

# THE

# BRIEF

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An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office



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Michael K. Jeanes,  
Clerk of the Superior Court

## 2008 Outlook

This year, items of interest in the Clerk's Office will continue to be eFiling and the electronic court record. eFiling will expand to more divisions in civil and family court adult case types and plans are underway to begin in adult probate, mental health, and tax cases. Throughout 2008, the bar will hear more about a pilot project where attorneys may be required to electronically file their documents in the Superior Court in Maricopa County. The Clerk's Office will continue to demonstrate the eFiling system and provide CLE's with the most up-to-date information on eFiling in Maricopa County.

The Superior Court in Maricopa County is piloting a multi-vendor eFiling system. As an alternative to the Clerk's basic eFiling system, attorneys can register for eFiling with private vendors for a fee. Currently, eFiling is available through Wiznet, an eFiling company with experience in other jurisdictions. More vendors are anticipated to join the pilot in 2008. Updates will be posted on the Clerk's website at [www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov).

Attorney direct access to electronic court records via the internet will continue to expand as attorneys register with ECR Online through the Clerk's Office. The registration system automatically compares the registrant's driver's license number against a Motor Vehicles Department database to verify 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 at the Clerk's filing counters at the Downtown Phoenix Central Court Building, located at 201 W. Jefferson St. Access to ECR Online allows attorneys to view documents filed on their own cases and cases on which members of their firm are the attorney of record. Registration will be available at the Clerk's website.

## More Electronic Images Available

When visiting the public records service counters at a regional court center, customers are encouraged to use the Public Access Terminals first to determine if the image of a filing is available or if the customer must request a paper file. A recent imaging project with a third-party vendor increased the number of documents in the electronic court record by adding numerous inactive civil cases. Clerk's Office staff are available to assist customers with accessing the electronic images of court documents. Imaged documents eliminate Office staff's need to pull files from boxes and results in faster service.

## Happy New Year

From Michael Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court, and the entire Office staff, thank you for the successes of 2007 and look forward to further improvements in 2008. Participation from individuals and groups from the bench and bar at the state and local level continues to improve the court system in Arizona.