



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court - Administrative Office of the Courts

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Aaron Nash

Phone: 602-452-3656

Email: [anash@courts.az.gov](mailto:anash@courts.az.gov)

February 11, 2019

## **Arizona Judiciary Welcomes New Clerks of Superior Court**

PHOENIX – One third of Arizona’s fifteen counties have new leadership in the Clerk of the Superior Court’s office in 2019, with five first-time clerks elected to that position last November. The Clerk of the Superior Court is a constitutional officer in Arizona, supporting the superior court in their counties in addition to other duties such as issuing marriage licenses, processing victim restitution, and in 13 counties, acting as the county’s jury commissioner. In Maricopa and Pima counties, the jury commissioner is a member of the court’s staff. The new clerks bring a variety of backgrounds and experience to the position, with four of five having worked in a clerk’s office or courts before being elected to head the office.

Jeff Fine, the Clerk of Superior Court of Maricopa County, served four years as the Maricopa County Justice Courts court administrator immediately prior to his election. Before that, he was elected as a Maricopa County justice of the peace and has served as a police officer, court marshal, and court administrator for the City of Goodyear. In addition, Fine served more than 20 years in the United States Air Force on active duty and in the reserve. Fine is an experienced presenter at court training events and has served on ten state and county level task forces and committees, including the Supreme Court’s recent Task Force on Delivery of Legal Services. “I am honored to serve and blessed with an amazing team. I look forward to the opportunity now before us to pursue projects and innovations that will further increase access to justice for the benefit of those we serve,” Fine said. “My goal is to make the court system easier to use and more efficient by leveraging current systems, proven technologies and implementing best practices.”

Gary Harrison, the Clerk of Superior Court of Pima County, is the first African American official to be elected in Pima County and the first African American to hold the position of Clerk in the state

of Arizona. Gary was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He was recruited by Fred Snowden in 1973 to play basketball for the University of Arizona. One of his goals is to improve the day to day operations of the Clerk's Office and prepare for the changes to come in the near future.

Amy Hunley, the Clerk of Superior Court of Cochise County, has 27 years' experience working in the legal field in Cochise County, including as a legal secretary for local law firms and the Attorney General's Office, and as a deputy clerk in the Superior Court Clerk's office. Before being elected clerk, Hunley managed Cochise County's court-appointed attorney program for 18 years, serving as the department director for the past 10 years. She is a 2018 graduate of Arizona State University's Certified Public Manager program. Hunley stated her goals as clerk are "to provide excellent customer service, to maintain accurate court records and to ensure that staff have the training and the tools they need to do their jobs well."

Madeline Montoya, the Clerk of Superior Court of Greenlee County, is a longtime resident there, was a deputy clerk in the office for five years before her election, and was Chief Deputy for the office at the time of her election as Clerk of the Court. Montoya also had prior management experience in the private sector and stated, "I work hard and I have the utmost confidence my office staff will do a great job."

Cindy Woodman, the Clerk of Superior Court of Graham County, is a graduate of Northern Arizona University who brings nearly 30 years of private sector customer service experience to the office. Woodman's themes for the office are integrity, respect, dignity, compassion, and a sense of family. One of Woodman's guiding quotes is: "Conduct yourself as if your mother was standing next to you."

The newly elected clerks attended new clerk training at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Phoenix on February 6, 2019. Topics covered included an overview of Arizona's judicial branch, statutory responsibilities, automation, collections, public information, and ongoing education and training opportunities. Although they are part of the state judicial branch and run for election on the same cycle as other statewide elected officials, superior court clerks are elected by the residents of the counties they serve.

For more information about Arizona's judicial branch, visit [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov).

###