

III. JUDICIAL BRANCH VISION



By implementing electronic case filing and access statewide, identifying best practices for various court operations, and developing new programs like veterans courts and the use of video remote interpreters, we will strive to better serve our communities, including those who are most vulnerable, such as children, the elderly, and victims of human trafficking or other crimes..

From... Advancing Justice Together: Courts & Communities 2014-2019

The Honorable Scott Bales assumed the leadership of the Judiciary in June 2014, becoming Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. He has provided direction to the Arizona Courts with his statement of Judicial Branch strategic initiatives in *Advancing Justice Together: Courts & Communities 2014-2019*, released in June 2014. The vision encompasses five broad goals, each associated with several key strategic business needs. This agenda is a road map to increasing the public's trust in and access to the court system.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Arizonans look to our courts to protect their rights and to resolve disputes fairly and efficiently. To serve these ends, Arizona's judicial branch must work to ensure that all individuals have effective access to justice. This goal is advanced not only by examining legal representation for moderate and low-income persons, but also by helping self-represented litigants and others navigate the judicial process and by using technology to make courts more accessible to all.

PROTECTING CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

The Arizona Judiciary has long made it a priority to protect our state's most vulnerable populations. We have reformed our juvenile courts to provide timely hearings and due process in child neglect and dependency cases. We have reformed our probate rules and laws to ensure our elderly have adequate protections against exploitation and abuse. Every day, we protect our communities by holding juvenile and adult probationers

accountable and providing the treatment and rehabilitative services they need to once again become productive and law-abiding members of the community.

While continuing our commitment to protecting the young and elderly, we also should expand the use of problem-solving courts to better serve individuals who may have specialized needs. Our communities look to courts not only to decide cases, but also to solve problems.

IMPROVING COURT PROCESSES TO BETTER SERVE THE PUBLIC

Providing access to justice requires our courts to continually strive to maintain and improve upon existing processes and systems which ensure effective and efficient case management and use of information and resources. Judges and court staff need the appropriate resources and training to ensure all cases are heard in a timely manner and processed efficiently. Also, our justice system partners and the public should be able to access courts and court information in the most efficient ways possible. While implementing planned technology improvements, we must also find ways to improve existing practices and policies to further ensure that public resources are used effectively, efficiently, and accountably.

ENHANCING PROFESSIONALISM WITHIN ARIZONA'S COURTS

Judicial excellence, staff competency, and professionalism are critical to maintaining Arizona's national reputation for innovation and leadership within its judiciary. Court personnel at every level must maintain the high level of service and professionalism exhibited daily in courts across the state.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Public awareness of the role of the judicial branch and what courts do on a daily basis is essential to ensuring trust and confidence in a judicial system that seeks to provide fair and impartial access to all. With so many media and social networking choices available today, courts can improve how they inform the public about court events and opportunities to serve as volunteers.