. Felony reports in AJACS are scheduled for release this month, and updates for Agave and iCIS case management systems are expected within the next few months. Changing the start date from filing date to arraignment held date has posed some challenges, and courts are working to ensure their systems are ready. Completion of these updates is anticipated by March 2026, with timelines fully implemented by next July.

F. DUI Time Standards and Caseload Management Training Workgroup

Laura Ritenour reported on AO 2025-187, which requires all limited jurisdiction judges to watch the Chief Justice's Time Standards training video and attend either the 2025 GOHS Conference closing plenary panel or the 2026 Judicial Conference panel. Pro-tem judges who cannot attend must watch recordings of one of the panels. The Chief Justice's Time Standards Overview video was

shown, and the outline for the GOHS Conference panel was presented. Michael Malone noted that a few exemption requests had already been submitted by judges.

G. Update on Time Standards Report Accuracy Workgroup

Justice Beene stated that Judge Napper is chairing this workgroup. Laura Ritenour reported that additional members, including family law judges, had been added to the workgroup. Laura and Jeff Fine conducted site visits to Pinal and Gila counties to gather insights from court and clerk staff and a second survey was distributed to gather further information from court administrators. Staffing shortages and training gaps were identified as the primary concerns affecting accuracy in time standards reports. Workgroup meetings are scheduled for January, February, and March 2026, with results and recommendations expected to be presented at the June steering committee meeting.

H. Discussion on New Requests for Excluded Time Scenarios on Time Standards Reports

Laura Ritenour opened a discussion on how to determine what qualifies as “outside of the court’s control” when considering new requests for excluded time on Time Standards reports. She noted recent examples submitted by courts, such as deceased defendants and remote hearings involving out-of-state defendants. Committee members discussed how they handle these situations and emphasized avoiding exclusions that might reduce the urgency to resolve cases. Bankruptcy matters were cited as a clear example of circumstances truly beyond the court’s control.

I. Data Standardization Advisory Committee (DSAC) Update

Mike Malone reported that the committee recently approved new statewide codes, including a case category for interstate compact for juvenile cases, affidavit arrest warrants under Senate Bill 1232, and third-party litigation funding. He noted that case type and subtype updates were implemented to improve standardization across general and limited jurisdiction courts, and the 2027-2030 Draft Required Data Elements checklists were shared at the December advisory meeting.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

II. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 4, 2026, and is hybrid format, with attendees and members appearing either in-person at the State Courts Building or over Zoom webinar. In-person attendees and members should come to Room 331 at the State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington, Phoenix AZ 85007.

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE
AND DATA STANDARDS**

Date of Meeting:	Type of Action Required:	Subject:
March 4, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	NCSC Technical Assistance Project - Report-out from Pinal County Superior Court

PRESENTER(S):

Todd Zweig, Court Administrator, Superior Court of Pinal County

DISCUSSION:

In 2024, members heard from six county court administrators about the NCSC technical assistance project and the outcomes they are working towards. Today, Todd Zweig will provide updates on the changes the court implemented after the technical assistance, the challenges the court has faced during implementation, and data showing the results of the implementation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

For information only.

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE
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Date of Meeting:	Type of Action Required:	Subject:
March 4, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Discussion on Strategic Agenda Goal 4.1.b.1 – Presiding Judge Process to Review Time Standards Compliance

PRESENTER(S):

Hon. Michael Peterson, Presiding Judge, Graham County Superior Court, and Laura Ritenour, Caseflow Management Specialist, AOC Court Services Division

DISCUSSION:

In the 2024-2029 Arizona Judicial Branch Strategic Agenda, Goal 4 is Advancing Judicial Branch Excellence and Innovation. Goal 4.1.b.1 is to increase the utilization of data dashboards, data analytics tools, and time standard reports that already exist, by requiring presiding judges to establish a process for individual judges to review compliance with case processing standards.

Judge Michael Peterson has agreed to discuss this goal with the other superior court presiding judges at their March 11th meeting (time permitting). This meeting is attended by the Chief Justice, Vice Chief Justice, the presiding judge from each county, and AOC Executive Director and Deputy Director. He is seeking ideas and questions from members to spur discussion.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

For information only.

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE
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Date of Meeting:	Type of Action Required:	Subject:
March 4, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Data Standardization Advisory Committee Update

PRESENTER(S):

Michael Malone, Director, AOC Court Services Division

DISCUSSION:

Michael Malone, chair of the Data Standardization Advisory Committee, will give an update on the committee’s progress since the December meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

For Information Only

Data Standardization Advisory Committee

Summary for March 4, 2026, Steering Committee Meeting

From: Michael Malone, Court Services Division Director

Over the past three months, the Data Standardization Advisory Committee has continued advancing statewide data standardization efforts through the review and approval of multiple code sets.

The committee approved several codes for:

- Online Citation Payment (OLCP) Event Codes
- Small Claims Case Subtype Codes

The committee is also completing internal reviews of the Event, Hearing Results, and Appearance Reason code sets and has begun the process to review Sentence Types.

The 2026 Required Data Elements checklist project is nearing completion, and the committee is engaged in discussions regarding the 2027–2030 RDE checklists to ensure a thoughtful and strategic approach to their development and completion.

The committee continues to take steps forward in standardizing data elements and improving consistency across systems.

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Date of Meeting:	Type of Action Required:	Subject:
March 4, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	DUI Time Standards and Caseflow Management Training Updates

PRESENTER(S):

Laura Ritenour, Caseflow Management Specialist, AOC Court Services Division

DISCUSSION:

In October 2025, Chief Justice Timmer signed Administrative Order 2025-187 adopting Mandatory Judicial Education Program On Misdemeanor DUI Case Processing And Time Standards. Laura Ritenour will provide a report-out on the December 5, 2025 GOHS conference plenary session on DUI case processing and an overview of the June 16th training to be held at the Judicial Conference in Tucson.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

For information only.

December 5, 2025 Governor's Office of Highway Safety Conference

Final Day Plenary Session - Criminal Misdemeanor DUI Time Standards: Getting Across the Finish Line While You Are Still Standing (90 minute session)

91 attendees, 33 completed evaluations, overall rating was 4.39/5, likeliness to apply information to their job 4.55/5

Panelists:

- Hon. Charles Adornetto, Wickenburg Town Court
- Darlene Cortez, San Luis Municipal Court
- Jennifer Curtiss, Tempe Municipal Court
- Hon. Craig Jennings, Avondale City Court
- Hon. Jerry Landau, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Luis Santaella, Scottsdale City Attorney
- David Ward, Phoenix Public Defender's Office

Topics:

1. Overview on Caseflow Management
2. Panel Discussion - Challenges in Achieving Time Standards in a DUI case
3. Prosecutor Viewpoint on Timely Resolution of a DUI case
4. Defense Attorney Viewpoint on Timely Resolution of a DUI case
5. How We Can Improve
6. The Future of Time Standards

June 16, 2026 Arizona Judicial Conference

Session - Criminal Misdemeanor DUI Time Standards (90 minute session), topics will be the same

Panelists:

- Hon. Jill Davis, Lake Havasu City Justice Court
- Chris Phelps, Scottsdale City Court
- Maia Rodriguez, Coconino County Superior Court
- Hon. Lauren Ramirez, Gilbert City Court
- Hon. Jerry Landau, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Luis Santaella, Scottsdale City Attorney
- David Ward, Phoenix Public Defender's Office

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Date of Meeting:	Type of Action Required:	Subject:
March 4, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Time Standards Report Accuracy Workgroup Update

PRESENTER(S):

Laura Ritenour, Caseflow Management Specialist, AOC Court Services Division

DISCUSSION:

At the September 2025 meeting, the Committee approved the formation of a workgroup to 1) identify data entry and court process challenges that contribute to inconsistencies in time standards report accuracy, and 2) provide recommendations to the Data Standards Steering Committee for possible modifications to data entry processes, court processes, or both.

Hon. John Napper, Presiding Judge for the Superior Court in Yavapai County, chairs the workgroup. Laura Ritenour will provide an update on the workgroup.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

For information only.

Time Standards Report Accuracy Workgroup

Summary for March 4, 2026 Steering Committee Meeting

Workgroup Members: Hon. John Napper (Chair), Hon. Ronda Fisk, James Giacomino, Kara Green, Paulina Lopez, Elicia Morrow, Hon. Neil Sherman, Christina Spurlock, Melissa Thomas, Heidi Torrio, Cassandra Urias. AOC Staff: Jennifer Jones, Jeff Fine, Michael Wise, Laura Ritenour

Workgroup Purpose: Over the past 4 years, when the AOC discussed publishing statewide and county data from the time standards' time to disposition reports, Data Standards Steering Committee members have voiced concerns over the reports' accuracy and have stated that the inaccuracy of the data is a barrier to supporting the report being published.

The workgroup's purpose is to 1) identify data entry and court process challenges that contribute to inconsistencies in time standards report accuracy, and 2) provide recommendations to the Data Standards Steering Committee for possible modifications to data entry processes and court processes.

Meetings' Summary: The workgroup met January 15th and February 3rd. They are scheduled to meet again on March 31st. The workgroup has discussed courts' challenges with the accuracy of time standards reports, including, human error and staff turnover, clerk discretion and interpretation issues, differences in county practices, the impact of document titles and coding, and query design.

The workgroup was provided with a detailed explanation of how time standards are measured in the case management systems, including the use of start and stop codes, excluded time scenarios, and the impact of document entry on case aging. The members reviewed the queries for all three Family Law reports (Dissolution and Allocation of Parental Responsibility, Pre-Decree Temporary Orders, and Post-Judgment Motions).

Initial Recommendations for Improving Data Accuracy: The group identified initial recommendations including judicial and staff education, reviewing and standardizing start and stop codes, adding in specific "cases filed on or after" parameters to queries so cases filed (and adjudicated) decades ago aren't added to reports, improving case management system user interfaces, and possibly surveying judges for further input. The workgroup will have final recommendations drafted for the Steering Committee's review at the June 3, 2026 meeting.