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Judge Moss and Audience at Annex Groundbreaking

Courthouse Annex Groundbreaking

Submitted by Roger Galloway

The Mohave County Courthouse remodel ceremony was held on Wednesday afternoon (December 4, 2024). Presiding Judge Steve Moss conducted the welcoming ceremony with additional remarks from Supervisor Jean Bishop, Judge Dave Huerta, and County Manager Sam Elters. Many dignitaries attended the event as well. Concord Construction had the winning bid for the annex of \$6,073,203 with a contingency of

\$911,067. Also, furniture and other miscellaneous items add another \$721,000.

In his remarks, Judge Moss said, "We're finally making another step to giving Mohave County the judicial facilities that it needs." More specifically, he added, "It will take care of our justice courts, give us some relief at the superior court level, and provide some office space for clerks."

The annex is referred to as Part 2A

of the original plan to construct a new courthouse and remodel both the annex and the historic courthouse. Mohave County Court Administrator Kip Anderson provided these additional thoughts, by saying, "We still need to complete some work on the historic courthouse, which includes some remodeling of the main floor and some updating of the historic courtroom on the 2nd floor."



Future Mohave County Courthouse Annex

All in the Family - The Gurtlers

Submitted by Kelly Andrews



Judge Gurtler swearing in daughter, Gina

Four years ago, Presiding Judge Charles W. Gurtler, Jr. decided to retire and resign his position as Presiding Judge. Judge Gurtler served on the bench for 27 years and was the Presiding Judge of Mohave County for a decade. Since retiring, he has continued to serve as a Senior Commissioner, handling various assignments for the court.

During the holiday season, Judge Gurtler had the unique honor of swearing in his own children. His daughter, Gina Gurtler, into the Arizona State Bar and his son, Chas Gurtler, into the California State Bar.



Judge Gurtler swearing in son, Chas

30TH Annual Mohave Court and Probation Conference

Submitted by Nicole Aragon

The 30th Annual Mohave Court and Probation Conference was held Wednesday through Friday, January 8-10, 2025, in Kingman. A total of 54 breakout sessions were offered Wednesday through Thursday at Mohave Community College and on Friday, one additional breakout session and the closing plenary were held at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

The Mohave Courts and Probation were honored to have Judge Bill Sutton from Williams, Arizona present at the conference. On Friday, January 10, 2025, He presented the closing plenary session on "The Heart of the Court" where he challenged participants to look beyond the norm and understand the importance of bringing the human element and a heart back to the court. The course also provided tools and awareness of the need for the human element in the workplace and at home.

Presiding Judge Steve Moss served as the master of ceremonies for the awards presentation. Judge Steve Moss recognized employees for 5, 10, 15, and 20 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 Moss presented the Presiding Judge Award to Natalie Eggers, Deputy Director of Juvenile Court Services.

Kip Anderson recognized Sherry Hammontree for her work and second year as the COJET Chairperson. Kip also thanked the COJET Committee for their time and commitment to help plan, organize, and host the conference.

Cake was provided after the morning events for all staff to enjoy in celebration of 30 years of COJET conferences. 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 16 credit hours of judicial education each year, including ethics training, and computer security/network security training. The training requirement is prorated for part-time employees based upon the number of hours they work each week. These training standards ensure judicial employees continually receive education and training necessary to achieve the highest standard of competence, ethics, integrity, professionalism, and accountability.

National Adoption Day - 2024

Submitted by Deb Liverence

On the third Wednesday in November, we celebrate National Adoption Day. While the actual day is Saturday, November 23, we at the courts do it on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, for all staff and families to celebrate their new Forever Families from all 3 courts from Kingman, Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City. At the Mohave County Superior Court house, we celebrated 12 families and 18

children being adopted. Court staff help decorate the courtroom and adjoining hallways. Agencies like DCS and CASA help with t-shirts and our balloon arch and goodies to give away to the children. The talented folks at DCS designed our t-shirts and sweatshirts and signage for the courtroom. This year, we had help from the Kingman Powerhouse Kiwanis in preparing gift bags for each child. Desert De Oro foods helped with taco coupons to Taco Bell to be put in the gift bags. CASA Council helped in getting

Adoption Bears and quilts from a local quilting club. And Card in the Yard provided a celebratory sign for the families to take a picture. This year we were lucky to have Melissa Photography, as she memorialized all the families and captured the emotion felt in the courtroom.



Deputy Court Administrator Completes CCE Program

Submitted by Kip Anderson

Congratulations to Deputy Court Administrator Kim Chappelle on recently completing the Certified Court Executive (CCE) program. This program is offered by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) through the Institute for Court Management (ICM)

in partnership with the Education Services division of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The program provides mid-to-upper-level court professionals with advanced leadership and management skills. Some key benefits of the program include:

1. Professional Development & Leadership Growth
- Enhances leadership skills tailored for court admin.



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- Develops expertise in strategic planning, caseload management, and court governance.
- Strengthens ethical decision-making and problem-solving abilities.

2. Comprehensive & Practical Curriculum

- Covers essential topics like court performance standards, financial management, technology, and human resources.

- Provides real-world applications and case studies to improve court operations.

3. Networking & Peer Collaboration

- Connects participants with a nationwide network of court professionals.
- Encourages collaboration and sharing of best practices across jurisdictions.
- Builds lasting professional relationships that can support

career growth.

The completion of the program also allows an individual to apply for the prestigious ICM Fellows Program, the highest level of professional certification in court administration. We anticipate Kim will enroll and complete that program in the near future. Again, congratulations Kim on successfully completing this important program.

Elf on the Shelf in Lake Havasu City

Submitted by Tina Sweeney
Braniger

The Lake Havasu Superior and Justice Courts continue to incorporate fun elements into the workplace to enhance employee morale and foster a sense of community among team players. We started a new tradition this winter with “Elf on the Shelf.” As employees engage in the whimsical hide and seek game with the elves, they bond over shared experiences and laughter, which can lead to increased collaboration and communication. The presence of the elves serves as a delightful reminder to embrace joy and spontaneity, ultimately creating a more positive and productive work environment.



LHC Livescan Fingerprint Tablet

Submitted by Tina Sweeney
Braniger

The Lake Havasu City Justice Court is excited to announce they have acquired a Livescan Fingerprint Tablet that now allows them to capture a ten-print fingerprint for defendants that are not able to make the drive to Kingman to obtain fingerprints. We have long awaited the arrival of this tablet! The Department of Public Safety worked together with the Lake Havasu City Justice Court to see this project become a reality for our rural defendants.

The Clerk's Office Welcomes New Clerks

Submitted by Crystal Bray

Last quarter, we said "Toodle-loo!" to another year. While the year was ending, the Clerk's Office welcomed four newcomers to the family.

At our main Kingman location, we were joined by three clerks:

Taylor Estrada has been welcomed to the team as one of our jury clerks. Since she has started, one of the significant things she has learned about her role is realizing that jury service is not as bad as everyone makes it out to be. While she is

learning the ins-and-outs of the jury procedures, it was revealed that if Taylor could instantly become an expert in anything, it would be to learn how to fly a plane. This way she can fly wherever she wanted. Something interesting about herself that most people might not know is that she has a degree in baking and pastry. That might come in quite handy at the Clerk's Office! When asked what she hopes to accomplish in the next year either professionally or personally, she shared that she would "maybe go back to school to become a paramedic". What an awesome goal for herself! It is absolutely a look into the work ethic and dedication that we have seen from Taylor since she has been with us.



Taylor Estrada and daughter

Our Records and Retention Department brought an addition to the team by filling their Research Clerk position with Sherry Townsend. She has maintained a steady learning of her duties that fulfills requests for records by various agencies, attorneys, and the public. In learning more about who Sherry is,

if she could become an expert at anything, it would be an ER doctor or nurse. "I love helping people in crisis or time of need. Emergency Dispatcher is also up there as well." Something interesting about her is that she is an open book and really dislikes people who lie and are mean to others. She also loves Pittsburgh and snow! Something that she has learned about her role as the Research Clerk is that being organized, and calm is significant in her role. In both her personal and professional life, she would like to be able to be positive, not be so hard on herself and to become healthier physically and mentally. "Every day is a new day, and I try and make the most of each one!!".

The third clerk to join Kingman is Shawna Freitas. She came to us to become one of the amazing faces to greet and assist the public at the front desk. Speaking of the front desk, Charlene Duran Salamanca joins us in Lake Havasu City. Something about her role that she has learned is that "If we don't do our work efficiently and accurately, the threads of the judicial system can begin to slowly unravel since we are part of the beginning process of anything getting done. Something interesting that others may not know is that she does a pretty decent Cher impression. "You'd have to hear it to believe it."

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Something that Charlene would like to instantly become an expert of is pottery, specifically with the pottery wheel. Out of every medium she has tried, that is the final frontier. "I blame Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze for the unrealistic expectations when it

comes to the pottery wheel." In asking what she hopes to accomplish either personally or professionally in the next year, "Personally, I hope to create more art and get back into the local theatre life and professionally,

I would like to have the knowledge retained to do my duties with the utmost confidence." The Clerk's Office is very happy to have these wonderful ladies onboard and look forward to what the future holds.

New Judicial Employees

Clerk of Superior Court

Charlene Duran Salamanca

Sherry Townsend

Taylor Estrada

Lake Havasu Justice Court

Sandy Azar

Emilee Poplawski

Mia Escobar

Kim Zanon

Judicial Years of Service

December - February

Superior Court

Nicole Aragon

10 years

Honorable Billy K. Sipe

10 years

Carolyn Voss

10 years

Amber Hurley

15 years

Clerk of Superior Court

Eileen Goers-Michel

5 years

Probation

Mariam Hart

5 years

Kaitlyn Mattila

10 years

Cathy Tiner

10 years

Jonathon Deese

10 years

Megan DeBaca

10 years

John Myers

15 years

**Thank you for your service and
dedication to the Mohave County
Courts!**

GNATIONALADOPTIONDAYEIEVB
 LGTTNOXWSXJJVNYIKSWEEFEDK
 HIUQCLBCMহারJOSORVENGCIJF
 OJVDITRHDHVMYYKAOKFZXXKLL
 JHKELUTRTPNYIUXTGAAOWGVLR
 BHJCSZVAZPHGFNAHMGKBZXZWO
 TVLVLCOURTHOUSEANNEXCORLR
 DIVVDEAQRWBQFIVOSJEVSTOWL
 SQQMPWRNZYLLWFSXVOJWCBUX
 FEYEPXFKFBCIQPZTCJYPTUTUU
 IBEYLAYBOIYSRXORBYYDCGWWT
 FXVQLFMFKFNPRESIDINGJUDGE
 ZBWVMYOXARSGPOGOALJSRHGZR
 NGPUOEDNDSFUERUUEFGENZILW
 TCRXHPZGTRAEPROPWZUHQZOGV
 BSCMAMYAPHVDVEPBAXWPPEXPM
 KSFI VZII VZENZCRRAMOHCGOLP
 ENROEFIZAVRSAOIIITOKADNSS
 DOADCNGYRRQRHJJ AONIDZFXHA
 CCLKONWAORKREEEMURTOJUZEW
 EPYBUHTMOSESRTLQQJCONBJCD
 LPMJNYUMGATZCYDFBRWOTABZW
 SIQNTCIBIANGSF PNUKMXUGZNZ
 ZWEVYXMBITBFISCLPCJIERVXS
 RIBDCOURTADMINISTRATOR TUA

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY
 LIVESCAN FINGERPRINT
 COURT ADMINISTRATOR
 MOHAVE COUNTY COJET

PRESIDING JUDGE
 COURTHOUSE ANNEX
 ELF ON THE SHELF
 PROBATION

Riddle Me This

What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

I am not alive, but I grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air; I don't have a mouth, but water kills me.

What am I?

Email MohaveCourtAdmin@courts.az.gov to submit answer :)

CANON 2

A JUDICIAL EMPLOYEE SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL EMPLOYMENT IMPARTIALLY, COMPETENTLY, AND DILIGENTLY

RULE 2.1

Giving Priority to Ethical Duties

A court employee shall regard the ethical duties provided in this code of conduct as having the highest priority.

To ensure that judicial employees are able to fulfill their court duties, judicial employees must conduct their personal and professional activities to minimize the risk of conflict with the performance of court duties.

RULE 2.2

Impartiality and Fairness

A judicial employee shall perform court duties fairly and impartially. Judicial employees may appear to be providing preferential treatment to litigants, counsel

or other persons with whom they discuss the merits of a case pending before the court or behave in a particularly friendly manner. To gauge the propriety of any behavior, employees should consider how opposing parties and counsel who are involved in the proceeding are likely to view the situation.

RULE 2.3

Bias, Prejudice, and Harassment

A judicial employee shall perform court duties without bias or prejudice and shall not manifest bias or prejudice by words or conduct, or engage in harassment in the performance of court duties. This includes but is not limited to bias, prejudice, or harassment

based upon race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation.

1. A judicial employee who manifests bias or prejudice in the conduct of court business impairs the fairness of the judicial process and brings the judiciary into disrepute.

2. Examples of manifestations of bias or prejudice include but are not limited to epithets; slurs; demeaning nicknames; negative stereotyping; attempted humor based upon stereotypes; threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts; suggestions of connections between race, ethnicity, or nationality and crime; and irrelevant references to personal characteristics.

**"I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and
an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see
happen." — Frank Lloyd Wright**

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