



ADVANCING
JUSTICE
TOGETHER

2018 Update

Thank you for your commitment to advancing justice together. As you will see in this update, our collective efforts are serving Arizona residents with greater fairness, continued innovation, and improved processes.

— *Scott Bales*
Chief Justice



Goal 1

Promoting

ACCESS

to Justice

The Arizona Commission on Access to Justice published its third annual report highlighting achievements such as:

- ◆ From its inception in 2016, the Superior Court in Maricopa County's grant-funded AmeriCorps court navigator program has helped 190,638 total court patrons, escorted more than 3,000 customers to the protective order center, and logged more than 35,700 volunteer hours.
- ◆ Using www.AZCourtHelp.org as its web-based platform, Coconino County hosts free webinars through the site that are accessible from any mobile or desktop computer. The website offers court forms, instructional videos, recorded clinics, and a mapping feature identifying courts based on jurisdiction and geographic location.
- ◆ Working with the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, public libraries now serve as a source for legal information and forms. Local librarians who require additional assistance for their patrons can now call upon a cadre of volunteer law librarians for specific information.
- ◆ The Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts (CIDVC) completed two guides for conducting *ex parte* Orders of Protection hearings by remote video access. These guides provide step-by-step direction for courts, victim advocates, and law enforcement agencies that wish to establish remote video procedures.
- ◆ A Question and Response Handbook for self-represented litigants was published online covering more than 30 categories of court process and legal information.



Language Access Initiatives

- ◆ To date, 163 individuals have earned a certification through the Court Interpreter Credentialing Program.
- ◆ More than 400 bilingual court forms have been published online.



PROTECTING

Children, Families, and Communities

Evidence-Based Practices for Probation Supervision

- ◆ A statewide reentry plan was approved for individuals being placed on probation after release from Department of Corrections' custody.



Human Trafficking

- ◆ Behavioral health providers must now be qualified in trauma-informed care for trafficked youth.
- ◆ 250 probation officers, detention officers, court staff, service providers, and educators were trained in the neurobiology of trauma.

Dependency Cases

- ◆ The Supreme Court approved court rules of procedure for obtaining court orders for the removal of children from their homes.

Pretrial Initiative

- ◆ Pima County received a second grant from the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge to support efforts to reduce its jail population while maintaining public safety. Since the program began, Pima County has reduced its average daily jail population by 26 percent.



Goal 3

Improving Court

PROCESSES

to Better Serve the Public

Fair Justice Initiatives

- ◆ Local courts have alternatives to money-based release decisions to better protect the public and encourage court appearances.
- ◆ Bench Cards were approved and distributed providing judges guidance on conducting Order to Show Cause hearings.
- ◆ Arizona courts received a \$50,000 federal grant to develop protocols for presiding judges to convene meetings with community partners to better address the needs of defendants with mental health conditions.

Criminal Rules Restyling and Updating

- ◆ The Arizona Supreme Court approved the rewriting of Rules of Criminal Procedure that govern criminal cases filed in courts statewide. This was the first comprehensive revision of Arizona's criminal rules since 1973.

Civil Justice Reforms

- ◆ The Arizona Supreme Court approved rule changes recommended by the Civil Justice Reform Task Force to reduce the time and expense it takes to resolve civil cases in Arizona's superior courts.
- ◆ New "short trial" rules for cases under \$50,000 were approved for pilot in the Superior Court in Pima County.
- ◆ Small claims case processing rules were approved for pilot in several justice courts.

Commercial Court

- ◆ The Arizona Supreme Court established a three-year pilot commercial court in July 2015. In the first 27 months, 1,330 cases were assigned to the program and 764 of those were terminated.



Goal 3

Improving Court

PROCESSES

to Better Serve the Public

Family Law Rules

- ◆ Child support guidelines are being revised in light of Arizona's minimum wage change and new federal regulations affecting the calculation of child support.

Next Generation Case Management Systems

- ◆ A new automated case management system for limited jurisdiction courts has been implemented in 51 courts to replace an aging legacy system.
- ◆ The Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTSaz) was implemented in 14 counties to replace an aging legacy system.
- ◆ A computer-based judicial dashboard called E-bench is now in use in 14 counties by 241 judges and court staff. Judges can view case documents electronically from the bench, chambers, or remotely.
- ◆ Attorneys filing pleadings in Maricopa County now have the option to use one of two e-filing providers.
- ◆ E-filing was expanded to Yavapai, Mohave, and Santa Cruz Counties with the option to use either of two providers.

Court Security Initiative

- ◆ Court security standards were approved by the Supreme Court and legislation was enacted to provide funding to assist with implementation of the new standards.



Goal 4

Enhancing

PROFESSIONALISM

within Arizona's Courts

Judicial Excellence and Training

- ◆ More than 700 full and part-time Arizona judges received training on bail reform and handling initial appearances.
- ◆ More than 500 court staff and judges attended a program on implicit bias.

Workforce Development

- ◆ More than 350 participants viewed a webcast providing updates on the Fair Justice for All initiative.
- ◆ Court staff viewed a statewide webcast on the new court security standards.

Recognition of Court Achievements

- ◆ The Superior Court in Maricopa County received nine National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards in the areas of Adult Probation, Superior Court, Juvenile Court, and Juvenile Probation.
- ◆ The Arizona Women Lawyers Association named Judge Connie Contes as its 2017 recipient of the Ruth V. McGregor Award for her support and contributions to the advancement of women in the legal profession.
- ◆ Now retired, Judge Colleen McNally, Superior Court Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Department, received the *Casey Excellence for Children Leadership Award* from Casey Family Programs.
- ◆ Kathy Waters, Arizona Supreme Court Adult Probation Director received the *George Keiser Award for Exceptional Leadership* from the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE), for her leadership and mentoring for probation executives across the nation.
- ◆ The National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) selected "*Hidden in Plain Sight: Dementia and its Impact on Lawyers and Judges*" as the winner of its 2017 Community & Educational Outreach Award. The same program won a second national award from the Association for Continuing Legal Education in the category of Professional Excellence in the Public Interest.



- ◆ Domingo P. Corona, Director of the Pretrial Services Division at the Arizona Superior Court in Pima County, received the 2017 Member of the Year Award from the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.
- ◆ Tucson City Court's Domestic Violence Court was chosen by the U.S Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women to be a Domestic Violence Mentor Court and received a two-year grant.

Goal 5

Improving Communications and

COMMUNITY

Participation

Community Outreach

- ◆ The Supreme Court held oral arguments and question-and-answer sessions at the law schools at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona as well as Sedona Red Rock High School and Round Valley High School.
- ◆ A 10-member delegation from Kazakhstan attended oral arguments in Sedona and visited with the Supreme Court Justices and managers. They were especially interested in Arizona's method of selecting judges, Arizona's continuing education requirements and the Commission on Judicial Conduct.
- ◆ Division One of the Arizona Court of Appeals held Connecting with the Community events at Lake Havasu High School in the spring and hosted Shadow Mountain High School at the court in the fall.
- ◆ Division One helped judge mock oral arguments at Verrado High School.
- ◆ Division One held oral arguments at the Arizona Association of Defense Council's annual meeting, which members of the Arizona Trial Lawyers' Association also attended.
- ◆ Division Two of the Arizona Court of Appeals held high school outreach events in Gila County at Globe High School and Miami High School 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 the University of Arizona in March 2017 and also at the State Bar Convention in June 2017.
- ◆ Division Two held a roundtable for juvenile law practitioners who appeal cases to that court.



Court Volunteers

- ◆ Dependent Children's Services launched an ad campaign featuring Coach Bruce Arians of the Arizona Cardinals to recruit volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
- ◆ More than 473 CASA applicants received training through the Academy and Flex learning programs.





Follow us on Facebook at [@ArizonaSupremeCourt](https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaSupremeCourt) and on Twitter at [@AZCourts](https://twitter.com/AZCourts)

Free legal information, forms and tutorials available at www.azcourthelp.org

www.azcourts.gov

Prepared by the Communications Office at the Arizona Supreme Court.
Jan 2018