

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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E-signatures

“E-signatures” are an important topic for attorneys participating in electronic filing. One-third of all eFilers submit their pleadings to the Clerk without first entering the mandated “block s” printed name/e-signature of the filing attorney. There are differences in e-filing applications between the Federal District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and even between the complex and civil litigation cases in Maricopa County. The general civil and criminal/DUI eFiling system in Maricopa County Superior Court requires attorneys to register a user name and password to electronically file. In Maricopa County, Administrative Order 2005-091 states, “[t]he use of the user name and password of an attorney or party shall constitute an original signature pursuant to Ariz. R. Civ. P. 11, where required, on electronically filed documents. The user name when used in conjunction with the personally selected password shall constitute a signature of the registered user on documents submitted to the Court or by the Court. To ensure the intent of the filing participant, the signature line on an electronically filed document will bear the printed name of the filing participant preceded by the symbol “/s”. “ Careful attention to this requirement will reduce the number of rejected filings and promote compliance with Rule 11 regarding signing pleadings.

Criminal eFiling

Electronic filing in criminal cases will be available at the Southeast adult court facility in May. The Clerk and Superior Court, with the Indigent Defense agencies and County Attorney, are currently training to implement eFiling in criminal case types. Initially, Judges Udall, Talamante and Stephens will take part, accepting electronically filed subsequent filings. This pilot involves attorneys who use the county computerized systems and will eventually expand to the private bar.

The criminal eFiling pilot began in April 2005 in the DUI Court (Commissioners Nothwehr and A. Anderson), and Judge Donahoe’s division. To date, these divisions have received and processed over 1,450 electronically filed pleadings.

Updated Website

The Office website will have a new look in May. Visit www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov for all the news and events from the Clerk’s Office. Our site provides information on the electronic court record, case history information, minute entries online, office hours and locations, up-to-date listings of fees and downloadable forms, and much more. If you like what you see or don’t see what you would like, complete the online customer survey. Let us know what you think is working well and what you would like in the future.

Efiling Dates

The Clerk’s Office conducts free, monthly one-hour eFiling demonstrations for general civil cases. Demonstrations are scheduled from 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. on May 17 and June 14, in the Clerk’s training room. The training room is located on the 2nd floor of the Central Court Building, 201 W. Jefferson St. in Phoenix. More information and training dates are available at <http://eventures.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/GenCVE-File.pdf>