

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

Top 10 Court Website

The Clerk of the Superior Court for Maricopa County was recently recognized by *Justice Served* for having one of the top 10 court websites in the world. *Justice Served* is an alliance of court management and justice experts, who reviewed nearly 4,000 court websites throughout the world and selected the Clerk's website as one of the 10 finest.

Criteria used to determine website winners were: Court Tasks, Forms, Self Help, Financial Transaction, Indexing, Web Functionality, Links, Aesthetics, Navigation, Finding the Site, Extras, High Impact, Recent Updates, and Feedback. According to *Justice Served*, the current winners are "the ultimate models of court online services in the world." Specific to the Clerk's website, the judges recognized "top notch features and electronic access that is truly best of class."

This is the second time in the nine-year history of the award program that the Clerk's Office received a "Top 10" website award. Other American jurisdictions recognized for their websites were in Pennsylvania, Nevada, Florida and North Carolina. International award winners were (No. 1) the Subordinate Courts of Singapore, two courts in Australia and one court in Ireland. More information is available at the *Justice Served* website: www.justiceserved.com

Criminal Tower Approved

In May, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$334 million in capital funding for a planned Criminal Courthouse in downtown Phoenix. The new courthouse is projected for completion in 2011. The plans call for the new facility to be 16 stories and have 722,930 square-feet for 32 courtrooms, a Clerk of Court's Office, a jury assembly room, Criminal Court Administration, Adult Probation Department, offices for attorneys, program services and secure holding cells. The design is expected to provide separate circulation patterns for the public, judicial personnel, inmates, jurors, and more. The new courthouse will be located behind the Central Court Building in downtown Phoenix, which will require the demolition of an existing parking garage. It is estimated to take one year of architectural design and two years of construction to complete the facility. The plan to develop the Criminal Courthouse was achieved through a series of meetings and work sessions involving judicial officers, justice system stakeholders, victim advocates, the media, the Court's Americans with Disabilities Act Committee, County Management, and Gould Evans, a planning and design firm. Planning will continue throughout construction.

An Ethical Debate

Clerk of Court Michael Jeanes was selected as one of two presenters delivering a statewide satellite broadcast for judicial staff in September. The program, "Point/Counterpoint: an Ethical Debate" will address ethics issues in the courts that challenge employees in their work and personal lives. The training will use real-life and theoretical situations to debate the issues from several perspectives. Similar to attorneys' CLE requirements, all court staff in the state are required to obtain 16 hours of continuing education credits each year, including mandatory ethics training.