

By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

What happened this year?

This was a rebuilding year in and around the Clerk's office. From internal operational changes to rule changes to construction in and around courthouses, 2016 was a year of improvements. See below for what you might have missed or what is still changing.

Rule changes

A Supreme Court Task Force worked throughout 2015 restyling the civil rules of procedure. The final version of those rules were approved this year and go into effect January 1, 2017. Likewise, a Supreme Court Task Force has been working through the criminal rules of procedure this year and will submit a rule change petition in January. Be on the lookout for those proposed changes and the comment period that will follow.

Filing documents

Practitioners were reminded that parent information program certificates had to be eFiled by the providers directly and not by counsel or the parties and that the civil filing cover sheet was updated. Reminders went out for things to keep in mind when scanning documents for filing and to keep proposed orders and judgments separate when filing. Many attorneys changed firms and either retired or semi-retired, motivating the Clerk's office to remind attorneys and firms how to update their addresses to ensure notices are sent to the correct name and address going forward. Civil practitioners were notified that motions or stipulations to file under seal could now be filed electronically.

Improvements in and around the Clerk's offices

Internally, the Clerk's office improved its training and opportunities for courtroom clerks and was recognized with a national award for its efforts. The Clerk's offices and public space at the Northwest Regional Court Center were updated and improved. Meanwhile, the streets and overpass near the Regional Office were improved by the Department of Transportation. In February, the office collaborated with the Justice Courts downtown to be open on Valentine's Day weekend, resulting in over 100 couples getting married as part of the weekend's options. Later in the year, the office opened a limited-service juvenile file counter downtown to assist with an increasing demand for juvenile court proceedings.

Staying informed

The Clerk's monthly newsletter, *The Brief*, is distributed by email around the first of every month. Law firms and associations generally receive *The Brief* at one email address and then distribute internally. Review the archive of monthly newsletters anytime at http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/atty_news.asp.

The Clerk's website has a section for news and announcements and the office has a social media presence. The Clerk is on Twitter at @MaricopaClerk and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MaricopaClerk. Look for more information and practice tips throughout 2017. Best wishes throughout the New Year.