

By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

Legislative fee changes affect both Superior Court and Justice Courts

Although this column is generally about issues in the Clerk of Superior Court's office, it is worth noting that upcoming legislative fee changes are taking place in both superior court and in the justice courts. Arizona's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) recently sent the Clerks a summary of the changes. Selections from that summary are quoted and rephrased below.

“Legislation with an effective date of August 9, 2017, increases the amount of monies to be disbursed to the judicial collection enhancement fund (JCEF) ‘for the purpose of providing assistance, training and grants to courts to meet the minimum standards of courthouse security that are adopted by the Arizona Supreme Court.’ (See HB2540, sec. 23, signed May 12, 2017.) That same legislation amends the disbursement of fees provisions of A.R.S. §§ 12-284.03 (for superior courts) and 22-281(C) (for justice courts). The amendments to these statutes carry out the legislative change to the allocation of the filing fee [to] JCEF for court security purposes.”

Using existing authority and to match the legislative effective date, the Arizona Judicial Council endorsed a 2% increase in filing fees that covers the amount appropriated to the judicial collection enhancement fund (JCEF). The fee increases were enacted at the end of May through administrative orders amending the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration §§ 3-404 and 4-303, with an effective date of August 9, 2017. The new filing fee amounts are rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount and the AOC will be updating the fees accordingly within AZTurboCourt and eFileAZ.

The new superior court fees can be viewed on the Clerk's website at <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/fees.asp>. Keep in mind that documents submitted for filing that are received by the Clerk's office—whether at a file counter, by mail, or through a filing depository box—on or before August 8 will be subject to the current fees. Documents received for filing on and after August 9 will be subject to the new fees. The Clerk's office may need to obtain the difference in fees from the filing party before the Clerk can accept the documents for filing on and after August 9.

To notify the legal community, the Clerk's office updated its website with the fee increase information, had flyers available at file counters, placed reminders in the office's monthly publication, *The Brief*, and posted reminders on the Clerk's Facebook and Twitter accounts. For regular updates from the Clerk's office, follow the Clerk at www.facebook.com/MaricopaClerk; follow the Clerk on Twitter at @MaricopaClerk; and check the *Clerk's Corner* column in the *Maricopa Lawyer*.