On December 3, 2019, Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel met with Mohave County Superior and Limited Jurisdiction Court Judges and court management to discuss his new five-year strategic plan for the Arizona Courts entitled *Justice for the Future: Planning for Excellence*. The Strategic agenda continues the courts’ commitment to promoting access to justice, protecting our children, families, and communities, strengthening our courts, promoting public confidence in our court system, and enhancing professionalism in the legal community.
Justice Brutinel discussed the new initiatives in the plan and asked for input from local court leadership about the challenges the Mohave Courts and Probation face.

After the meeting, Justice Brutinel joined a host of local dignities and others for a tour and progress report on the new Mohave County Courthouse. More than 1-million pounds of structural steel and more than 36,000 pounds of masonry has already been used in the construction process, according to Tim Lewis, project foreman with general contractor Johnson Carlier. He said the project is more than 50% complete, and slightly ahead of schedule.

“This process has been phenomenal. It’s very exciting,” said Presiding Superior Court Judge Charles Gurtler. He stated the design features will promote security and public safety by creating work space and flows segregating inmates from staff and the general public. It is anticipated construction will be completed in late 2020.
Both Judge David Huerta and Judge John Taylor, working in a combined Justice of the Peace Court, cover a geographical area encompassing close to 1/3 of Mohave County. As they oversee what is often a defendant’s first intersect with the justice system, the work they do is impacting many, as they make every attempt to identify those with mental health needs and seek alternatives to incarceration. This often creates a defendant’s first opportunity to obtain treatment, provide more appropriate assistance and greatly reduce the chances of these defendants returning through our court system.

Because no Mental Health Court existed in the region, both Judge Huerta and Judge Taylor worked tirelessly to create a responsive system which would promote treatment, while working within the necessary framework of the court. Their “out-of-the-box thinking” has been the driving force for improving treatment options for people with mental illness who are involved in the criminal court system.

Judge Huerta and Judge Taylor have worked collaboratively with the Adult Detention Facility to divert low level offenders out of jail and connect them with community mental health providers in a warm hand off approach. Judge Huerta and Judge Taylor are both long time Kingman area residents and have raised their families in the local area. Caring deeply about the community they serve, they have both taken extraordinary steps to identify those in need of a different approach, who are better served outside the jail setting.

The Mohave County Sheriff’s Office highly values the working relationships their court has fostered with system and community partners. The treatment oriented process they have created has since been replicated by the Kingman Municipal Court Magistrate, who also now tries to identify those with mental illness and works with the jail to divert them from custody when at all possible.

The tireless efforts of Judge Huerta and Judge Taylor represent their desire to refuse to accept the status quo and to look for new and better ways to improve outcomes and the chance of recovery for people living with mental disorders and addictions. Their work in the Kingman/Cerbat Court is bringing understanding to many, that justice and safety often can be better served when those identified with a mental illness can be removed from the jail, to receive healthcare services in the community.

David’s Hope is honored to present the 2019 Judicial Officer Mental Health Criminal Justice Collaboration Award to Judge David Huerta and Judge John Taylor.
The 25th Annual Mohave Court and Probation Conference was held Wednesday through Friday, January 8-10, 2020, in Kingman. A total of 51 breakout sessions were offered Wednesday through Thursday at Mohave Community College and on Friday, two additional breakout sessions and the closing plenary were held at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

The Mohave Courts and Probation were honored to have Justice Andrew Gould from the Arizona Supreme Court present at the conference. On Thursday, January 9, 2020, Justice Gould presented a class on Providing Meaningful Language Access to LEP Litigants where the constitutional, legal, and practical issues involved in providing meaningful access to legal proceedings, in and out of the courtroom, for those that do not speak English. Best practices, solutions, and strategies for language access planning and addressing these issues were also discussed. On Friday, January 10, 2020, for the closing plenary Justice Gould provided an informative and thought provoking presentation on The Importance of the Right to a Jury Trial.

The Honorable Judge Gurtler served as the master of ceremonies for the awards presentation. Judge Gurtler recognized employees for 5, 10, 15, and 30 years of service to the courts. The names of employees nominated for a Making A Difference Award were announced in recognition of their contributions to the court system. The Making A Difference Award, including Supervisor of the Year and the TEAM Award, were presented to the employees by their respective Division Heads. Judge Gurtler presented the Presiding Judge Award to Kip Anderson, Superior Court Administrator.

Continued on page 9
5 Years of Service

L to R: Jonathon Deese, Probation, Rebecca Simonsen, Probation, Megan DeBaca, Probation, Courtney Tamayo, Lake Havasu Municipal, Ericka Clayton, Lake Havasu Municipal, Sonja Smith, Clerk of Superior Court, Cathy Tiner, Probation, Laura Manini, Probation, Adrian Marroquin, Probation, Frederick Shade, Superior Court. Not in photo: Jane Stern, Kingman/Cerbat Justice, Heather Caso, Lake Havasu Justice, Colene Lowery, Lake Havasu Municipal & Carolyn Voss, Superior Court.

10 Years of Service

Judicial Service Awards
Continued

15 Years of Service
John Somma, Probation. Not in photo: Sue Saunders, Lake Havasu Justice Court.

30 Years of Service
Not pictured: Hon. Barbara Brown, North Canyon Consolidated Court.

Presiding Judge Award
Making A Difference Awards

Pictured from left to right, Ann Williams and Virlynn Tinnell.

Pictured from left to right, Laurie Allen and Judge Huerta.

Pictured from left to right, Ashlee Lutgen and Judge Camacho.

Pictured from left to right, Alan Palomino and Terra Sears.

Ann Williams
Clerk of Superior Court
Individual Award Recipient

Laurie Allen
Limited Jurisdiction Courts
Individual Award Recipient

Ashlee Lutgen
Superior Court
Individual Award Recipient

Terra Sears
Probation
Individual Award Recipient
Making A Difference Awards

Continued

Craig Lee
Probation
Supervisor Award

Pictured from left to right, Craig Lee and Josh Frisby.

Juror Debit Payment Process
Clerk of Superior Court and Superior Court
TEAM Award

Pictured from left to right, Kyle Rimel, Superior Court, Virlynn Tinnell, Emily Dyson, Elizabeth Meins, Kim Cunningham and Christina Spurlock, Clerk of Superior Court.
Following the award ceremony, a video of Project AIM was shown to attendees. This video was completed as part of the Mohave Courts' new strategic plan, Access to Services, to explain all of the programs and services that Mohave County Juvenile Probation offers.

The Mohave Court and Probation Conference is held each year to provide cost effective training for all court and probation employees. The Arizona Supreme Court Code of Conduct Rule 2.5(C) requires judicial employees to comply with judicial education requirements and the Arizona Supreme Court Code of Judicial Administration, Section 1-302, requires all full-time judges and employees to obtain at least sixteen credit hours of judicial education each year, including ethics training, and computer security/network security training. The training requirement is pro-rated for part-time employees based upon the number of hours they work each week. These training standards ensure judicial branch employees continually receive education and training necessary to achieve the highest standard of competence, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism, and accountability.

Arizona Judiciary Mourns Retired Chief Justice Gordon
Excerpt from AOC News Release by Aaron Nash.

The Arizona Judicial Branch shares its condolences with the family of retired Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank X. Gordon, Jr. Former Justice Gordon passed away on January 6, three days before his 91st birthday.

Justice Gordon was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court by Governor Raul Castro in 1975, the first appellate court judge appointed under the merit selection system approved by Arizona's voters. He was the first Mohave County lawyer to serve on the Arizona Supreme Court and the first Mohave County lawyer to serve as chief justice. Justice Gordon was appointed to the Mohave County Superior Court bench in 1962 when he was 33 years old—the youngest judge in Arizona at the time— and served there until his appointment to the supreme court. Before his service as a judge, he was a partner with his father in the office of Gordon and Gordon in Kingman, Arizona from 1954 until 1962.

On the passing of Justice Gordon, Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel stated, "Justice Gordon was the embodiment of what it means to be a judge to a generation of Arizonans. He was a true gentleman who never forgot his small-town Arizona roots. The impact of his work to modernize and improve Arizona's justice system shapes our courts today. We are grateful for his service to the citizens of Arizona and to our courts."
Making A Difference Awards

Making A Difference Nominations

Individual Nominations

**Clerk of Superior Court**
Ann Williams

**Limited Jurisdiction Courts**
Laurie Allen
Natalie Hartmann

**Probation**
Brandy Obergh
Terra Sears
Cathy Tiner
Kelly Winston

**Superior Court**
Danielle Lecher
Ashlee Lutgen
Laura Townsley
Valerie Winters

Supervisor Nominations

Joseph Craig Lee, Probation
Tina Sweeney-Braniger, Lake Havasu Justice Court
Julie Somma, Probation

TEAM Nominations

Kingman Adult Field Unit
Terra Sears, DeShae Fangmeyer, John Somma, Ryan Woodard, Renee Wienckowski, David Talk, Megan DeBaca, Michael Geraci, Rodger Stewart, Kelly Winston, Larry Wood and Karla Muro.

Juvenile Truancy Team
Diann Albert, Patricia Zirkle and Brenda Ellis.

Juvenile Detention Garden
Amber Freed, Craig Lee, Gary Blanton, Sara Colbert, Emily Snay, Diann Albert, Don Doughty, James Owens and Adrian Marroquin.

Working after Hours to Post-Bond
Rhiannon Robbins, Amber Havenner, Betzaida Isiordia and Kerri Martin.

Overseeing Court Operations
Emmanuel Arias and Natalie Hartmann.
Making A Difference Awards
Continued

Making A Difference Nominations

TEAM Nominations

Kingman/Cerbat Justice Court Staff
Jody Gerow, Laurie DeVries, Nashell Leydekkers, Erika Zepeda, Chris Reed, Betsy Isiordia, Chandra Knobb, Gayle Auld, Jane Stern, Christine Mains, Dee Haslund, Amber Havenner, Donene Masters and Rhiannon Robbins.

Juror Debit Payment Process
Kyle Rimel, Christina Spurlock, Kim Cunningham, Emily Dyson, and Elizabeth Meins.

Improving Court Operations
Tina Sweeney-Braniger, Amber Barnard, Erica Birks, Heather Case, Rochelle Dailey, Carol Henry, Tiffany Leydekkers, Susan Saunders and Kimberly Stirling.

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.
-Jane Goodall
September 17, 2019

Each year, on September 17, we pause to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on this day in 1787.

Constitution Day provides an opportunity to reflect upon the principles enshrined in that document, including our equality under the law and the importance of an independent and impartial judiciary. These principles have guided our country’s progress toward equal justice and efforts to uphold the rule of law for over two centuries.

Not long after the signing of the Constitution, the adoption of the 6th Amendment established the right to a jury trial. Jury service is the constitutional companion of this right and plays an important role in educating citizens on how our judicial system functions. Thomas Jefferson once said he considered the jury system to be “the only anchor, ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.” Today, fewer than one percent of Arizona cases are tried to a jury and as a result, fewer citizens receive the civic education provided by jury service. We must continue our efforts to educate the public about this essential constitutional function and to restore trial by jury as a means of resolving society’s disputes.

On this day, it is also appropriate to recognize the work that all members of the judiciary—from our generous volunteers and community partners to our hardworking staff and judges—do every day to provide justice to all Arizonans under our state and federal constitutions. Thank you for your dedication to maintaining the rule of law as we work together to promote access to justice, strengthen our courts, and promote confidence in our judiciary.

Chief Justice Robert Brutinel
Mohave Juvenile Probation Presents on National Stage at APPA Winter Institute

Submitted by Josh Frisby, Probation

Several leaders from Mohave County Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Detention started off the new year by presenting at the American Probation and Parole Association’s 2020 Winter Training Institute. This year’s winter conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Juvenile Treatment Supervisor Sara Colbert, Juvenile Detention Administrator Amber Freed, and Deputy Director Natalie Eggers were invited to present on their work to develop Project AIM (Aspire to be better, Instill strong values, and Motivate others). Project AIM is an evening reporting center located in a non-secure area of juvenile detention that provides educational, therapeutic, and pro-social services to probation youth and families.

Sara, Amber, and Natalie’s presentation for Juvenile Probation: Breaking Down Barriers to Success in a Rural County, focused on their efforts to start the program and how they overcame barriers of limited resources and budgets that can be common for juvenile courts in rural communities. Their presentation detailed their efforts to connect with local providers and youth programs to broaden the number and types of services offered at Project AIM. Collaborators include Arizona Youth Partnership who provides the Strengthening Families Program with parent involvement, Arizona at Work aides juveniles in work readiness, Resilient Health provides therapeutic art, and Mohave Community College provides campus tours, enrollment assistance, and educational information. Other collaborators include the Mohave County Health Department, Army recruiters, recover speakers and the Kingman Fire Department. As the program has evolved, the group has worked together with Youth Care Worker Adrian Marroquin to develop classes on Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking and dating violence.

Months of planning, preparation, and community stakeholder collaboration that began in 2017 eventually led to Project AIM opening its doors in February 2018. Since that time, Project AIM has served over 100 youth and provided services to 24 families. The presentation highlighted the group’s creativity and innovation that has helped to meet a need despite limited resources and lifted up Project AIM into the national spotlight as a promising program that others might follow. The team was recently invited to present at the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges National Conference on Juvenile Justice in March. The team’s efforts and national presentations bring credit to their accomplishments and the great work being done in the Mohave County Superior Court.
Maricopa County Adult Probation Leadership Academy Graduates

Submitted by Natalie Eggers, Probation

In June 2019 Supervisors Phil Shannon and Steve Cromer started the Supervisor Leadership Academy through Maricopa County Probation. This cohort of classes was six, two-day sessions covering topics on The Leadership Journey, Leading and Inspiring Change, Crucial Conversations, Engaging Others, Handling the Rough Spots, and Communicating and Celebrating. Although these classes were engaging and very applicable and valuable, they demanded a lot of time and commitment. In December, both Phil and Steve graduated from the program and were able to bring back what they had learned to the department. Congratulations and thanks for your leadership contributions to the department!

Pictured left to right: Steve Cromer and Phil Shannon, Mohave County Probation Officer Seniors
Robert McEuen and Darren Winters were appointed Judge Pro Tem by the Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2019. The Swearing-In Ceremony took place on January 13th at the Kingman/Cerbat Justice Court. They will be attending New Judges Orientation in Phoenix starting January 27th. We are looking forward to putting them to work soon! Please help welcome the new Judge Pro Tems.

Deconsolidation of Lake Havasu Courts
Submitted by Tina Sweeny-Braniger, Lake Havasu Justice Court

As we leave 2019 behind us, we must not fail to look back to appreciate how far we have come. This is especially true for the Lake Havasu Consolidated Court. In the Spring of 2019, the deconsolidation had become a soon-to-be reality for many employees that never saw it coming. We went from being a fully functional Consolidated Court to questioning which side of the line we would land, as employees, and wondering what would happen to our close knit team.

As months went on, we realized we had to scramble to be prepared for our grand appearance on September 3rd (our first day of business for both the Lake Havasu City Municipal and Lake Havasu City Justice Courts). There was little time for deliberation and we had to work hard at becoming separate from the very people that were our teammates for so many years (in some cases decades). This challenge would prove to be the hardest part in the deconsolidation but like other challenges we have faced, we have proven to continue to be the great team we were by continuing to provide great customer service to our Justice and Municipal clientele. Additionally, individually as courts, we have grown and spread our wings in independence. It’s a new year, new beginnings and for the new Lake Havasu City Justice and Municipal Courts, it’s a new opportunity to for each court to make great strides in their own separate journeys.
Drug Court Commencement Ceremony
Submitted by Susan Davidson, Probation

The Mohave County Adult Drug Court Program is a specialized court, specifically structured for substance abusing offenders. It is uniquely structured to intensely monitor and address substance abuse issues. Our Drug Court first began in January of 2012, in Kingman, Arizona. Over time the program continued to grow and a Drug Court was developed in Bullhead City, and then eventually in Lake Havasu City.

This is a therapy, counseling and treatment program for certain types of narcotic offenders. An alternative to the ordinary prosecution of drug crimes, this program is non-adversarial in nature. The Drug Court program focuses on implementing and monitoring a network of drug counseling services for criminally addicted defendants. Drug Court services are based on a traditional reward/punishment behavior modification model predicted on a series of graduated incentives and sanctions. Using this system, drug offenders are given the opportunity to participate in a counseling and urinalysis-testing regimen. Upon successful completion of the Drug Court program, the participants are formally recognized during a commencement ceremony. These ceremonies are held every six months, and rotate between the three cities.

The Drug Court Program is managed by a team, which consists of a Presiding Judge, Deputy County Attorney, Deputy Public Defender, Drug Court Coordinator, Probation Officer, community agencies, community treatment providers, and law enforcement. The team relies on the substance abuse and educational services, provided by a variety of agencies in Mohave County, to address the defendants drug addiction and educational needs.

Our Drug Court program is a 5 phase, 14 month program. In addition to attending substance abuse treatment and participating in random urine analysis testing throughout the week, some participants also enroll in services with Arizona @ Work if they do not have a high school diploma or GED, so they can study and prepare for the GED test. In addition to assisting participants with obtaining their GED, and some financial needs, Arizona @ Work team members educate the participants on how to build a resume, interview for jobs, dress for success and much more. Budget classes are also available to our participants and provided by multiple agencies. By the time participants graduate from our program, they should have their GED, a stable job and residence, and be able to successfully be a part of our community.

On January 9, 2020, we held our twelfth Adult Drug Court Commencement Ceremony and had eight participants graduate. Justice Andrew Gould was our guest speaker, and he spoke about his time as a Drug Court Judge. His speech and dedication to the Drug Court program was inspiring for all to hear.
October 2019 National Domestic Violence & Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Prevention Begins with Me.....and You!

In observance of National Domestic Violence Month, the Mohave County Attorney Victim/Witness Program’s goal is to bring awareness to Domestic Violence and create a culture of change. Below is a list of events that took place to bring awareness for the month of October:

**5th Annual Lighting Arizona Purple** - Governor Doug Ducey will light the State Capitol “PURPLE” as a Symbol of Arizona’s dedication to ending Domestic Violence on October 01, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

The Mohave County Attorney’s Office and the Mohave County Attorney Victim/Witness Program will “LIGHT UP PURPLE” for the month of October as our dedication to ending Domestic Violence.


Haven Family Resource Center is hosting a walk to raise awareness, provide resources and honor victims of Domestic Violence on October 28, 2019 @ 9:00 AM, located at Rotary Park.

KAAP (Kingman Aide to Abused People) will be hosting a walk away from domestic violence and drugs on October 16, 2019. The walk will be at Centennial Park beginning at 5:30 PM.

The Pioneer Park in Mesa, Arizona is hosting a Domestic Violence Awareness night on October 23, 2019 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

The Phoenix Suns will be partnering with the City of Phoenix and ACESDV during the game on October 14, 2019, to show support for Domestic Violence Survivors.

Community Alliance Against Family Abuse (CAAFA) will be hosting “Jack Trivia Play” on October 09, 2019.

Pima County Attorney’s Office, TPD, PCSO and Center Against Domestic Abuse will be hosting a “Break the Silence, Walk in Alliance” on October 23, 2019.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Also, in support of National breast cancer awareness, Mohave County Superior Court Employees were proud to wear pink shirts.
On January 11, 2020, Mohave County Juvenile Probation hosted “Recreation for Recovery” for our Juvenile Drug Treatment Court participants and team members. Team members consist of members from probation, mental health agencies, Department of Child Safety, Arizona Youth Partnership, Arizona at Work, local school resource officers, local school representatives, and community members. Together these team members meet and discuss progressions and difficulties for each participant. Staff contribute information on each case to the Judge to ensure each participant is receiving full support and resources. The idea is to help the youth develop new thought processes and demonstrate behaviors that reinforce good decision making. Recreation for Recovery events have been created with the idea that juveniles and their team members could associate outside of their weekly Court proceedings in a pro-social environment and it gives the youth, who ultimately become friends, a way to socialize/network in a positive manner.

This year’s event was held at Cerbat Lanes in Kingman, AZ and included all three Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts: Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City. In total twelve of our thirteen participants were present for the event plus several of our team members.

On January 25, 2020, Juvenile Health and Wellness Court will be participating in their Recreation for Recovery with their team members, also hosted at Cerbat Lanes.
Thank you for your service and dedication to the Mohave County Courts!

**Superior Court**

- Lacey Stewart 1 year
- Hon. Eric Gordon 1 year
- Sylvia Ogata 2 years
- Melissa Thomas 2 years
- Kimberly Warren 3 years
- Lacie Robbins 4 years
- Hon. Billy Sipe 5 years
- Jewell Martin 7 years
- Jeannie Murk 7 years
- Deborah Pitts 7 years
- Theresa Salsberry 7 years
- Amber Hurley 10 years
- Hon. Rick Williams 11 years
- Debra Cobb 13 years
- Hon. Rick Lambert 13 years
- Hon. Charles Gurtler 17 years
- Kathy Sperando 17 years

- Deborah Riley 2 years
- Denise Pitt 3 years
- Jessica Hipes 7 years
- Karen Seckler 18 years

**Probation**

- Brandy Obergh 1 year
- Renee Wienckowski 1 year
- James Owens Jr. 2 years
- Alexis Villa 2 years
- Madeline Collier 2 years
- Heidi Schmidt 2 years
- Andrew Sgroi 3 years
- Nicole Aragon 5 years
- Amanda Simmons 7 years
- DeShae Fangmeyer 8 years
- Emily Snay 8 years
- Nancy Tharpe 9 years
- Susan Davidson 9 years
- Cindy Wolford 9 years

**Clerk of Superior Court**

- Elizabeth Meins 1 year
- Dawn Ramos 1 year
New Judicial Employees

**Bullhead Justice Court**
- Tabitha Beebe
- Samantha Caspe
- Stephanie Hammond

**Kingman/Cerbat Justice Court**
- Larrie Mott-Lechuga

**Lake Havasu Municipal Court**
- Lisa Jennings
- Amy Royes

**Clerk of Superior Court**
- Jeremy Kaplan
- Tamara Kinder

**Probation**
- Mariam Hart

**Superior Court**
- Toni Potter
- Kent Roggero

Benefits Activity Calendar for Judicial Team Members

Just a reminder that Mohave County Benefits has a Benefits Activity Calendar which can be accessed from the [Mohave County Employee Benefits webpage](#). The goal is to make departments and employees aware of upcoming wellness events to assist with planning and participation for these events. Dates, times and locations are subject to change so be sure to watch for flyers that are distributed with specific details about upcoming screenings and initiatives.

Below are some tentative dates for upcoming screenings/events:

- Skin Screening-Kingman 8:00-5:00, March 24, 25, 26, 2020
- Skin Screening-Bullhead 1:00 -4:30, April 6, 2020
- Skin Screening-Lake Havasu 8:30-11:00, April 9, 2020
- Health Risk Assessment-Bullhead and Lake Havasu, 8:00-10:00, April 14, 2020
- Health Risk Assessment-Kingman, 8:00-11:00, April 16, 2020
- Cardiac and Organ Screening-Kingman, 7:30-4:30 July 20, 21, 22, 2020
- Cardiac and Organ Screening-Bullhead, Time to Be Determined
- Cardiac and Organ Screening-Lake Havasu, 8:30-12:00, August 4, 2020
- FSA Open Enrollment Starts November 2, 2020, and ends November 27, 2020
Probation Employees Sworn Into Office

On January 15, 2020, Mohave County Probation held their Officer Swearing-In Ceremony at the Mohave County Courthouse. The Honorable Lee F. Jantzen administered the oaths. Pictured from left to right: Alan Palomino, Chief Probation Director, Surveillance Officer Stevan Radmanovich, Probation Officer James Owens, Juvenile Court Services Director Joshua Frisby, Juvenile Detention Officer Jake Spellman, Probation Officers Evelyn Smith and Kaitlyn Mattila, Juvenile Detention Officers Heather Lewis and Brandy Obergh, Deputy Director of Juvenile Court Services Natalie Eggers, Judge Jantzen, Probation Officers Ryan Woodward, Lanelle Wood, Victoria Flores and Renee Wienckowski.

Juvenile Court Services Director and Deputy Director of Juvenile Court Services Sworn into Office

Congratulations to the Mohave County Juvenile Court Services Director Joshua Frisby and Deputy Director of Juvenile Court Services Natalie Eggers.

From left to right, Joshua Frisby, Judge Jantzen and Natalie Eggers.
High Five Recognition

DeAnna Harnisch, Probation,
For her hard work and dedication to her team. She has been indispensable in the office unit, since we have been down 4 staff members and one brand new officer. She assisted in the search of a juvenile. She was quick to respond, took direction and control. She was very safe with her decisions and the situation. The following day in court, she helped her fellow officers, met with the families, and continued to help into Friday despite her own duties she still had to carry on.

Deb Pitts, Superior Court,
For the past 3 years she has been teaching the Parent Education Class and updating the curriculum to make sure it provides quality instruction. Recently she received an email from an attorney who attended the class and had many positive things to say including “your presentation was seamlessly blended, informative … and provided great tips for parents” He noted he will strongly encourage his clients to participate in this class.

Maddie Collier, Morgan Le Claire and Mark Mayberry, Probation,
For their help in changing lives and helping to improve our community. The Adult Drug Court supervise a specialty case load that requires a lot of attention to detail and supervising, which can be quite cumbersome and time consuming. We recently had 8 participants graduate from the program. This is partly due to the hard work of these officers. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Kim Truelove, Clerk of Superior Court,
For her efficiency, her willingness in helping customers and for going above and beyond to provide customers information and resources they need to assist them. She has been a tremendous addition to the Clerk’s office. She has trained in the criminal desk in addition to learning all she can about other departments. She has an abundance of dedication and enjoys her job. She puts out 100% to everything she does.

Stephen Behl, Probation,
For his willingness to help cover the Court Liaison office so his colleague could attend training. This is not a position he was familiar with but his willingness to step-up is commendable as is eager to learn about the different positions within the Probation Department. Thank you for all your hard work. You are a huge asset to the department.

Kim Warren and Lorrie Back, Superior Court,
In the past instructors were given a mileage form and claim form, which is complicated to complete and often resulted in back and forth sorting out. Kim suggested an all-inclusive invoice template which Lorrie was able to create. An email was sent out to instructors with the requested information we would need to reimburse them. This greatly simplified the process and makes it possible for instructors to receive reimbursement much faster.

Joe Bowen, Probation,
For his team work approach which is beyond ordinary. Recently during a challenging week, he by far exceeded expectations. With a new officer and other officers on modified duty and others in training, he stepped up and handled a great deal of work which is normally spread among 4. His smile and attitude, confirms what an awesome team member he is.
High Five Recognition

Jonathon Deese, Probation,
For his calm and positive demeanor and his training qualities. He has been my primary field training officer. He has provided a safe and effective learning environment. He gives praise and encouragement as appropriate. He does not criticize when mistakes are made but talks through it and uses that opportunity to teach and be a better leader. For his help in my knowledge growth and skills of this field. Learning from him has made me a better Officer.

Mike Hobbs, Superior Court,
For being the “knight in shining armor” and for being there when he was needed. There was a customer profoundly deaf and extremely agitated. While I scrambled for resources to assist him, security was contacted for their help with this situation. He ended up being familiar with the person (who did not communicate via sign language, his primary language was Spanish and his handwriting was extremely difficult to read). He was able to communicate via writing notes back and forth. The end result was the customer was much calmer and left with the required information he needed.

DeAnna Harnisch, Probation,
For always willing to give of herself and help. She steps up whenever anyone needs help without regard to her own schedule or where the help is needed. She helped cover at project AIM. MCC was scheduled to present for an evening and happened to be a couple of hours short. She stepped up and started a hands-on activity with the kids, including rewarding the winning group. She not only steps up, she follows through and does it not for recognition but for the smiles she puts on the juveniles. Her desire to be that one adult who they see as never giving up on them. The kids think she is “awesome” and we think she is amazing and a crucial member of Probation.

Sara Colbert, Probation,
For her heart and work she puts into everything she does. As part of the strategic agenda, the workgroup “Access to Justice” is working on a series of short films to educate the public on court programs/procedures/process. Project AIM being the first short film which required planning, cleaning, coordinating and a few acting skills, which she mastered and coordinated so Officers, youth and families were able to participate and attend in the recording of this project. Thanks to her we were able to put together this video on a program that is near and dear to us, which will be used in local, state and national platforms.

Kyle Rimel, Jim Pan, Brian Kelly, Heather Yarbrough and John Wolf, Superior Court,
For their help with Juvenile Probation in preparing and implementing text notifications for victims. Additionally, individual staff have assisted in computer set-up, streamline, update Courtweb access, computer issues and access to files. Despite their busy workload and added workload of the new courthouse, they are responsive and helpful. Thank you for the work you do to ensure we can easily do ours.

Mr. Lee, Ms. Wolford, Ms. Wells, Mr. Whalen, Mr. Scurti, Brenda Ellis, Don Doughty, Probation,
For their work as a team to make the best of our difficult situation. A juvenile was having a difficult time accepting the placement she was about to be released to. Over an hour was spent in an effort to reduce her anxiety. All involved used compassion, problem solving and teamwork to make sure the best outcome possible was achieved. Your dedication, hard work and desire to help juveniles is greatly appreciated.

Continued on page 25
On October 3, 2019, approximately 40 students from the 5th grade Bullhead City Middle School toured the Mohave County Superior Courthouse in Kingman. Bob Lawless, Court Security Manager, and Fred Shade, Caseflow Manager, served as tour guides. The students were taken to the Jury Assembly Room and watched the video that is shown to all prospective jurors. After the video, the students had an opportunity to ask the Jury Clerk questions about the jury selection process.

The students were then divided into two groups, with one group visiting Judge Lambert and one group visiting Judge McCoy. Judge Lambert conducted a mock trial and students in Judge McCoy’s Courtroom observed a juvenile case hearing. After the hearings, the students went to the other judge’s courtroom.

The students wrote thank you letters to the Superior Court Staff to thank them for the tour and share what they learned:

“Thank you for the tour and thank you for teaching me so much today.”

“The field trip was amazing, and I learned a lot of things I should not do in my teen and adult years.”

“I had no idea that a 15-year-old boy could go to court and be in handcuffs.”

“I liked seeing the WWI statue.”

“Thank you for telling us about the laws, the judges and giving us a tour.”

“Thank you for taking the time out of your job to teach us about the Superior Court.”

“This was a great experience for me because when I am older I want to become a lawyer. When I grow up I plan to work at Mohave County Superior Court.”

Save the Date!
2020 Summer COJET Conference

Summer COJET Conference dates are as follows:
June 24-26, 2020.
Save the date and we look forward to seeing you there.
Lake Havasu Juvenile Probation Intern
Submitted by Phil Shannon, Probation

The Lake Havasu City office of the Mohave County Juvenile Probation Department welcomed Sarah Romero to their team as an intern. Sarah is attending Arizona State University Lake Havasu City campus and applied for an internship with Juvenile Probation. Sarah is a Criminal Justice major and is interested in the field of probation, specifically working with juvenile offenders. Sarah grew up in Kingman and is currently living the “dorm life” at ASU. She is employed with Smith’s grocery store and recently accepted part time employment at ASU while maintaining a fulltime school schedule. She will be working with officers in the Lake Havasu City office 8-10 hours per week. Sarah will learn how officers manage caseloads, enter data, perform school contacts, conduct office appointments, and assist with the court process. She will also become familiar with petitions and reports that are filed with the court. Sarah will be working with our department throughout the next semester. The Lake Havasu City staff is excited about sharing their experiences and knowledge with Sarah and we hope that her internship allows her to develop a successful career path in criminal justice.

High Five Recognition
Continued from page 23

Nicole Aragon, Superior Court,
For her hard work and for being an asset to the courts and their respective departments. Since I came into my new role, we have been working on updating forms on Courtweb. She is our point person to make sure all forms are working correctly and updated as requested. She always does so without complaint and is always cordial. Not only in regards to Courtweb, but in relation to all the work she puts in a daily basis.

Megan DeBaca, Probation,
For all your hard work into training me. I had a great time getting to know you. I adore how well you perform your duties and I could only hope to fill in your shoes, you’re passing down to me. You demonstrate such a high level of service and you have such a great relationship with the attorneys and court staff.

Amayrani Galvez, Probation,
I want to thank you for being a great cubicle partner. Every day I miss you and everyone in the Bullhead City Office. I admire how well you handle difficult situations and taking the extra step to achieve excellence in your work. You demonstrate such commitment to your work and exhibit great leadership role.

Every day employees of the Court are making a difference. Recognize your co-workers through the High 5 Program! Forms are available on Courtweb under Employee Recognition.
Since 2020 is an election year, now is a good time to review Canon 4 of the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees. The Limitations on Political Activities of Judicial Employees provides some great guidance for court and probation employees. Canon 4 of the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees places significant limitations on the political activities of judicial employees.

The judiciary has a long tradition of neutrality in political matters in order to preserve public trust and confidence that the judiciary is independent, fair, and impartial. The Code of Judicial Conduct strictly limits the political activities of judges. Judicial employees are not held to the same standards as judges unless they work so closely with a judge to be identified with a judge or with the court. All judicial employees are, however, expected to act in ways that will not compromise the neutrality of the judiciary. While judicial employees may express and act on personal opinions about political candidates and issues as other citizens, they should maintain neutrality in action and appearance when performing their duties on behalf of the judicial department.

Click on this link to review Limitations on Political Activities of Judicial Employees and here is the link to access the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees. If you have any questions please contact your Division Head.

“Make your history a good history. Your reputation is everything. Keep this in mind every day.” - Melanie Healey

Mohave County Courts
401 East Spring St., Kingman, Arizona 86401
Phone: (928) 718-4928; Fax (928) 753-8908
Email: schr@mohavecourts.com; Webpage: http://mohavecourts.az.gov