

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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Civil eFiling anniversary

EFiling in general civil cases began a pilot project in Judge Swann's division in late June 2005. At the time, Judge Swann started with 40 cases, and the Clerk's Office provided onsite training of the eFiling system to the first law firms in the pilot. One year later, there are nearly 300 civil eFiling cases in Judge Swann's division and the Clerk's Office offers monthly open demonstrations of the system at the Central Court Building in downtown Phoenix.

While Judge Swann leads the charge into an electronic standard of managing the court's business, three additional Civil divisions are actively eFiling, with two more Civil divisions beginning August 2006. Since June 2005, civil eFilings average 220 per month. The Clerk's Office appreciates those divisions that have enthusiastically joined the eFiling process. The success of these pilots continues to attract judicial officers and practitioners alike to take part in eFiling's expansion in Superior Court.

Criminal eFiling Update

EFiling in Criminal Court continues to expand since the first pilot projects were launched in April 2005. Today, there are seven Criminal and DUI divisions accepting eFilings, and over 3,000 criminal pleadings have been eFiled by the County Attorney, Public Defender, and the Court in the last 12 months. Recent expansion of criminal eFiling to the Southeast court in Mesa contributed to an increase in eFilings of over 400 percent between April and May, and more Criminal divisions will begin accepting eFilings throughout the year.

MEEDS Update

The electronic distribution of minute entries continues to grow. Most attorneys practicing in Maricopa County take advantage of the speedy reliability of minute entries by email (the Minute Entry Electronic Distribution System, or MEEDS). Minute entries by email began in the Clerk's Office in March 2000 and became available to all law firms in February 2002. As of June 9, 2006, nearly 5,000 attorneys receive their Maricopa County Superior Court minute entries by email. To begin receiving minute entries by email, please fill out the Minute Entry Distribution Agreement form available at: <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/forms.asp>

Minute entries by email are one part of an overall electronic court record (ECR). You will hear more from around the country and world about the electronic business model as the standard for court systems at all levels. The Maricopa County Clerk of Superior Court is proud of the progressive and motivated individuals from the Bar, bench, courts, and community, who continue to embrace, improve, and use the ECR.

eFiling CLE

Michael Jeanes, Clerk's Office staff, and Mohyeddin Abdulaziz of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Second Division, will present an eFiling CLE for the State Bar on August 23, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at the ASU Downtown Center. Attendance at the first eFiling CLE sold out. For more information, visit the CLE section on the State Bar's website.