

Maricopa Lawyer  
Clerk's Corner  
*April 2008 (May Issue)*

By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

### **Process Changes Coming to Clerk's Office**

In the current legislative session, the Clerk's Office is supporting two bills that will improve how the court and clerk do business. Senate Bill 1013: Arrest Warrants; Child Support, Fiduciary, updates statutory language to clarify that child support arrest warrants and fiduciary arrest warrants may issue with a judicial officer's electronic signature. Other warrants in criminal and civil case types either already allowed eSignatures or have no signature requirement at all. eSignatures or no signature is made possible on warrants because there is a minute entry or other order specifying the judicial officer's intent that the warrant issue.

Electronic warrants allow court and law enforcement databases to be updated more quickly and reduces the likelihood of releasing an individual in error. The speed of the electronic process also improves the speed at which resolved warrants can be quashed, thus reducing the likelihood of an individual being arrested on an outstanding warrant between the time the warrant is resolved and the time the databases are updated. Senate Bill 1013 passed unopposed in the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Napolitano on April 4.

Senate Bill 1174: Notary Public; Registration, changes the way Notaries Public apply for and receive their commissions from the Secretary of State. Currently the Notary Public process is split between the Clerks of the Superior Court, the County Recorders and the Secretary of State. Senate Bill 1174 transfers the entire process to the Secretary of State.

At one time it was a convenience for an applicant to travel only as far the Clerk of the Superior Court for their county to start the application process. Today the notary process can be completed by mail and will soon be available via the internet, making the county step unnecessary. Senate Bill 1174 will improve the process by creating one point of administration and contact. This bill is supported by all 15 elected Clerks of the Superior Court and the Secretary of State and has passed unopposed in Senate and House committees and with overwhelming support on a Senate floor vote. It is anticipated that this bill will be signed into law by the governor as well.

### **Electronic Orders of Assignment**

In May the Clerk and the Court will implement an electronic Order of Assignment in Family Court. This process will change the way attorneys and parties file Orders of Assignment and Modification Orders. Primarily, when an Order of Assignment or modification is ordered during a hearing, the court clerk will prepare the Order while the parties are in court, using information provided by the parties. The Order will also be electronically filed by the Clerk. Forms previously used by attorneys and the forms in Self-Service Center packets will be replaced by the newer electronic process.

The electronic Order of Assignment is one of the reasons the Superior Court authorized a pilot in Family Court requiring Maricopa County-specific sensitive data forms be filed in new family court cases. Check the Clerk's website, *The Brief* (the Clerk's monthly electronic newsletter) and the *Clerk's Corner* articles in the *Maricopa Lawyer* for more information.