

Maricopa Lawyer
Clerk's Corner
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By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

Movements and Improvements

The Clerk's Office looks forward to another year of expanded access to filing and records. As electronic filing and scanning of paper documents continue, millions of documents are available online to dozens of government agencies and tens of thousands of attorneys and self-represented litigants. Through the end of fiscal year 2016, more than 12,000 attorneys and more than 37,000 self-represented litigants took advantage of the Clerk's ECR Online website to remotely access public records in their cases. The Clerk's Office is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts on their eAccess portal that will allow remote access to court records from courts around the state.

The move from paper to electronic images helps the office limit the need for tax dollars. The Clerk's main file room in downtown Phoenix was built to hold millions of paper case files at a time when paper was growing beyond predictions. Thanks to scanning and strategic planning, more than 8,000 square feet of file shelving space will be reclaimed and repurposed, saving the need to build new space for future growth. The Office has already taken advantage of reclaimed space by centralizing juvenile exhibits from two locations with adult exhibits at the Customer Service Center in downtown Phoenix.

The Clerk's internal IT staff are hard at work updating our financial systems. The new design will incorporate much-needed connections to other systems and functions that will make information gathering easier, allow faster updates, and produce clearer reports. This will benefit the millions of dollars processed and distributed through the office, including victim restitution, bonds, and numerous filing fees and costs. Implementation for the new system is targeted for 2018.

For more detail on these programs and developments, see the Clerk's Annual Report under "Announcements" at <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/>. Sign up for the Clerk's monthly update by emailing COCCustomerRelations@mail.maricopa.gov. Put "Subscribe The Brief" in the subject line and include the email address to add to the distribution list. We look forward to serving you and wish you a happy New Year!