

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Three Court Professionals Become Fellows at the Institute for Court Management

PHOENIX – Two Valley residents and one Tucsonan became the latest Arizona court professionals to graduate from the Institute for Court Management Fellows program. The Fellows program is the highest certification and most demanding program of court management and the only program of its kind in the United States.

The final step of the Fellows process includes a three-day master class held in Washington, DC, during which participants present and reflect upon the results of their court research and improvement projects. Successful participants are recognized at a graduation ceremony held at the United States Supreme Court and awarded certification as a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management.

The new Fellows are:

- Victoria Vasquez, Director of Interpreter Services at the Superior Court in Pima County. Her research project was called *Voices for the Voiceless: Court Employee Training Curricula*.
- Abril Ruiz-Ortega of the Avondale Municipal Court, whose project was *Improving the Effectiveness of Court Orders Enforcement in the Avondale City Court*.
- Dexter Thomas, of the Maricopa County Justice Courts, whose research project was called *Moving Toward Effective Strategic Management in Maricopa County Justice Courts*.

To become eligible for a fellowship, applicants must have completed the Certified Court Manager process and the successor program, Certified Court Executive. Both of these programs demand rigorous study covering a broad array of topics including: caseload management; court performance standards; managing financial resources; technology projects; court-community communication; strategic planning and more.

The National Center for State Courts, based in Williamsburg, VA, sponsors the Institute for Court Management.

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Photo Left to Right:

Victoria Vasquez from the Superior Court in Pima County with Mary Campbell McQueen, President of the National Center for State Courts; Abril Ruiz-Ortega from the Avondale City Court with McQueen; and Dexter Thomas from the Maricopa County Justice Courts with McQueen.

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