

Maricopa Lawyer

Clerk's Corner

October 2011 (November Issue)

By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

Centennial Wedding Bells Will Be Ringing

The Clerks of the Superior Court and the Arizona Supreme Court have applied to the Arizona Centennial Commission to hold a Centennial Marriage Event on February 14, 2012 as part of Arizona's official Centennial events. The plans take advantage of the climate in Phoenix in February (one of Arizona's "5 C's") and capitalize on one of Arizona's nicknames as the "Valentine State."

All 15 elected Clerks of the Superior Court in Arizona are participating by letting marriage license applicants know that they can be married in a ceremony on the steps of the State Courts Building in downtown Phoenix, presided over by Rebecca White Berch, Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Couples who would like to take part in the Centennial Marriage Event should have their marriage license issued by any Clerk of the Superior Court's office in Arizona any time between now and February 6, 2012 or until allotted spots are reserved, up to 100 couples. Reservations are being required to ensure enough space is available to safely accommodate the couples, their witnesses and observers.

Participating couples will have their marriage license signed and issued by the Clerk of their county and the Chief Justice's signature will appear on the license as the officiator on the day of the event.

Other items of note about this event:

The Centennial Marriage Event is a one-time ceremony in coordination with Arizona's 100th anniversary of statehood and is open to a limited number of unmarried couples who want to become married as part of the event.

The cost to participate is the statutory fee for a marriage license: \$72. There are no additional fees associated with this event.

The event is tentatively scheduled for 4:00 p.m., adjacent to Wesley Bolin Plaza and the State Capitol, near downtown Phoenix. Start and end times will be strictly adhered to, as traffic routes and the time of sunset will be factors. Due to statutory requirements, **couples who have not checked in at the Clerk's registration table before the ceremony starts will not have their license signed and will need to make other arrangements for a wedding ceremony.**

No transportation or shuttle service is planned for participants or observers but volunteers will help direct people to parking, the registration table and with other actions related to the event.

For more details, including information on parking, media access and disability accommodations, contact Aaron Nash at 602-506-2309 or email nasha@cosc.maricopa.gov.