

Maricopa Lawyer
Clerk's Corner
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National Recognition for Clerk's Innovative Programs

The Clerk's Office earned three nationally-recognized awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). Innovative programs from around the country with a track record of improving service and efficiency in county government are submitted to a panel for review and consideration. This year, three of the Clerk's groundbreaking electronic initiatives were recognized for this honor.

Mandatory eFiling

This innovative program was developed to enhance case processing, decrease expenses, and reduce space and other resource needs by implementing mandatory eFiling by attorneys for all civil subsequent case documents. eFiling allows the office to process filed documents within approximately eight hours as compared to three days with paper filings. The office plans to further reduce the eFiling processing timeframe to two hours. As a result of this mandatory eFiling program, paper filings were eliminated in civil cases after case initiation.

C2C

The "Court-to-Court" (C2C) program was developed to electronically transmit the record on appeal for all case types to the Supreme and Appellate Court. Among its numerous benefits, the C2C program created a net annual savings of \$165,000 and eliminated the previous time-intensive method of handling paper documents. Prior to implementing this electronic transmittal, creating the record on appeal required disassembling, copying, indexing and rebuilding packets of documents to send multiple paper copies to the appellate courts.

ECR Online

Recognized locally by the thousands of lawyers and parties to cases who use it, the Electronic Court Record Online (ECR Online) was developed to provide a secure, cost-effective, and convenient method for attorneys and self-represented parties to use the internet to register and view the documents in their case(s). Remote internet access allows customers to view documents on their own computer or other electronic device rather than coming to the Clerk's Office to view records at a public access terminal.

In addition to convenience and quicker access to the court record through the new website, the program has a positive impact on the environment by reducing vehicular traffic to the Clerk's offices. At the end of fiscal year 2011, over 10,000 attorneys and self-represented parties were registered in ECR Online.

What It Means

National recognition for these programs indicates the Clerk's Office is making the most of its resources to provide service to the public and the legal community. It is a tribute to the Clerk's innovative staff that their outstanding dedication and hard work created these programs in an environment of budget reductions, staff shortages and limited resources.

The NACo review panel evaluates programs from across the country and awards recognition to those that are the most innovative and effective. The Superior Court and other county agencies received NACo awards this year, enhancing Maricopa County's reputation as a leader in county government and services. With the new additions, the Clerk's Office increases its total NACo awards to 36.