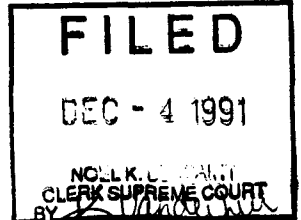


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA



IN THE MATTER OF)
IMPLEMENTATION OF)
A UNIFIED TRIAL COURT SYSTEM)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 91-36

In order to promote a more efficient, accessible, affordable and timely system of justice in the courts of general and limited jurisdiction in Maricopa and Pima Counties, and in accordance with and in addition to administrative orders delegating administrative supervision over limited jurisdiction courts in the respective counties to the Presiding Judges of the Counties,

IT IS ORDERED that the authority to develop and implement a unified trial court within the courts in their counties shall be vested in the Presiding Judges of Maricopa and Pima Counties.

The Presiding Judge of the County shall establish an executive management team, which utilizes existing trial court judicial and administrative leadership, and shall be responsible for the development of a strategy to implement a unified trial court within the county, in accordance with the following principles:

a. Promote better access, increase efficiency and maximize the use of resources in all the courts within the county to the fullest extent possible including, but not limited to:

1. Initiating steps to implement organizational changes through court rules, administrative orders, intergovernmental agreements, legislation and constitutional amendments;

2. Coordinating and implementing compatible information systems and technology at the local level for all jurisdictions within the county;

3. Improving information sharing and encouraging projects which utilize technology to increase accessibility and to improve efficiency and court management within their jurisdictions; and

4. Working with the Presiding Judges of each of the courts in the county to plan for the unified trial court in each county.

b. Submit an annual report to the Supreme Court on the administration of the trial courts in the county and long-term plans for the management and operations of the courts.

c. Appoint and meet as needed with a County Judicial Council whose judicial members shall be representative of the courts within the county.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

1. Local court reform efforts shall progress at a pace appropriate to the circumstances and resources in each county and, to the extent required by law, be a product of acceptance and commitment by interested parties and agencies.

2. Any local administrative orders to effect administrative changes together with the comments and recommendations of the County Judicial Council shall be submitted to the Arizona Judicial Council and to the Supreme Court for informational purposes.

3. The responsibility and authority of other presiding judges, court administrators and other court officials in the county as to the daily operations of their court or agencies shall remain unchanged unless changed by agreement, statute or court rule.

DATED AND ENTERED this 31st day of December, 1991 at the Arizona State Courts Building, Phoenix, Arizona.

FOR THE COURT:

FRANK X. GORDON
Chief Justice