



# MOHAVE COUNTY COURTS



A N N U A L  
R E P O R T

# STRATEGIC PILLARS

- I Serving the Public
- II Delivering Timely Justice
- III Court Access, Facilities, Infrastructure
- IV Engaged Staff
- V Community Collaboration and Outreach

Roman Corinthian columns were illustriously sculpted and at times used as "victory columns" to commemorate success in military campaigns

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE

## Greetings:

The Mohave County Courts and Probation Department continue to work hard to serve the residents and visitors who participate in the court system. Judicial officers and staff enthusiastically provide services and programs that are rigorous in nature and designed to provide quality service to help ensure timely justice is provided in an innovative and professional manner. New programs have been introduced this past year in an effort to enhance services to the public and staff continue to explore new ways to improve access to information. New judicial officers and staff have joined the courts due to retirement and other opportunities. This annual report details many of the new and ongoing projects that are enhancing the services of the court and helping to improve the services that are available to the citizens of Mohave County.

Extensive work has been completed on the design of a new court building and the remodel of the existing courthouse and annex in Kingman. All interior and exterior design work is complete and the project has moved into the construction document phase. Several meetings with the City of Kingman were held and everything appears to be moving forward with the goal of starting construction on the new building in the coming year. The new building and the re-model of the existing building will ultimately provide the courts and the public with necessary new space, will improve access for the public, provide improved security, allow the court to better manage the workload and provide greater services to individuals within the community.

The Superior Court was challenged with the opportunity to be one of the early adopters of the State Courts eBench and eFiling systems. Extensive time was spent by staff from the Clerk's office and the IT department to review the systems and help make improvements in them before final roll-out to the court in early 2017. The considerable work and expertise provided by local staff helped improve the applications prior to their implementation here and in other counties throughout the State.

We were pleased to again host the Court of Appeals at the Lake Havasu City High School in March of this year. Their visit provided opportunities for local students and members of the public to participate in the process, ask questions of the Judges and visit with members of the judicial community. Many other positive programs continue to be developed and expanded within the court so I encourage you to read through this report to learn of the many efforts that are being done to improve court processes and procedures.

I again express appreciation for the continued support of the Arizona Supreme Court, the County Board of Supervisors and County Management in our efforts to accomplish the mission of the Court. I am thankful for the dedicated work of the judicial officers and court staff who put forth their best efforts each and every day to help keep the courts working in an efficient and productive manner.

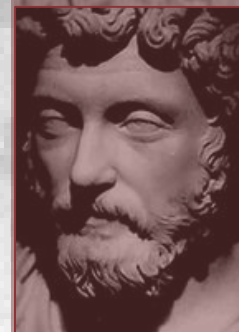
Charles W. Gurtler, Jr.

Presiding Judge





Ancient Greek "Lawbook"



Draco, the first "Lawgiver" outlined rules for adoption, inheritance and homicide

Top Left: Lake Havasu Wellness Program Hike Top Right: Starting Line of the Superhero 5k Middle: Judge Conn & Sherri Cullison Retirement Bottom Left: Tracy Doggett & Lacie Robbins at the Susan G. Komen 3-Day 60 Mile Walk Bottom Right: Awards given to the children participants of the Superhero 5k Run/Walk



# SERVING THE PUBLIC

## Youth Court

The Lake Havasu City Youth Court provides support for Justice Involved Youth and their families and positively affect adolescent development. Our community takes the future success of our youth very seriously. As an alternative to simply imposing sanctions such as fines for the parents to pay; LHCYC has adopted a Post Adjudicated alternative route for its youth. Through personal and professional assessment, the LHCYC has found that there are many youth with underlying issues that are influencing them to stay out after curfew, ditch school or experiment with alcohol or tobacco. In the Lake Havasu City Youth Court our goal is to end the cycle of our youth reoffending and coming back through our Court system or a higher Court. LHCYC works with a team of community resources to share information and make recommendations for the youth to make better choices for their future. This team includes the LHCPD, Interagency Council, Southwest Behavioral Health Services, Mohave County Probation, Arizona@Work, LHHS Counselor and Thunderbolt Middle School Principal and ISS Supervisor. Each of these members meet on a biweekly basis with Youth Court staff to collaborate and share information from the youth's treatment Court graduate recidivism is 25%. Since the inception of the LHCYC we have served 144 Youth and their families. Currently there are 106 youth in our program with 38 successfully completed the program. Our current graduate recidivism rate is 7.02%. progress in individual action plans to their progress in educational goals. These action plans are put into place and imposed at sentencing in lieu



of simply setting a fine for parents or guardians to pay. This helps to create accountability for the youth with attendance in school, maintaining good grades, learning to set boundaries and goals for their future. This past year, the LHCYC implemented 2 successful programs at no cost to the youth and their parent. Our first program we call the '7 at 7' program. Each Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m., the youth and their parent must appear at the middle school track to complete 7 laps. This was put into place as an alternative to community restitution hours. The youth is given credit for 2 hours of community restitution and if their parent or guardian participates along with them, they are given double credit. The beauty of this program is that members of the staffing team appear on their own time to walk with the youth and their family members. This has given an opportunity for the youth to share anything they like in an open and non-judgmental environment. The second program implemented this year is the 'Strengthening Families Project.' This program is offered to all Mohave County families through Arizona Youth Partnership available at #928-692-5889 and is supported by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family as well as the Arizona Parents Commission. This eight week educational program is free and provides dinner with the family every week before allowing the youth and the parent opportunities to obtain skills to help them resist peer pressure and create healthy communication. We have had 14 families successfully complete this program with positive feedback.

## Civil Traffic

In order to improve customer service and provide better information to the public, civil traffic information has now been added to Lake Havasu City's website, [LHCAZ.GOV](http://LHCAZ.GOV). This information was previously only available on the Mohave County website, [MOHAVECOURTS.COM](http://MOHAVECOURTS.COM), or on paper handouts given to drivers by the citing officer. Drivers that receive civil traffic tickets can go online to find out what their options are. They can pay online, request civil traffic hearings, or obtain information about defensive driving classes. Social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter are also now being used to provide this information to the public. Having this information available online benefits drivers a great deal. We have a lot of out of state visitors that appreciate not having to come back for a court date if it is not required. We also anticipate these additional sources of information will reduce the number of phone calls and walk in customers to the court.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA  
COUNTY OF MOHAVE  
ONLINE PAYMENTS

Step 1: Search Your Bills   Step 2: Select Payments   Step 3: Review and Submit   Step 4: Confirmation and Receipt

Step 1: Search Your Bills  
Welcome to your payment page; this page is hosted by Point & Pay.  
Begin by searching for your bills here, then proceed to the next step to make your payment.

Select Payment Type

Cancel

## Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking (MVST) Liaison

In 2015, Deputy Probation Officer Senior, Natalie Eggers was chosen to be Mohave County Probation's Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking Liaison. Natalie attended an initial training on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in Arizona, along with other County Specialists from around the state. Since that time, Natalie has continued her education in the field of Minor Victims and had worked to bring that knowledge to Mohave County. Additionally, Natalie teaches an approved curriculum to all new officers (Detention and Probation) on how to recognize the signs of trafficking, how to respond appropriately and what tools may serve as a preventative measure. As a result of awareness and recognition that has been raised on this issue, Mohave County Probation will host our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Girl's Day Out event with an emphasis on Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking. Streetlight USA will be there to empower the girls with survivor stories, a speaker from Katie's Way will educate them on dating violence and a basic class on self-defense will be administered for the girls. We look forward to this event and educating and empowering our youth. To date, our department has provided services to four (4) confirmed youth who have been victimized and successfully referred them to services.



# SERVING THE PUBLIC

## E-Filing in Mohave County

On March 29, 2016 Chief Justice Scott Bales signed Administrative Order 2016-020 which lays out policies for electronic filing of civil cases in superior court locations other than Maricopa and Pima counties. Mohave County was the second rural county to go live with eFiling in June 2017. Filers can choose from either the eFileAZ or AZTurboCourt filing portals to electronically submit their documents to Superior Court. This has greatly improved access to the Court by providing 24-hour access to file court documents and pay filing fees in a safe, secure manner. Court documents can also be viewed and printed online. The Court saw over 100 filings in the first two months of online service and about 30 new civil cases. The submissions of civil documents to the Court has never been easier and technological enhancements continue to be developed and rolled out to continually improve the filing experience.

### Court Departments

Clerk of Superior Court



**NEW** E-filing  
E-filing Training

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk & Kids Dash

On April 15, 2017 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Superhero 5k and Kids Dash was held. There were close to 200 participants and many dressed in their favorite superhero costumes like Wonder Woman, Superman, Batman and The Hulk. The proceeds from the event go to the CASA Council of Mohave County. The Council is the fundraising arm of the CASA Organization which advocates in court for children in foster care.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Recreation for Recovery

On July 23, 2016 Juvenile Drug Court Teams and participants gathered for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Recreation for Recovery. This year's recreation was a softball tournament between the three major cities of Mohave County. These teams provide an opportunity for the judicial employees who work with youth in the court system to show their youth what having a good time without the use of drugs and alcohol looks and feels like.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Arizona Infant and Toddler Mental Health Symposium



The Mohave County Superior Court Team hosted their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Arizona Infant and Toddler Mental Health Symposium on April 4-5, 2017. Over 230 professionals from across Arizona gathered at the London Bridge Resort in Lake Havasu City for two days of various workshops, networking and learning from one another. The event was free to all attendees and funded by Arizona's First Things First.

## Mohave County Bullhead City Court Solar Panel Project

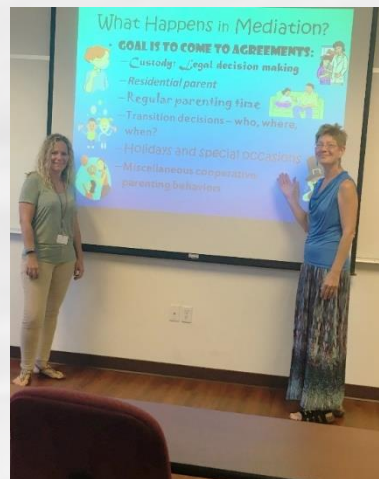
The Mohave County Court solar panel project was partially funded by Mohave County Electric Cooperative's Solar Initiative for the community. This program is part of MEC's renewable energy plan which is funded by a surcharge on members bills that is mandated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. MEC's Solar Initiative for the community program funds solar panel projects that reduce costs for facilities operated primarily from collected taxes, which benefits all members as taxpayers.



# DELIVERING TIMELY JUSTICE

## Increase in Jurors summoned

During fiscal year 2017 there was a 24% increase in jury trials held from the prior fiscal year. The Superior Court held 72 jury trials in 2017. The increase in trials also led to an increase of jurors summoned to appear. The number of jurors summoned was 8,884, an increase of 18% from the prior fiscal year. With the increase in jury trials, there has also been a three percent increase in the amount of monies paid to jurors for a total of \$221,688.37. This fiscal year there were a total of 1,523 jurors who failed to appear when summoned. This was an increase of 8% from the previous year. As a result, there were 57 Orders to Show Cause issued for the jurors with three or more failures to appear.



## Mediation Services

During the fiscal year 2017, the Mediation Department continued to provide great service to the citizens of Mohave County. During the fiscal year, 322 attendees participated in the Parent Education Class either in person or online. For the High Conflict Class, mediation trained 45 participants during the course of the 4 scheduled classes. 513 Mediation Sessions were set in which 321 took place. Out of the sessions that took place, 49% resulted in full agreements between the parties, 14% resulted in partial agreements and only 22% resulted in agreements without a signature page returned by the parties.

## Sue Gilbertson Leadership Award Recipient

On March 20, 2017 Superior Court Judge Richard Weiss was honored with the Sue Gilbertson Leadership Award for his leadership in coordinating a court team aimed at improving outcomes for young children in foster care. The program has been successful in obtaining permanency for many zero to three-year-olds removed by the Department of Child Safety and is serving as a model for similar efforts across the state.



## Strategic Agenda Award Recipients



On October 26, 2016 Dale Herren and Terra Sears from the Mohave County Probation Department received the 2016 Strategic Agenda Award from Chief Justice Bales, Arizona Supreme Court, for their work in developing a Runaway Handbook. Working as Intake Officers with Mohave County's Juvenile Court Services Program, they found a need and created a solution that protects children, families and communities.

## Remote Interpreter Programs

Further expansion of our interpreter system has provided ad-hoc interpretation services to our customers at the front counter. This is done by the deployment of multiple tablets at the front counters of our Limited and Superior Court offices. This service allows the clerk to connect to a video interpreter within a matter of seconds for all unplanned interpretation needs.

## Time Standards Reporting

Caseflow management is an essential part of operating a Court efficiently. Part of this process includes the detailed reporting of all case types. The Courts in Mohave County have always focused on reporting cases and this past year additional state standard reporting requirements have been expanded. The Court IT team has spent a great deal of time creating and automating these new reports to meet the requirements outlined by the State Supreme Court to provide the management staff the data necessary to identify possible areas of improvement.



## Self-Help Videos

Court IT continues to expand the public self-help videos to assist the public on specific court related areas such as Divorce with Children and Divorce without Children. The next video in the series will be a self-help video for filing a Petition for Post Conviction Relief. This upcoming video will assist pro-per parties request relief after being sentenced in criminal matters.

# COURT ACCESS, FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE

## New Superior Court Judge



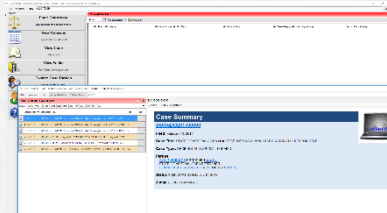
The Mohave County Courts welcomed a new Judicial Officer shortly after the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2017. July 2017, the Honorable Steven C. Moss was appointed as the Division III Judge for the Superior Court. Judge Moss said "Governor Ducey appointing me to the Superior Court is both an honor and humbling at the same time. I will strive to repay that trust by serving the citizens of Mohave County to the best of my ability." Judge Moss was appointed to fill the vacancy from the retirement of Superior Court Judge Steven F. Conn.

## Courtroom Evidence Presentation and Audio Systems upgrades

Audio systems in selected Courtrooms were upgraded to allow for a fully immersive audio system allowing all parties in the hearing to speak and hear one another clearly regardless if the party is participating via a video feed or teleconference.

## E-bench

A very unique tool set has been built and installed for the Judges in Mohave County. This tool set called E-bench allows multiple systems to be joined electronically into one view for the Judges and removes the need to search through individual files for hard copies of case documents.



## Security Team

In April 2017 the Lake Havasu City Limited Jurisdiction Court received a Bailiff as part of the County's pilot program. Shortly after Robin Richardson joined the court, the Security Team was created. This team consists of 5 staff members who meet briefly every 2 to 4 weeks to discuss, prevent and minimize potential security issues and safety concerns. To date, the team accomplishments include sending out weekly security tips, setting up Mental Health awareness and training classes, fire drill training and the purchase of clip boards at all front counter windows to put credit cards, money and receipts on to reduce the risk of potential harm. The team has several projects in the works as well. The Security Team's mission is to have every employee make it home safely every night.

## New Superior Courthouse and Remodel Project

Work continues on the development of the architectural and construction drawings for a new Superior Courthouse and remodel of the existing historic building in Kingman.



Additionally, plans to remodel the annex are also included in this project which will provide space for the Kingman/ Cerbat Justice Court. Court and County staff are working with the architectural firm of Dick & Fritsche Design Group to complete this project. The construction drawings are anticipated to be completed in September or October of 2017 with planned construction starting in late 2018.

## Security audit

Ransomware and many other forms of malware are becoming a significant threat to our core systems and services. During the past year the Courts in Mohave County joined with the Arizona Office of the Courts to implement technology solutions that will strengthen our infrastructure and provide greater redundancy in the event of a system infection.

## Court IT Technical Certification

Continuing the education of our staff is extremely important to ensure our staff has the most advanced training available for the systems we support. During FY17 Court IT staff members received additional technical certifications and Kyle Rimel, Court IT Director, completed the Arizona Courts Manager program.

## Server Refresh / System upgrades

Mohave County recognizes the need to keep technology current and refreshed. This past year several major network, server and video systems were replaced with newer and smarter technology. This type of refresh program allows the Courts in Mohave County to stay current with advanced technology that provides greater reliability to the services we offer.

## Pro-Tem Appointments to Court of Appeals

On September 21, 2016 Chief Justice Scott Bales appointed the Honorable Charles W. Gurtler, Jr. and the Honorable Rick Williams to serve as judge pro-tems in the Court of Appeals, Division One, to aid and assist in the consideration and disposition of pending cases. This work is in addition to their regular duties as judges for the Superior Court of Arizona, County of Mohave.



245  
Employees



256,854 Miles  
Driven in State/  
County Vehicles



87,760  
Phone Calls

AT THE COURTS

2/3

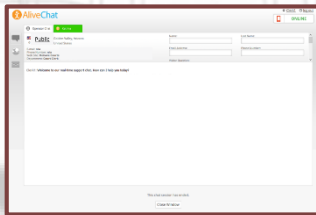
Of Probationers  
successfully  
completed  
Probation



2,661 Marriage Licenses were issued.  
Pictured is the "Knot of Hercules" that was  
worn on ancient Greek wedding dresses,  
the origin of the term "tying the knot"



198  
Appeals were  
processed



750  
Chat Line  
Conversations

COURTS ONLINE



427,094  
Visitors to website  
mohavecourts.com



#mohavecourts

203  
Followers on  
Twitter



105  
Followers on  
Facebook



3,690  
YouTube views of  
Pro Per Self-Help  
Videos



87  
TurboCourt Forms  
filled out for  
Mohave County



56+  
New E-Filed Cases  
received since going  
Live (June 2017)



426  
Remote  
Interpreter uses

**INNOVATION**

**+4.4%**

Increase in monies  
received using the  
Tax Intercept  
Program (TIP)



98  
Documents received via  
the E-filing vendors  
during FY-17. 963 and  
counting since its  
inception



2,266  
Passport requests were  
completed across the 3  
Superior Court  
Locations



6,034  
Visitors to the Law  
Library



5,093  
Felony Criminal  
Charges were disposed  
of

**SERVICE**



8,884  
Jurors summoned  
for duty



253,038  
Visitors to Mohave  
Court locations



79  
Graduates from  
Veterans Court



2,051  
Hours of COJET  
Training completed during  
Local Conferences



# W E N G A G E D S T A F F

## New Members of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform



Deputy Probation Officers Dale Herren and Terra Sears were selected as new members of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) Fellows Network based on the approval of their Capstone Project. Mohave County's Capstone Project, titled **Diversions** is focused on diverting youth from the formal court process. "This Capstone Project has the potential to be of tremendous value to youth in Mohave County," said Shay Bilchik, Director of CJJR. "It focuses on improving outcomes for youth by updating the current diversion program through the use of evidence-based practices and educating community partners on the purpose, process and value of a diversion program in the community." The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), part of Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, advances a balanced, multi-systems approach to reducing juvenile delinquency that promotes positive child and youth development while also holding youth accountable. The Center works to focus the nation's juvenile justice and related systems of care on the key principles embodied in an evidence-based juvenile justice reform agenda and identify and highlight the research on policies and practices that work best to reduce delinquency and achieve better outcomes for the nation's children. Members of the Mohave County Team attended the Juvenile Diversion Certificate Program in August 2016 and were admitted to the CJJR Fellows Network in January 2017. Their work was praised as "an excellent, well-crafted project with great potential to improve outcomes for youth in custody in Mohave County." Dale and Terra received certificates and a formal letter indicating that they are now officially part of the CJJR Fellows Network.

## Wellness Program

The Lake Havasu Consolidated Court founded a Wellness Program that was geared towards bringing Unity and Positivity in the workplace. The National Wellness Institute defines wellness as "the conscious, self-directed and evolving process of achieving full potential." Our court has adopted this mindset and intentionally focuses on how we can build happier, healthier, fully-present employees. Our program has had a great success as many employees participate in the various activities we plan. We believe this success is due to planning exciting activities that build stronger relationships between employees and their families. In addition, some of the events require teamwork that spills over into our work life and gives us all an outlet where we can relax and let down our guard with each other. We also intentionally incorporate activities that require exercise to help us achieve optimum health. Finally, we provided the option to employees to use one of their breaks to step away DAILY and participate in a 5 minute meditation coupled with relaxing music. Meditation has been proven to help reduce stress in the workplace. Early this year, we planned a painting night where employees and



## Juvenile Drug Court Retreat

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Juvenile Drug Court retreat was held April 14, 2017. This Hawaiian themed event was located at Shugrue's in Lake Havasu City. Participants included drug court team members from all three cities, juvenile probation officers from around the County, all three juvenile drug court judges, the majority of our probation administration staff, representation from the Administrative Office of the Courts and various other invited guests. Our Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, the Honorable Lee Jantzen, made opening remarks and welcomed guests. He was followed by a presentation from our guest speaker, Dr. Sandra Altshuler, Ph.D, L.I.C.S.W. from Spokane, Washington. In addition to being the full time coordinator of the Behavioral Health Therapeutic Drug Courts in Spokane County, Dr. Altshuler spent many years in academia and private practice, is a published author and has been nationally recognized for her work in supporting at-risk youth. Dr. Altshuler spent the morning introducing the new Juvenile Drug Treatment Court guidelines in detail to our group and discussing ways in which we were already following these updated guidelines in Mohave County. Dr. Altshuler presented on contingency management and its role in Juvenile Drug treatment Courts. This presentation outlined the various ways we can reward a juvenile's behavior to get desired outcomes. Drug Court team members were recognized and thanked for their participation in our drug court teams.



their spouses could participate in painting portraits at a local studio. We also planned a Kayak trip down a local river with scenic views. We hiked Hualapai Mountain to escape the heat with our families and friends and were able to exercise while enjoying great company. One of our recent events was an outing to a local Escape Room where employees worked in teams to find their way out! Since this program was founded, we can honestly say that our team has grown stronger and it is reflected in the atmosphere we all work. The court system can have its own challenges due to the nature of our work but infusing the environment with positivity and unity has made a positive change that is reflected in not only our attitudes, but our productivity. One of the favorite aspects of the Wellness Program was the incorporation of the "Golden Gavel". At every weekly staff meeting the "Golden Gavel" recipient passes it on to another employee in front of their peers and tells of the good deed/action this employee did to earn this acknowledgement. It goes a long way and ends our meetings on a positive note.



# COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

## AJACS Code Standardization Committee



Hon. Virlynn Tinnell, Andrew Dixon, Della Hiser, Frederick Shade

## AJACS User Group Committee



Della Hiser (Co-Lead), Andrew Dixon, Frederick Shade

## Arizona Association of Counties



Hon. Virlynn Tinnell

## Arizona Commission on Access to Justice



Kip Anderson

## Arizona Citizens Review Panel - Northern Region



Elaine Maestas, Kimberly Chappellear

## Arizona Judicial Council



Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr.

## Bridges to Recovery



Elaine Maestas

## COJET Committee



Gretchen Howell (Chair), Alan Palomino, Barbara Potter, Brenda Melodia, Christopher Carter, Dorothy Exley, Jamie King, Kay Phillips, Kip Anderson, Laura Townsley, Laurie Allen, Lori Linn, Michelle Amaya, Michelle Carrol-Volk, Melissa Solano, Nicole Aragon, Penny Carter, Valerie Winters, Wendy Perkins

## Commission on Technology



Hon. Virlynn Tinnell

## Commission on Victims in the Court



Hon. Richard Weiss

## Commission on the Judicial Employee Merit System



Christina Spurlock, Joe Prentice, Josh Frisby, Lori Linn

## Committee on Automation



Hon. Rick Williams (Chair), Hon. Barbara Brown, Hon. Dave Huerta, Hon. Jeffrey Singer, Hon. Jon Moss, Hon. Virlynn Tinnell, Alan Palomino, Elaine Maestas, Kip Anderson, Kyle Rimel, Laurie Allen

## Committee on Automation Subcommittee on User Support



Kyle Rimel (Chair), Hon. Virlynn Tinnell, Andrew Dixon, Barbara Potter, Frederick Shade, Jennifer Harrold, Kay Phillips, Kip Anderson, Laurie Allen, Melissa Solano, Michelle Amaya, Ruthie Teigen, Shaleen Bracken, Vicky Roundy

## Committee on Case Processing Standards



Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Hon. Jill Davis

## Committee on Probation



Alan Palomino, Elaine Maestas

## Committee on Probation Education



Elaine Maestas (Co-Chair)

## Committee on Superior Court



Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr.

## Community Advisory Board



Hon. Doug Camacho, Hon. Lee Jantzen, Hon. Rick Williams, Diann Albert, Elaine Maestas, Josh Frisby, Natalie Eggers

## County Picnic Committee



Karen Seckler

## Court Automation Coordinating Committee



Kip Anderson

## Court Leadership Institute of Arizona



Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Valerie Winters

## Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee



Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr. (Chair), Hon. Dave Huerta, Alan Palomino, Andrew Dixon, Bob Lawless, Kip Anderson, Kyle Rimel, Laurie Allen, Ronnie Walker, Valerie Winters

## Criminal Justice Coordinating Council



Hon. Billy Sipe, Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Hon. Dave Huerta, Hon. Derek Carlisle, Hon. Jill Davis, Hon. Jeffrey Singer, Hon. John Taylor, Hon. Jon Moss, Hon. Lee Jantzen, Hon. Rick Lambert, Hon. Rick Williams, Hon. Virlynn Tinnell, Alan Palomino, Elaine Maestas, Kip Anderson, Kyle Rimel, Laurie Allen, Michelle Amaya, Susan Davidson

## Crossover Youth Practice Model Governance Board



Elaine Maestas, Josh Frisby, Natalie Eggers, Terra Sears

## Dependency User Group



Cortney Kennedy, Frederick Shade, Jeannie Murk, Jewell Martin

## Digital Evidence Task Force



Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr.

## General Jurisdiction Steering Committee



Hon. Virlynn Tinnell

## JOLTSaz User Group



Brenda Melodia, Danielle Abel

## Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee



Hon. Rick Lambert

## Limited Jurisdiction Code Standardized Committee



Laurie Allen

## Loss Prevention Committee



Ann Williams, Bob Lawless, Doreen Ruggles-Grogan, Valerie Winters

## NCSC Review Project-Court Business Capability Model



Hon. Virlynn Tinnell

## Mohave County Employee Benefit Trust



Hon. Virlynn Tinnell

## Staff Safety Advisory Committee



Alan Palomino (Vice Chair), Eric Olivia, Ronnie Walker

## Strategic Planning Committee



Pillar 1 Chair- Hon. Virlynn Tinnell & Co-Chair Christina Spurlock, Pillar 2 Chair-Lorrie Back, Pillar 3 Chair- Hon. Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Pillar 4 Chair- Valerie Winters, Pillar 5 Chair- Hon. Rick Williams

## Steering Committee for Infant Toddler Mental Health



Hon. Derek Carlisle, Hon. Doug Camacho, Hon. Richard Weiss, Hon. Rick Williams, Kimberly Chappellear, Kip Anderson

## Technology Advisory Council



Kyle Rimel

Key: = National Committee

= Statewide Committee

= Countywide Committee

= Court wide Committee



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Girl's Day Out

*Girl's Day Out was born out of an idea proposed by Deputy Probation Officer Senior Diann Albert.* Under her guidance and direction, juvenile probation officers brought together 45 girls from around Mohave County to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Girl's Day Out Event. This event was held at Mohave Community College in Bullhead City on October 22, 2016. The theme was "Dream, Believe, and Succeed". The girls were provided an uplifting message on overcoming childhood obstacles by Lori Burns, who detailed her own troubled home life which led to her eventually running away, becoming involved in prostitution and having a drug addiction. Lori was able to rise above and now operates several homes for young women in situations similar to her own. They also heard from Brian Skinner a former Mohave County juvenile probationer who is now a motivational speaker, local business owner and MMA fighter. Brian not only shared his own story, but instructed the girls in personal safety and self-defense. AZYP also presented a Dove self-esteem program to help the girls gain insight into how others see them. Girl's Day Out was designed to provide a safe environment for girls in the juvenile justice system to learn and explore topics specific to females. In addition, the girls are provided snacks, lunch, a t-shirt and a gift bag with donated items. This past year, Legacy Foundation donated tennis shoes for each girl as well as bottled water and cookies. AZYP provided numerous items for the bags ranging from Chap Stick and sunscreen to promotional novelty items. MCC donated dental hygiene kits. The girls who attend not only gain valuable information, but are provided real life examples of others overcoming dysfunctional childhoods and negative life choices. Girl's Day Out would not be possible without the community partnerships of the Legacy Foundation, Mohave Community College and AZYP.



## Community Advisory Board (CAB)

In 2017, at the direction of the Honorable Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Presiding Superior Court Judge, our local Community Advisory Board (CAB) decentralized into three CABs. These Boards were established to represent Mohave County's three main population centers: Kingman, Lake Havasu City and Bullhead City. Members serve to promote and foster greater dialogue, education and understanding between the community and the juvenile court. Special recognition goes to the Honorable Rick Williams, for taking the lead on modifying the by-laws that implemented the changes to the program.

**Kingman Community Advisory Board (CAB)** Throughout last fiscal year, the Kingman Community Advisory Board (CAB) was busy at work providing aid to local programs that serve the youth of our city. The Kingman CAB was provided with money, to delegate as they deemed fit, to best serve the youth of our community. The members of the local CAB decided to have different youth organizations apply for the funds and explain to the board how they would allocate the funds if their organization was chosen. Multiple worthy organizations applied and out of those five were chosen to present to the board in person.

Among those five were the three ultimately chosen including Kamp Girl Power through Soroptimist International of Kingman, the Junior Police Academy through Kingman Police Department and Kingman High School's Lego Robotics Club.

**Bullhead City Community Advisory Board (CAB)** Throughout last fiscal year, the BHC Cab was involved in sponsoring a GAGA Ball pit at Mohave Valley Jr. High. The CAB purchased the kit and partnered with Medhi Azarmi of Fairway Construction who is supplying the wood and the labor for construction. Once constructed, probation youth will paint the pit as part of a CRS project. The GAGA pit should be constructed and ready for action when the students return to school in August.



**Lake Havasu City Community Advisory Board (CAB)** Throughout last fiscal year, the LHC Cab allocated funding to the Lake Havasu City Police Department to send two officers to NOVA certification training in Orem, UT. The mission of N.O.V.A. is: "Nurturing youth to seek out positive Opportunities, internalize good Values, and to accept Accountability for their choices in life. NOVA assists parents, families and communities in protecting youth from the potentially devastating effects of illegal drugs, violence, and negative media exposure. LHCPD is the only law enforcement agency statewide currently using NOVA. In Lake Havasu City, there are 5 certified officers but more are needed to facilitate this training to all 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders. Our committee wanted to meet the CAB's motto; "Service to others is the highest calling," and decided that funding two officers for training in NOVA would benefit the most youth in the LHC community.

## Court of Appeals Oral Arguments

On March 2, 2017 the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One, held oral arguments at the Lake Havasu City High School. Following the oral arguments, Judge Lawrence F. Winthrop from the Court of Appeals along with Superior Court Judges Derek Carlisle and Doug Camacho, Justice of the Peace Jill Davis and Lake Havasu City Magistrate Mitch Kalauli and the attorney who participated in the case answered questions from the students in attendance. Following this students were able to visit with the Judges during the lunch which was provided by the school. The Court of Appeals had previously held oral arguments on April 4, 2016 at the Kingman High School. These opportunities provide students the chance to ask questions and learn more about the judicial process.



Voting tablet used by Greek Jurors



Bronze ballots used by Greek Jurors

Pierced axels "Guilty"

Solid axels "Acquitted"



*«Qui Pro Domina Justitia Sequitur»*

*"who prosecutes on behalf of justice"*



Top Left: Kent Batty, COJET Conf Guest Speaker Top Right: January 2017 Swearing in Ceremony Middle: Judge Williams receiving the Commitment to Excellence Award presented by Judge Camacho Bottom Left: 2017 Courts Summer Softball Team Bottom Right: COJET Committee

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

## Charity Contributions

This year's Food Drive was a great success with a total of 1,065 items collected and donated to the Kingman Area Food Bank. The Clerk's Office is proud to be able to continue to help the Kingman Area Food Bank by collecting food for those in need. We feel a great sense of civic pride when it comes to helping those in our Community and hope to continue our efforts in the coming years.



On May 11, 2016 the Clerk's Office hosted its first Sweet Treats Silent Auction in the Mohave County Superior Court Clerk's hallway to raise money for the fight against cancer. With our Honorable Judges and Court Staff, we raised a total of \$716.50. We had such an incredible turn out in May that everyone agreed to keep our fundraising efforts going! On September 26, 2016 we held our second Sweet Treats Silent Auction, however, this time around we

we added casseroles too and raised a total of \$707.00. On top of our Sweet Treat Silent Auctions, the Clerk's Office had an annual display in the lobby to help raise money for our local Kingman Cancer Care Unit. In October of 2016 we raised \$202.50. On May 9, 2017 we held our third Sweet Treats Silent Auction raising \$967.00. All together thus far this year, the Mohave County Superior Court Staff has raised a total of **\$2,593.00!!!!** Needless to say, our fundraising efforts are not stopping anytime soon! Stay tuned for our next Sweet Treats Silent Auction and our 2017 Breast Cancer display in October!

## Annual Tri-State Veterans Stand Down

The Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council, a Non-Profit Organization "dedicated to bringing all groups together to assist veterans in need", hosted a Veterans Stand Down Friday, March 3-4, 2017 in Bullhead City. Representatives from the Mohave Courts were on-site to provide Veterans in need with assistance. The Veterans Stand Down served over 390 Veterans from across Mohave County.



## Veteran's Treatment Court

The objective of the Lake Havasu City Veteran's Court is to give Veterans who faithfully served their country a second chance by offering Justice Involved Veterans treatment for their substance abuse and mental health issues which can often be traced to their service experiences. The Court promotes sobriety,



recovery and stability through our treatment programs. To date, 170 Veterans have been admitted into the Veterans Treatment Court, 79 have graduated from the program and 60 of these Veterans are still being monitored by and treated through the courts. Length of involvement in the treatment courts ranges on average from 9 to 18 months, but could be slightly longer depending on the Veteran's individual needs. The Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court has a sobriety rate of 91% and all Veteran participants undergo extensive drug/alcohol monitoring and treatment to address any substance abuse and/or mental health concerns. Veteran Treatment Courts have a national recidivism rate of about 25%. The Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court has a recidivism rate of 3.8% in 3.5 years. The Veterans Treatment Court further connects Justice Involved Veterans to resources in the community. The Veterans Resource Team (VRT) was formed in response to the growing needs of the Veterans in our community and justice system. The VRT is a collaboration between many of the local Veteran and City organizations who have one common goal, to help our community's Veterans! In May 2017, the Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court was awarded a \$20,000 grant through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV Chapter 27) for Continuous Alcohol Monitoring through SCRAM of Arizona. In June 2017, the Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court was awarded a SAMHSA grant in the amount of \$906,430.00 over the course of 3 years starting September 2017. This grant unifies the Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court and the Kingman Veterans Treatment Court regionally. The grant will benefit Veterans participating in both Veterans Treatment Courts by providing additional services to current program participants as well as participants who are ineligible to receive local VA treatment services. In July 2017, the Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court was given the opportunity to present at the NADCP National Veterans Court Conference. The presentation discussed how to operate a successful Veterans Treatment Court in a rural community and highlighted the partnership between Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court and Kingman Veterans Treatment Court on a regional level.

# SUPERIOR COURT STATISTICS REVENUE COLLECTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 \$4,464,174.57

CRIMINAL  
\$1,364,916.00

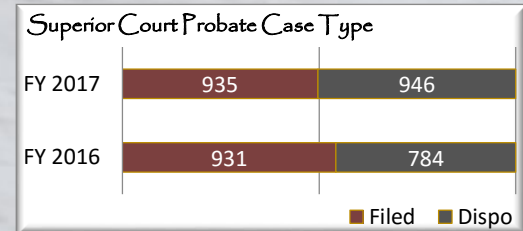
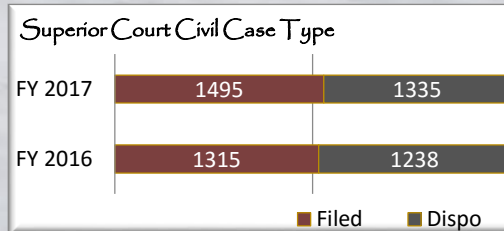
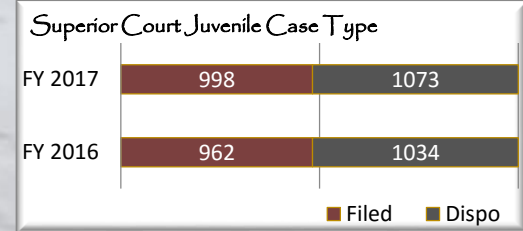
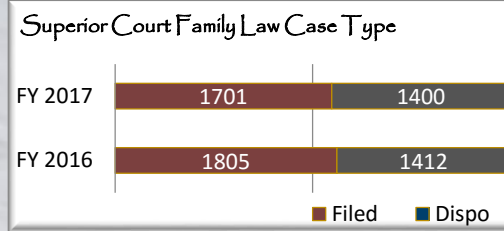
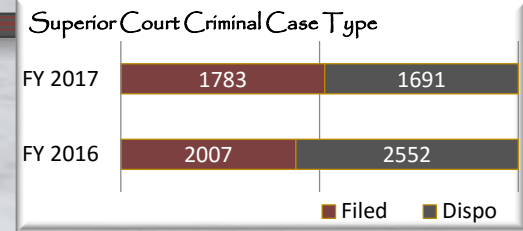
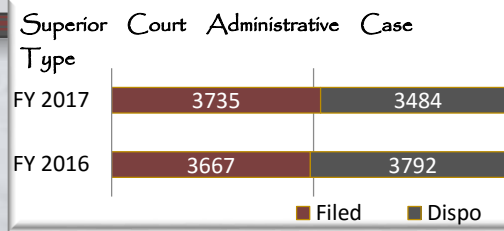
ADMIN  
\$1,463,148.90

CIVIL  
\$444,194.40

PROBATE  
\$285,941.70

FAMILY  
\$495,994.59

JUVENILE  
\$333,142.38



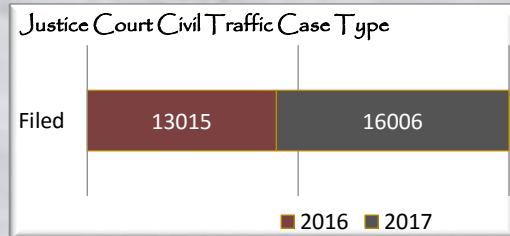
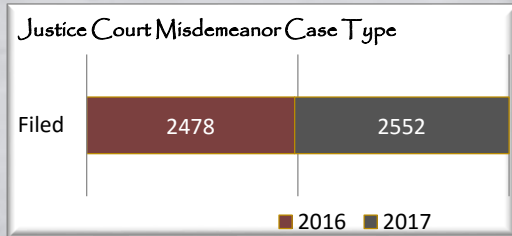
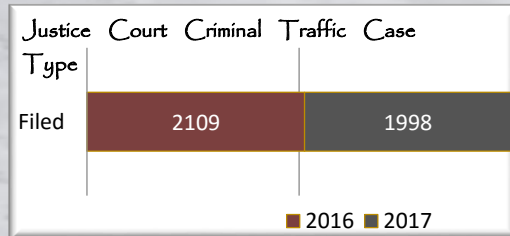
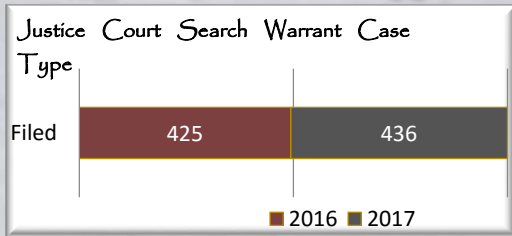
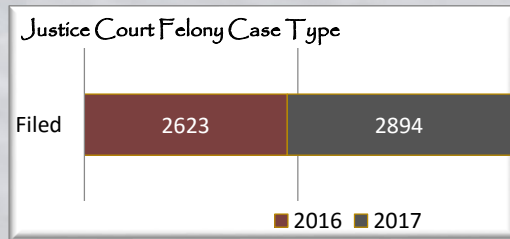
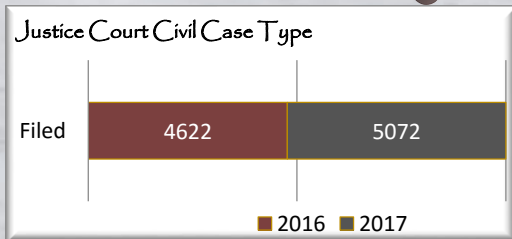
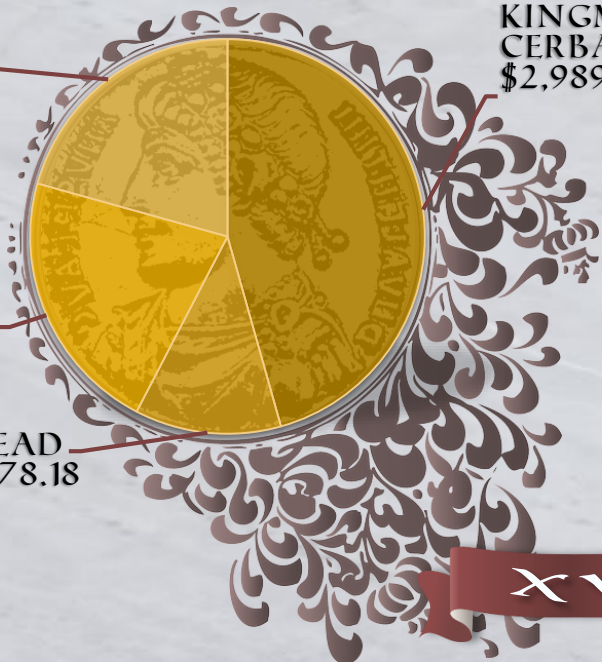
# JUSTICE COURT STATISTICS REVENUE COLLECTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 \$6,552,315.94

NORTH  
CANYON  
\$1,354,214.66

KINGMAN/  
CERBAT  
\$2,989,800.88

LAKE  
HAVASU  
\$1,422,822.22

BULLHEAD  
\$785,478.18



# PROBATION STATISTICS

## AVERAGE ADULT PROBATION POPULATION

STANDARD SUPERVISION .....1,310  
INDIRECT SERVICES.....480

## AVERAGE ADULT PROBATION POPULATION CONT.

INTENSIVE PROBATION SERVICES...34

## ADULT DISPOSITIONS

COMPLETED FULL TERM .....310  
REVOKED TO PRISON.....209  
EARLY TERMINATION .....84

## ADULT DISPOSITIONS CONT.

JUDICIAL TERMINATION .....18  
EARNED TIME CREDIT.....20

## ADULT COMMUNITY RESTITUTION SERVICE

HOURS COMPLETED... .....15,421  
VALUE @ \$8.25 PER HOUR.....\$127,223.25

## ADULT DRUG COURT

SCREENED... .....113  
ADULTS ACCEPTED.....55  
GRADUATES .....15

## ADULT NEW CASES GRANTED

STANDARD PROBATION..... 770

## ADULT PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATIONS

COMPLETED... .....1,060  
COMBO REPORTS COMPLETED... .....104

*The concept of probation, from the Latin word probatio or "testing," has historical roots in the practice of judicial reprieve.*

# SUCCESS STORIES

“  
Drug Court helped me stay strong and want to stay honest with myself and others.

I now have 19 months clean and sober from everything.

I am a good mother and a support system and a good role model for people to look up to.

”  
M. a Drug Court Graduate *For a man to conquer himself is the first and noblest of all victories.*

*-Plato*

“  
I never felt being a Veteran meant anything until I got into trouble. Veterans Court is different; they actually appreciate Veterans.

Vet Court helped me with every need I had –employment, housing, the VA. Before coming into the program, I was not aware of the resources available and I am still using them today.

”  
C. a Veteran Court Graduate

“  
I was struggling to be successful on probation and in my personal life.”

“She inspired her fellow participants to put forth great effort into their recovery.”

“She is an example of the effect that the Mohave County Drug Court Program has on the lives of its participants, and an inspiration to those currently enrolled in the program.”

”  
R. a Drug Court Graduate

“  
We usually don't sit down together as a family for dinner. This program had us sitting together talking to each other.

”  
Parent of a Youth Court Participant

“  
You are not alone and one of the first things you will learn is how much support is truly out there for you.

As for my experience, this was a huge stepping-stone in my life. I am so grateful for all I have gained. The caliber of the professionals working in all aspects of this system is second to none.

”  
D. a Veteran Court Graduate

“  
Drug court helped me in many ways by giving me much needed support and guidance, and by teaching me to be accountable, honest, and reliable.

I am eternally grateful for everyone who has helped me throughout this journey.

”  
J. a Drug Court Graduate

*Success is dependent on effort.*

*-Sophocles*

“  
I have always been a procrastinator but the Marines taught me that at certain times you have to do things you do not want to do to get the job done. I have always applied that my life. The Veterans Court reinforced it.

The Judge and staff were amazing and if I ever needed anything, they would help.

”  
J. a Veteran Court Graduate *We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit*

“  
Thank you for the pleasant experience at Jury Duty. I enjoyed it very much.

”  
I was impressed by the whole experience.

E. a Juror on a trial



The Judicial Branch of  
Arizona  
MOHAVE COUNTY  
mohavecourts.com

# MMXVII

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2017

