

Superior Court of Arizona in Pinal County
Court Commissioner Judicial Performance Review

<i>Commissioner:</i>	Lawrence M. Wharton
<i>Appointment Date:</i>	November 4, 2013
<i>Assignment:</i>	CRIMINAL (EDC/PRC)

LITIGANT/WITNESSES/JURORS/PRO PERS

Surveys sent: 67
Surveys returned: 15 (22.4% Returned)

	Superior/Very Good/ Satisfactory
Litigant/Witness/Juror/Pro Per Survey Questions	
Section I: Integrity	
<i>Basic fairness and impartiality.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of race.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of gender.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of religion.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of national origins.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of disability.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of age.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of economic status.</i>	100%
Section II: Communication Skills	
<i>Explained proceedings.</i>	100%
<i>Explained reasons for delays</i>	93%
<i>If a Juror, Clearly explained the juror's responsibilities.</i>	100%
Section III: Judicial Temperament	
<i>Understanding and compassion.</i>	100%
<i>Dignified.</i>	100%
<i>Courteous.</i>	100%
<i>Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and commissioner's ability.</i>	93%
<i>Patient.</i>	93%
Section IV: Administrative Performance	
<i>Punctual in conducting proceedings.</i>	87%
<i>Maintained proper control in courtroom.</i>	100%
<i>Was prepared for the proceedings.</i>	100%

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ATTORNEYS

Surveys sent: 119
Surveys returned: 37 (31% Returned)

	Superior/Very Good/ Satisfactory
Attorney Survey Questions	
Section I: Legal Ability	
<i>Legal reasoning ability.</i>	100%
<i>Knowledge of substantive law.</i>	100%
<i>Knowledge of rules of evidence.</i>	100%
<i>Knowledge of rules of procedures.</i>	100%
Section II: Integrity	
<i>Basic fairness and impartiality.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of race.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of gender.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of religion.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of national origins.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of disability.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of age.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of economic status.</i>	100%
Section III: Communication Skills	
<i>Clear and logical oral communication and directions.</i>	100%
<i>Clear and logical written decisions.</i>	100%
<i>Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard.</i>	100%
Section IV: Judicial Temperament	
<i>Understanding and compassion.</i>	100%
<i>Dignified.</i>	100%
<i>Courteous.</i>	100%
<i>Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and Commissioner's ability.</i>	100%
<i>Patient.</i>	100%
Section V: Administrative Performance	
<i>Punctual in conducting proceedings.</i>	100%
<i>Maintained proper control in courtroom.</i>	100%
<i>Prompt in making rulings and rendering decisions.</i>	100%
<i>Was prepared for the proceedings.</i>	100%
<i>Efficient management of the calendar.</i>	100%
Section VI: Settlement Activities	
<i>Appropriately conducted or promoted settlement.</i>	100%

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STAFF

Surveys sent: 35
Surveys returned: 12 (34.3% Returned)

	Superior/Very Good/ Satisfactory
Staff Survey Questions	
Section I: Integrity	
<i>Basic fairness and impartiality.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of race.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of gender.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of religion.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of national origins.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of disability.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of age.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation.</i>	100%
<i>Equal treatment regardless of economic status.</i>	100%
Section II: Communication Skills	
<i>Clear and logical communications.</i>	100%
Section III: Judicial Temperament	
<i>Understanding and compassion.</i>	100%
<i>Dignified.</i>	100%
<i>Courteous.</i>	100%
<i>Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and commissioner's ability.</i>	100%
<i>Patient</i>	100%
Section IV: Administrative Performance	
<i>Punctual in conducting proceedings.</i>	100%
<i>Maintained proper control in courtroom.</i>	100%
<i>Was prepared for the proceedings.</i>	100%
<i>Respectful treatment of staff.</i>	100%
<i>Cooperation with peers.</i>	100%
<i>Efficient management of calendar.</i>	100%

Hon. Lawrence M. Wharton
Litigant/Witness/Juror Surveys

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Survey #

LITIGANTS/WITNESSES/JURORS

SP

Survey # 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

Rating based on # of surveys

of 5's

of 4's

of 3's

of 2's

of 1's

of 0's

- Integrity**
- 1 Basic fairness and impartiality
 - 2 Equal treatment regardless of race
 - 3 Equal treatment regardless of gender
 - 4 Equal treatment regardless of religion
 - 5 Equal treatment regardless of national origin
 - 6 Equal treatment regardless of disability
 - 7 Equal treatment regardless of age
 - 8 Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation
 - 9 Equal treatment regardless of economic status

- Communication Skills**
- 1 Explained proceedings
 - 11 Explained reasons for delays

*12 Clearly explained juror's responsibilities (juror's only)

- Judicial Temperament**
- 13 Understanding and compassion
 - 14 Dignified
 - 15 Courteous
 - 16 Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability
 - 17 Patient

- Administrative Performance**
- 18 Punctual in conducting proceedings
 - 19 Maintained proper control in the Courtroom
 - 20 Was prepared for the proceedings

For comments see Word file under each Commissioner

Hon. Lawrence m. Wharton
Attorney Surveys

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Survey #

ATTORNEYS

Survey # 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

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- Legal Ability**
- 1 Legal reasoning ability
 - 2 Knowledge of substantive law
 - 3 Knowledge of rules of evidence
 - 4 Knowledge of rules of procedure

- Integrity**
- 5 Basic fairness and impartiality
 - 6 Equal treatment regardless of race
 - 7 Equal treatment regardless of gender
 - 8 Equal treatment regardless of religion
 - 9 Equal treatment regardless of national origin
 - 10 Equal treatment regardless of disability
 - 11 Equal treatment regardless of age
 - 12 Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation
 - 13 Equal treatment regardless of economic status

- Communication Skills**
- 14 Clear and logical oral communications and directions
 - 15 Clear and logical written decisions
 - 16 Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard

- Judicial Temperament**
- 17 Understanding and compassion
 - 18 Dignified
 - 19 Courteous
 - 20 Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability
 - 21 Patient

- Administrative Performance**
- 22 Punctual in conducting proceedings
 - 23 Maintained proper control in the Courtroom

4.4 Mean

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Hon. Lawrence M. Wharton

Atty Survey Number	Litigant Survey Number	Staff Survey Number	Comments
	1		Judge Wharton is fair and concern with upholding victim's rights and listens to their concerns.
	3		Muy [im]parcial todo bien (Everything is good - positive).
	4		Judge Wharton cares about the system. He treats both victims and defendants with dignity and respect.
	5		I walked in to hear a case that was obviously trying the Judge's patience, yet when it was my turn, he was absolutely respectful and attentive. Kudos to Judge Wharton, and to all Judges!
		3	When I first met Judge Wharton I wasn't aware that he was a Judge. He was very warm and approachable. Very nice to everyone, and very respectful.
		4	Fabulous judge to work for!
		5	Judge Wharton is an excellent Judge to work with. He should be held as an example for all Judges to see.
		6	Very compassionate - fair - great to work with.
1			My client was highly impressed w/Comm. Wharton's compassion and ability to communicate. As was I, but especially important to note coming from a person w/no legal background.
4			Judge Wharton is great. I love appearing in front of him.
5			Excellent at managing a calendar. Fair, intelligent. He would make a great Judge.
7			Sometimes talks too long in sentencings or continuations. EDC calendar is fast moving and he bogs it down at times.
8			Great Judge to be in front of, respectful to all whom enter the court he presides over.
9			No [settlement], [sellout], w/this judge. (?)
10			Love Judge Wharton in EDC. Always cheery and in a good mood. I like him a lot!
12			A wonderful asset to the Pinal County Bench.
13			Judge Wharton is a boon to Pinal County.
23			He will be an excellent Judge.
24			Comm Wharton is a great resource. He may be the best judicial officer here. I think we are all lucky to work with him and he is a model for fairness and treating people with respect.
25			Absolutely superb judge.
27			Judge Wharton is amazing! He should be a full divisional judge. He's requested by both sides of the aisle. Really good guy. Very fair. Clients can tell he cares about this work.
	6		Lots of delays in this case. The Judge was properly apologetic. I have to assume the delays were necessary, and the Jury could not be informed regarding what transpired.
	7		The experience was educational.
	11		I was most impressed by Judge Wharton. He conducted a smooth trial.
	13		The Judge was outstanding in all facets!
	14		3 to 4 hour waits seems extremely excessive.
30			Judge Wharton has a great understanding of the law and he is very respectful to the parties and attorneys who appear before him.

Atty Survey Number	Litigant Survey Number	Staff Survey Number	Comments
		12	<p>Judge Wharton has a lot of compassion for those that appear in front of him. If someone does well on probation and the are ready for early termination he is very congratulatory towards them. Believes in giving most defendants a "second chance", and always wants the best for every defendant that appears before him.</p>