

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

### **Fee Changes**

The legislature passed a 2008-2009 fiscal year budget late in the session that includes a base increase to fees in the Superior Court. Under the new budget, the fee increases represent approximately a 44% rise in the underlying fees for filing in Superior Court.

The base filing fees were last increased by the legislature in 1997 and are disbursed according to ARS 12-284.03. In addition to base fees, Maricopa County has local fees to pay for automating court records and processes as well as to provide other services to the public. One example of automation services are the electronic court records that can be viewed remotely by attorneys and parties in their individual cases.

The new fee amounts take effect on the general effective date of the legislation, Friday, September 26, 2008. A listing of the fees effective September 26, 2008 will be posted on the Clerk's website at [www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov).

### **ECR Online for Complex Civil Cases**

Attorneys practicing in complex civil litigation cases will want to register for viewing documents electronically online. The LexisNexis contract in complex cases will expire in September. To view public records online in adult case types, attorneys will need to register with the Clerk's Electronic Court Record Online system (ECR Online).

ECR Online allows attorneys to use the internet to view documents filed on their own cases and cases on which members of their firm are the attorney of record in adult case types. Attorneys registered in ECR Online are allowed to keep up to 100 cases at a time on their viewing list. Sealed or confidential documents are not available online and require a court order to view.

When registering, the ECR Online system automatically compares the registrant's Arizona driver's license number against a Motor Vehicles Department database to verify identity. The information used in the registration process must exactly match the information on the driver's license to confirm identity. If an attorney chooses not to provide a driver's license number or the information does not match, the attorney can verify their identity in person at any Clerk's Office filing counter by presenting a government issued photo ID and their completed registration form.

If an attorney has a user name and password for the Clerk's eFiling Online "live" site, the same user name and password should be entered when registering at the ECR Online site. Registration is available at the ECR Online website: <https://ecr.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/login.aspx>.

**Water Case Docket**

Access to the Arizona General Stream Adjudication (Water Case) docket is now available at more than 40 public access terminals in four Clerk of the Court Offices located throughout the Valley.

The Gila River General Stream Adjudication is a Maricopa County Superior Court civil case initiated in 1979 to resolve the status of all rights for the use of surface water in the Gila River watershed. The Clerk's Office is entrusted with the record keeping for the entire adjudication process and provides document access to litigants and the public.

Prior to implementing the new docket access, the public had access to a hard copy of the Water Case docket maintained in binders at all locations. Public Access Terminals now provide faster, more efficient accessibility from strategically located computers with a link that connects directly to the Clerk of Court website where the electronic Water Case docket is maintained.