

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA

MOHAVE COUNTY

1915

2015



COURTS

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

Delivering timely justice in an impartial, innovative, and professional manner.

MOHAVE COUNTY COURT HOUSE



Serving the Public



Delivering Timely Justice



Court Access, Facilities, Infrastructure



Engaged Staff



Community Collaboration and Outreach

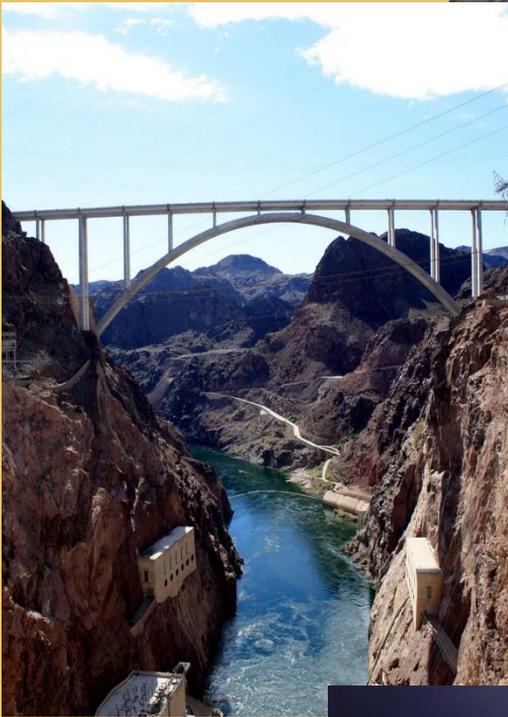


**Strategic
Pillars**

Vision Statement

As a high performing court, we are committed to providing the highest quality of justice services and achieving excellence

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Message from the Presiding Judge

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The Courts and Probation Department continue to look for opportunities to enhance services to the public and improve access to information through innovative solutions. As you will read in this annual report, we have found ways to standardize many of our processes, enhanced efforts to collect fines and fees, expanded the Adult and Juvenile drug courts and expanded the Pre-Trial program. Efforts to build on the initial success of the Veteran's court has resulted in increased participation and continues to help individuals in their personal lives by helping to reduce the cycle of relapse and recidivism.



With support from the Board of Supervisors the Court received the necessary funding to expand the staff and judicial office space in the Bullhead Judicial facility. Two new chambers were added along with space for a judicial assistant and work and storage space for the clerk of the court. The completion of this new office area allowed the court to assign another judicial officer to the Bullhead City facility on a full-time basis. This resulted in increased access for the public and allows the court to better manage the workload and provide greater access to individuals within the community.

We were pleased to host the Court of Appeals again this year as they conducted oral arguments at the River Valley High School in Mohave Valley. Staff continues to work on the 5 strategic pillars outlined in our Strategic Plan with the goal of implementing programs that 'deliver timely justice in an impartial, innovative, and professional manner'. Highlighted within this report are details of many of the programs that help support efforts to improve court processes and procedures.

On August 7th of this year the Court took time to recognize the centennial of the historic courthouse in Kingman. During the past 100 years the Courthouse has been a central location for County government and currently houses five of the nine Superior courtrooms. Chief Justice Scott Bales attended the event and noted the continued fine work of the courts and the probation department.

We 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 invite you to read about all of the projects and accomplishments made in the courts during this past fiscal year and think you will agree that the Judges, leadership and staff deserve our congratulations and our thanks.

Charles W. Gurtler, Jr.
Presiding Judge

Courthouse 100 Year Centennial Celebration

On August 7th 2015 we celebrated the 100 year centennial of the Mohave County Courthouse. Many guests and members of the public were in attendance for this historic occasion. The Kingman Fire Pipes & Drums detail entertained a crowd filled with anticipation for the start of the ceremony. Presiding Judge, Honorable Charles W. Gurtler, Jr. welcomed the audience and reflected on the vast history of the courthouse. The Mohave County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard presented the colors for the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. The crowd stood tall with pride while the Lee Williams High School Band played the National Anthem in perfect unison. A Proclamation from Governor Doug Ducey was read by Michele Regan, the Secretary of State. Remarks were given by Retired Justice Frank X. Gordon, the only Justice to hail from Mohave County. Steve Moss, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, shared remarks, and noted that this gathering represented what was good in America with so many people coming together to support our local community programs. Current Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, Scott Bales, spoke of pride, and admiration for being a part of such a historically significant occasion in the county. The Mohave County Bar Association presented a plaque to mark the centennial of the Courthouse. Virlynn Tinnell, Clerk of the Superior Court, presented a time capsule that was filled with items donated by the Mohave County Museum, multiple county high schools, key public officials, county employees, local businesses, and members of the public. The time capsule is to be preserved in a cement tomb in front of the courthouse World War I Memorial, where it will wait to be opened in the year 2115.



Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS)

The Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS) is part of the strategic Integrated Justice plan for the State of Arizona. The goal of the system is to improve the reporting of disposition and sentencing information from the law enforcement and justice agencies throughout the State. Court Staff worked diligently to improve the timely and secure sharing of arrest and charging information to all appropriate members of the law enforcement and justice communities.

General Equivalency Diploma

Beginning January 1, 2014, all Arizona GED testing transitioned to being administered solely by computer with emphasis on new curriculum and content format. The Juvenile Detention Center brought all GED preparation classes and pretests in line to meet the new guidelines. The content redesign resulted in a four-test format; literacy, math, science and social studies. Writing skills are assessed within the content of two or more of the tests rather than in a separate writing test. 80% of Mohave County Juveniles completed the test, graduated and obtained their GED.



Remote Interpreter Programs

Remote Interpreter Programs are continuing to be enhanced in the Mohave County Court System. The Courts were successful in obtaining a grant that enabled the installation of several video systems in various locations that would allow for an interpreter to be physically located in Phoenix and appear in the courtroom through video. The system allows for simultaneous conversations without the courtroom hearing the conversation. Further expansion of our interpreter system focuses on providing interpretation services to our customers at the Clerk's Window. This is done by the deployment of multiple tablets to our Limited and Superior Court Clerk's offices. This service allows the clerk to connect with an interpreter within a matter of seconds for all interpretation needs.



E-Payments

Mohave County Courts e-payment program is continuing to be a successful project as over 3000 people visit this page each month to pay for traffic tickets or pay monthly payments to the courts.

Teen Court

After a successful 12 years in Lake Havasu City, Mohave County Juvenile Probation expanded Teen Court to Bullhead City. This nationwide program works with juveniles 12-17 years of age. Each teen must admit guilt to the offense for which they have been charged. They must also be willing to complete the sentence assigned by the jury. All participants in the courtroom are teens except for the judge. Teen Court works because teens are judging other teens. With Teen Court, positive peer pressure is the underlying motivational factor.

Teen Law School

The message that Teen Law School sends is clear – “When you break the law, you put your freedom at risk.” Mohave County Juvenile Probation Officers began referring youth to this program in November 2010. Since that time, the department has continued to notice a reduction in new referrals among youth attending this program. These statistics seem to indicate that those referred to this program may be getting the message. Teen Law School’s purpose is twofold: to empower kids with practical and usable information about Arizona laws and their consequences and to empower kids with practical and usable peer pressure skills to help them make better choices.

Evidence Based Practices

Mohave County Juvenile Probation/Detention services received certification as an evidence based court. All practices and policies are based on longitudinal research in this area of study.

Customer Surveys

In an effort to get feedback and gauge service provided to the public, the Courts constructed a survey that is posted on our website and allows the customer to complete within a matter of minutes, but still capture useful information. Once the survey was created we have moved it from page to page to capture how useful the page was.



Statewide Correctional Practices

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings – II (EPICS II) is being implemented within the Mohave County Probation Department. EPICS II is a set of supervision techniques for corrections professionals to use in their daily interactions with offenders which has been proven, through research, to reduce recidivism. Three Lead EPICS Officers have been trained, along with three Phase II coaches.



Recordation of Judgments

House Bill 2311 allows for Judgments from Lower Courts to be directly submitted to the County Recorder Office instead of going through the Superior Court first. This new process saves the party wishing to record a judgment against another party \$42.00.

Standardization

Team members continued work on projects involving standardization of procedures and forms. To achieve this goal reviews of procedural/desk manuals are being completed.

The team worked to insure that the same Financial Statements and Request for Attorney forms are being used throughout the Court, Mohave County Jail and Court Appointed Counsel departments.

Case Processing Flow Charts

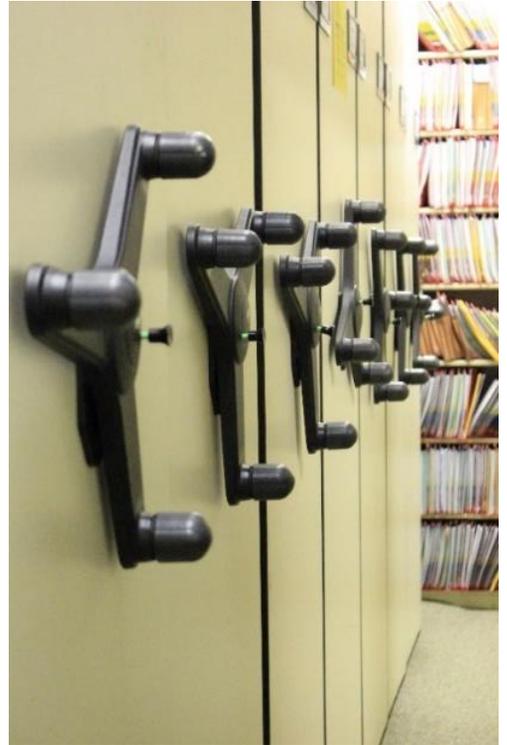
Limited Jurisdiction Case Flow Charts have been reviewed and are now published to the Mohave County Court website. Finally, a review of Superior Court Case Flow Charts is underway with anticipated completion prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2016.

Arizona Case Processing Time Standards

Phase 1 of the newly adopted Arizona Supreme Court Case Processing Time Standards were submitted for the first time on 7/31/15. This included reporting on Felony, Civil, Juvenile Dependency, Juvenile Delinquency and DUI cases from initiation to adjudication during the months of April, May and June of 2015. Additional case types will be reported as Phase 2 and Phase 3 are implemented during the next fiscal year.

Criminal Statistical Reports

During Fiscal Year 2015 the Administrative Office of the Courts rolled out new Criminal Statistical Reports measuring Caseload by Defendant, Caseload by Charge, Manner of Sentencing and Manner of Disposition. These Reports required extensive data clean-up prior to submission monthly with a final, fiscal year-end report due and submitted on 7/31/15.



Enhanced Mediation Services

Starting in January of this fiscal year the Mohave County Superior Court established a program to supplement mediation services offered to individuals by having a mediator available, on site, prior to contested, emergency and resolution conferences in family court, guardianship and dependency hearings. This new program has enabled non-custodial parenting time to proceed in a quicker, non-confrontational manner. The program goal was to provide an alternative dispute resolution between mediation and litigation for high conflict cases.



Infant Toddler Mental Health Annual Symposium

On February 11th and 12th, 2015 the Superior Court Infant and Toddler Mental Health Team hosted their 4th Annual Symposium in Lake Havasu City. National speakers presented on topics and research related to maltreated children involved in the court system. Close to three hundred attended from across the state and tribal land. Steve Pemberton, Fortune 500 Executive, opened the event as the keynote speaker. Annually this event provides professionals and community members the opportunity to learn the most updated evidenced based practices on children's issues.



Pretrial Release Program Expansion

In October, 2014, Pretrial expanded from 5 days per week to operating 7 days per week, covering Kingman/Cerbat Justice Courts, Superior Court and Kingman Municipal Court. In April, 2015 coverage was expanded to include Bullhead City Justice Court as well. This program operates with two grant funded positions and one position funded by the State of Arizona. In September of 2015 the program will begin to expand to include the Lake Havasu City Consolidated Courts.



Remote Search Warrants

The Remote Search Warrant process is in the final stages of testing and implementation has begun. This project will allow officers to create the search warrant in the field, send the document electronically to the on call Judge for electronic signature and then back to the officer. This innovative project will enhance the delivery of timely justice.

Collection of Fines, Fees, and Restitution

In Fiscal Year 2015 the Clerk's Office entered numerous cases into the Fines and Restitution Enforcement program (FARE). Office staff also worked very diligently to verify and enter individuals with outstanding monies owed into the Arizona State Tax Intercept program (TIP).

Adult Probation Fees Fund Additional Positions

Due to an increase in the number of PSI reports, two Deputy Probation Officer positions were created to help improve the timeliness of Presentence Reports. The addition of the two PSI writers helped ensure that reports were submitted expediently and enhanced Court operations. These additional positions brought the Department in line with other departments across the state.

Court Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

Mailbox for frequent Superior Court customers

A new 60 space mailbox unit was purchased with money gathered through the Fine and Restitution Enforcement program (FARE). The use of the mailboxes was solicited to all external, and internal entities. The use of the mailboxes offers individual litigants the ability to place documents into the intended parties' mailbox for pick up at their earliest convenience. This new initiative also helped by removing the need for the Front Office Clerks to sort the documents, thus improving the services provided to the patrons that are standing in line.

HID Door System Upgrade

In order to ensure effective management of staff entry and exit of court buildings, all door control systems were moved and combined under the control of one door security system. This allowed staff to easily maintain access and security to all buildings under the Courts' control.

New Juror Check Writing Software

The technical refresh forced some of the outdated software that was used to be upgraded. A new check writing software was purchased from the vendor already utilized to create juror questionnaires and manage the check ledger. This update also implemented new security features to protect against fraud.



Courthouse Design Feasibility Study

In January, 2015 the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) completed a courthouse design study to assess the feasibility of constructing a new building in Kingman. The goal of this project was to help the County develop a courthouse construction implementation plan to best support the needs of the court and to evaluate the option of building next to the existing courthouse in light of the historical significance of the courthouse and the overwhelming local concern as to the viability of the downtown Kingman area. After reviewing the concept proposed by the County, the NCSC suggested an alternative that would (1) create a four-story Court addition in an adjacent parking lot, (2) build a passageway that would connect it to the historic courthouse, and (3) implement a phased renovation of the

historic courthouse and the annex for the Justice of Peace Courts. The new plan was approved by the Court, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Kingman.



Strategic Pillar III

Bullhead City Courthouse Addition

During the fall of 2014 construction began at the Bullhead City Superior and Justice Court to add additional judicial and staff work space to the building. This new construction provided space for two new Judicial chambers, a judicial assistant office, court reporter office, clerk's office, evidence storage room and general storage areas. New staff parking was also added on the north side of the building adjacent to the new office space. The addition allows the court to better serve the needs of the public in the Bullhead City and Fort Mohave areas and increases access to justice for all.



A/C Backup Unit In Server Rooms

Mohave County Courts continue to invest resources to ensure we have adequate backup systems in place. In order to accommodate our IT servers that are kept in a secure environment back-up A/C units were installed in the server rooms. Sustaining business continuity throughout disasters continues to be a priority.



Replacement of Outdated Video Equipment

In order to keep technology current and refreshed and reduce future expenses several video systems, as well as audio systems, were pulled out of service and replaced with new, more advanced equipment during the past Fiscal Year.

Additional Inputs For BHC Superior Court Attorney Tables

The Mohave County Courts have made improvements to services provided to allow users of the courtroom to easily present evidence regardless of the medium in which

they choose to do so. Court IT redesigned the infrastructure within the courtrooms to allow attorneys to be able to switch between multiple input devices directly from each attorney's table.

State driven committee's and sub committee's

Members of the Courts & Probation offices actively participate in state driven committee's and sub committee's such as the Committee on Technology, Super Users, Committee on Judicial Education and Training, Court Automation, and Strategic Planning committees.



Language Access For non-English Speakers

The Mohave County Courts are committed to ensuring meaningful access to court and probation services for persons with limited English proficiency. In May of 2015, the Department of Justice recognized the Mohave County Courts for their work to ensure equal access for non-English speakers. "I commend the Mohave County Superior Court leadership and staff for their efforts to provide all communities with equal access to justice regardless of the language they speak," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta of the Civil Rights Division. Training will continue to be provided to all court staff on the importance of providing appropriate language services.

Employee Satisfaction

The Mohave County Courts recognize the importance of an engaged workforce in promoting public trust and confidence in the court system. In October of 2014, the Mohave County Courts conducted the Employee Satisfaction Survey. A total of 164 out of 251 employees responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 65%. The Mohave County Courts received an overall satisfaction score of 73%. Court leadership will use the survey results to promote a productive work environment and facilitate organizational development and change.

Employee Recognition

The Mohave County Courts understand the importance of recognition programs and gratitude in the workplace in building trust and engagement among court employees to improve employee morale and customer service. In 2015, the "Annual Making a Difference" award program implemented awards tied to the Mohave County Courts Strategic Plan to promote achieving excellence through innovation and teamwork. The "High 5" peer to peer recognition program continues to be promoted among court employees and has proven to be an effective way for employees to recognize another court employee.



Annual Employee Continuing Education

2015 marked the 20th year of the Annual Mohave County Court and Probation Conference. To uphold the highest standard of competence, ethical conduct, professionalism and accountability, each year the Arizona Supreme Court requires all full-time judicial staff to obtain a minimum of sixteen hours of continuing education. The annual conference continues to be an effective way to provide high quality cost effective training at the local level. The court has been able to meet the training needs of its employees at a significantly reduced cost.

Court of Appeals Oral Arguments

On March 5, 2015 the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One held oral arguments at the River Valley High School, in Fort Mohave. Students from several High Schools in Mohave County attended the event along with local Judicial Officers and City officials. Chief Judge Diane M. Johnsen opened the event with general remarks about the State Court process and gave a brief introduction of the case that was to be heard. Presiding Judge Charles W. Gurtler also made some introductory remarks and thanked the Court of Appeals for traveling to Mohave County. Following the oral arguments a panel of three additional Judges, along with Justice of the Peace Jill Davis and Superior Court Judge Rick Williams, answered questions from the students in attendance. This event provided students with a wonderful insight into the Arizona Judicial process.

Crossover Youth Partnership

Mohave County Juvenile Probation Department entered into a partnership with the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to manage youth who are involved in the Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency systems. This reduces duplication of services and allows for a unified voice between the agencies. This model is known as the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM).

Investing In Youth Employment

Mohave County's Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partnered with the Juvenile Probation/Detention Department to provide a job coach position for adjudicated youth ages 16 and 17. This program is known as the EAGLES Program. This partnership resulted in summer jobs for 18 youth on probation.

Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court continued operations during FY2015 at no additional cost to Mohave County. Results indicate that youth enrolled in our Juvenile Drug Court are drug-free more often than those not enrolled in the program.



Our Courts Arizona

Our Courts Arizona is an interactive civics program that provides adult groups with information about the courts and how important it is to have fair, impartial and accessible courts. The program is taught by Judges of the court to address our democratic form of government, our rights and the importance of the separation of powers and the rule of law. Judges are available to meet with civic groups or other organizations that are interested in learning more about the courts. Sessions are generally 20 to 40 minutes in length and can be tailored to meet the needs of the community.



Charity Contributions

The Superior Court Clerk's Office chose "Help Us Knock Breast Cancer Out of the Park" as the theme for the 4th annual recognition of October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month. All monies raised were donated to the local Kingman Cancer Care Unit. Also a holiday food drive was sponsored by the Superior Court Clerk and employees. The food collected in Kingman was donated to the Kingman Area Food Bank, collections in Lake Havasu City were donated to the Inter Agency Food Bank, and collections from Bullhead City were donated to the St Vincent De Paul Society Food Bank. In all, Court employees collected and donated eight large boxes of food.

Veterans Court

The Lake Havasu Veterans Court was implemented in November 2013 and continues to expand. The Veterans Court is a problem solving court that is intended to serve veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or reoccurring disorders. There are currently 50 veterans in the program, and 27 veterans have successfully graduated from the program. Of the 27 graduated veterans, there has been zero recidivism rate. The program has also helped homeless veterans find housing and employment. The average length of the program is 216 days.

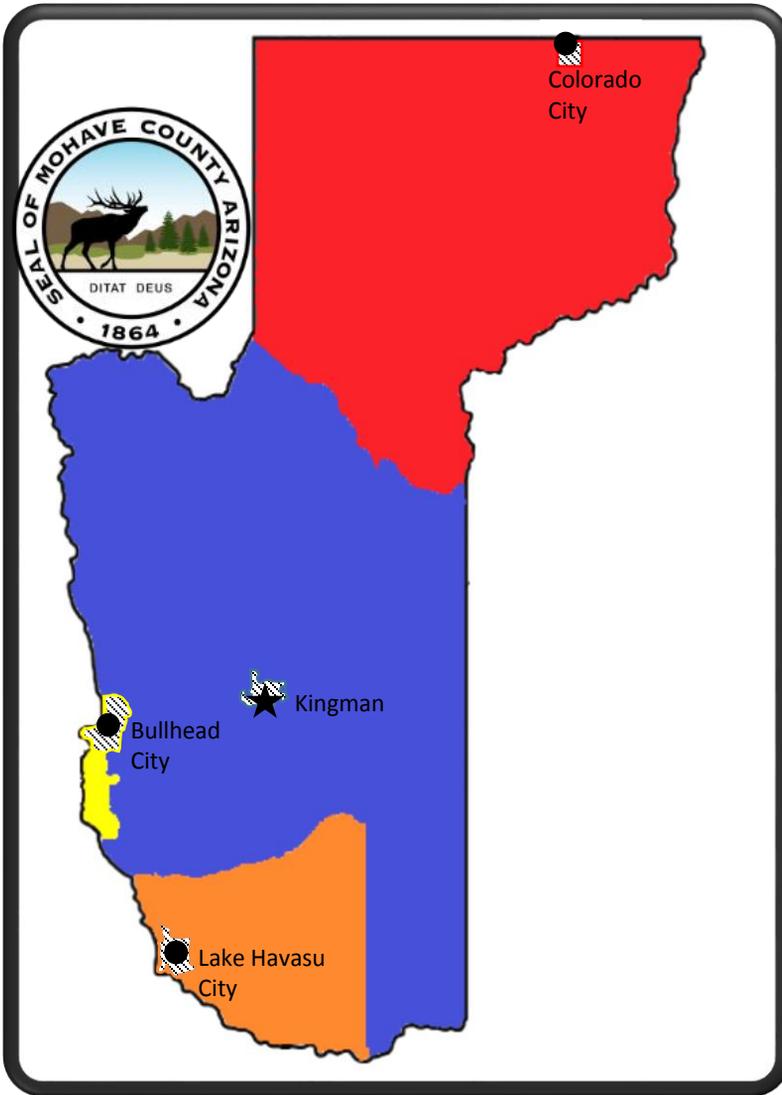


M·O·R·E· Program - Mohave Opportunities, Rehab and Education

In March of 2015, the Kingman/Cerbat Justice Court participated in a post adjudicated pilot program, involving individuals who have entered guilty pleas on drug offenses. Through the program defendants/ participants were given the opportunity to have their drug counseling, drug tests and transportation all paid. In exchange for this, defendants had to complete extra community work service and comply with stricter probation guidelines. Participant/ defendants were also ordered to attend Mohave County's One Stop Employment program, if they were not already employed, and were given good incentives to assist with certain fees if they obtained a G.E.D. while in the program. Everyone involved with this program believes it is not a drug court but more of a Quality of Life Court.



The Mohave County Jury Districts



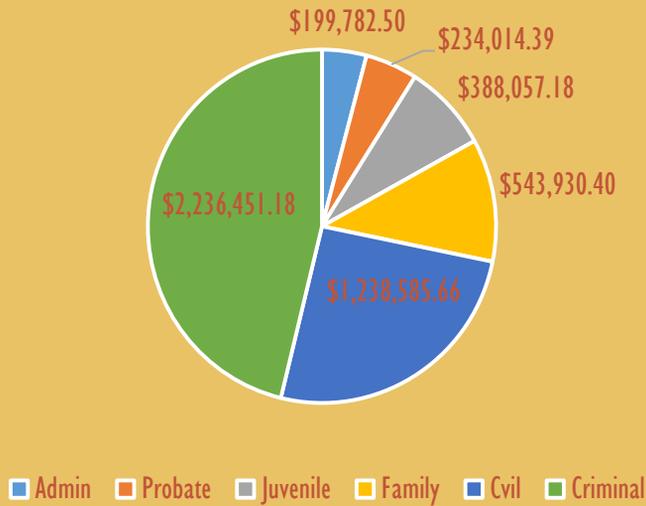
-  North Canyon Justice & Municipal Court
-  North Canyon Justice Court
-  Kingman Justice & Municipal Court
-  Kingman Justice Court
-  Bullhead City Justice & Municipal Court
-  Bullhead City Justice Court
-  Lake Havasu City Justice & Municipal Court
-  Lake Havasu City Justice Court
-  Mohave County Superior Court



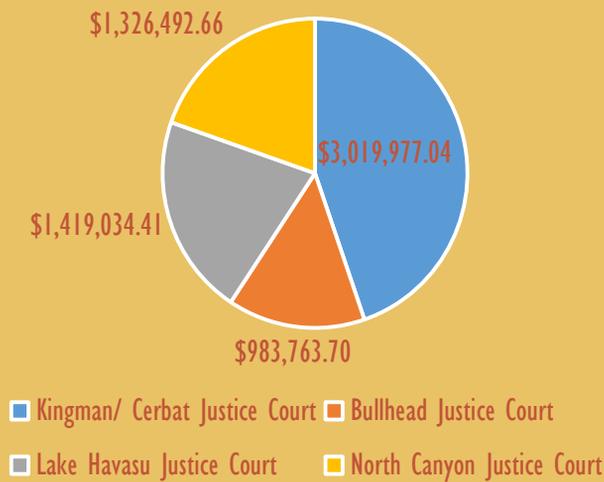
- ❖ During this past fiscal year 56 jury trials were conducted. This resulted in \$277,905.46 being paid out to jurors across the county.
- ❖ As a result of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) driven technical refresh in early 2015, the jury clerks started using a different check writing software, paid for by monies collected through the FARE program.

Revenue Collections

Superior Court Revenue Collected for FY 2015 \$4,840,821.31

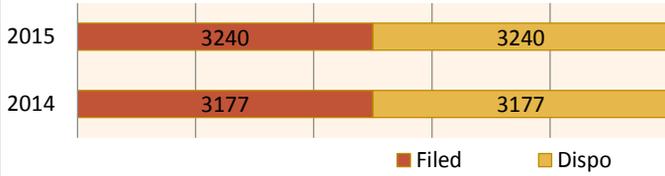


Justice Court Revenue Collected for FY 2015 \$6,749,267.81

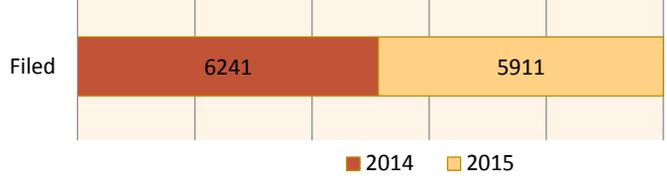


Fiscal Year Filing Statistics

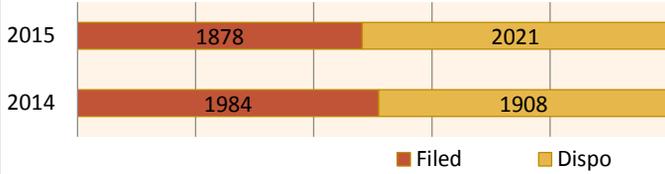
Superior Court Administrative Case Type



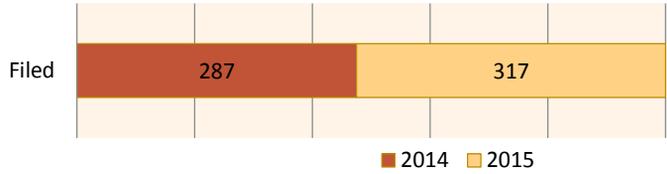
Justice Court Civil Case Type



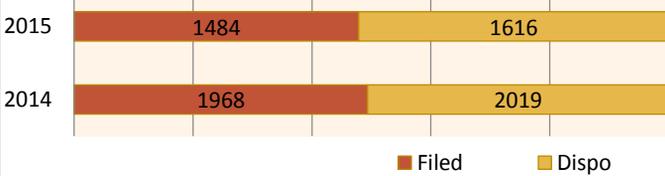
Superior Court Family Law Case Type



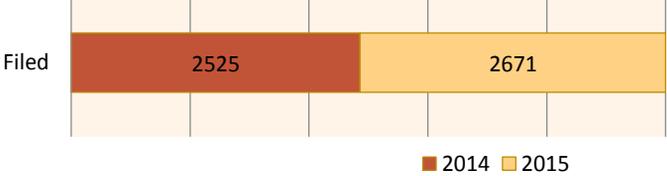
Justice Court Search Warrant Case Type



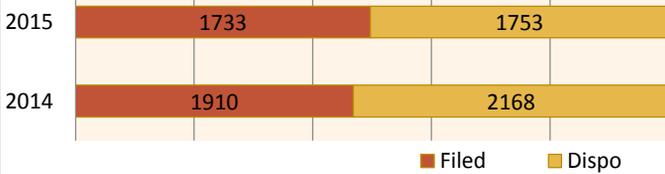
Superior Court Civil Case Type



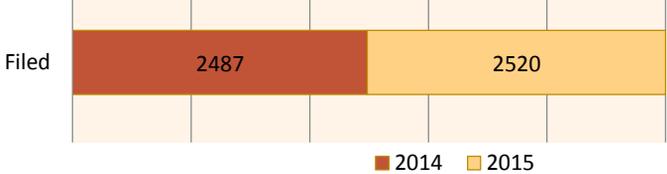
Justice Court Misdemeanor Case Type



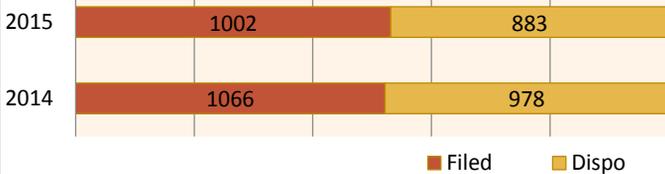
Superior Court Criminal Case Type



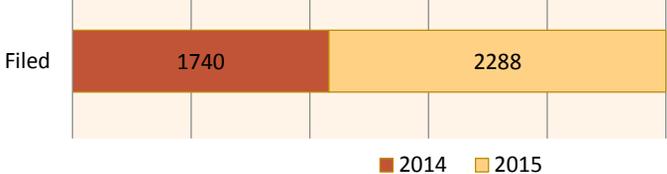
Justice Court Felony Case Type



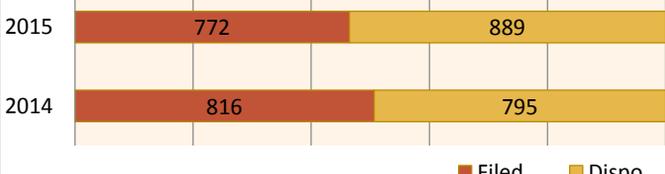
Superior Court Juvenile Case Type



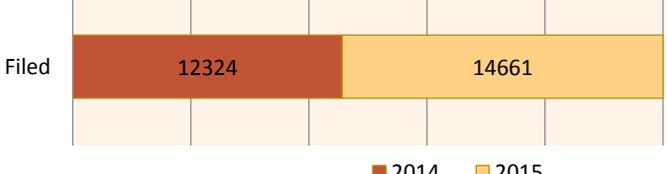
Justice Court Criminal Traffic Case Type



Superior Court Probate Case Type



Justice Court Civil Traffic Case Type



Probation Statistics

JUVENILE PROBATION

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Juvenile Referrals..... | 1538 |
| Completed Diversions..... | 218 |

AVERAGE ADULT PROBATION POPULATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Standard Supervision..... | 1266 |
| Indirect Services..... | 377 |
| Intensive Probation Services..... | 29 |

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PETITIONS

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Filed..... | 242 |
|------------|-----|

DISPOSITIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Standard Probation..... | 134 |
| Intensive Probation..... | 35 |
| Committed to ADJC..... | 22 |
| Direct Transfer Adult Ct..... | 1 |

ADULT NEW CASES GRANTED

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Standard Probation..... | 682 |
|-------------------------|-----|

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Juveniles screened..... | 51 |
| Juveniles accepted..... | 40 |
| Graduates..... | 13 |

ADULT DISPOSITIONS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Completed Full term..... | 230 |
| Early Termination..... | 91 |
| Judicial Termination..... | 25 |
| Earned Time Credit..... | 20 |

JUVENILE COMMUNITY RESTITUTION

S E R V I C E

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Hours Completed..... | 5,369.5 |
| Value @ \$8.25 per hour..... | \$ 44,298.38 |

ADULT DRUG COURT

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Adults Screened..... | 65 |
| Adults Accepted..... | 35 |
| Graduates..... | 12 |

ADULT COMMUNITY RESTITUTION SERVICE

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Hours Completed..... | 26,998.25 |
| Value @ \$8.25 per hour..... | \$ 217,335.91 |

ADULT PRESENCE INVESTIGATIONS:

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Completed..... | 1013 |
| Combo Reports Completed..... | 211 |



Vision Statement

As a high performing court, we are committed to providing the highest quality of justice services and achieving excellence by:

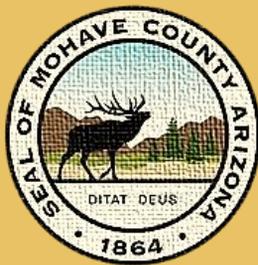
Being fair, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the community.

Providing innovative, collaborative, and technically advanced service to our community and judicial partners.



Recruiting and maintaining motivated, competent, and professional judges and staff.

Acquiring safe, functional, and quality facilities and work environments.



The Judicial Branch of Arizona
Mohave County
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015