

THE

BRIEF

Vol. 5, No. 10

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



October 2009

Michael K. Jeanes,
Clerk of the Superior Court

eFilings Increase

Electronic filings increased more than 33 percent between December 2008 and August 2009. The Arizona Supreme Court authorized permissive eFiling in the Superior Court in Maricopa County effective December 2008. This action makes it possible for self-represented litigants and attorneys to choose to eFile in general civil cases, in criminal trial divisions, and in several family court divisions. Case initiating documents and other documents specified in the eFiling Guidelines must still be filed on paper, but most filings can now be filed electronically in the case types listed above. The Court's authorization and the Clerk's ongoing promotion and training in eFiling throughout the summer have resulted in more firms and attorneys taking advantage of the ease and availability of eFiling. Permissive eFiling is in addition to the ongoing pilot in several civil divisions that identify individual cases for mandatory eFiling. For more information about eFiling or to register to eFile, visit <https://efiling.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov>.

Need a Certified Copy Right Away?

Attorneys and parties may obtain a certified copy of an original order, judgment, or decree at the time of a hearing. To do so, provide the courtroom clerk with an original order, judgment or decree and one copy for certification and the judicial officer will sign both documents. One document will be filed-in and the other will be stamped with the same date and time as the original and labeled "Copy for Certification." When possible, this can be done immediately and the attorney or party must take the copy to the filing counter to have the copy certified. If this cannot be done immediately, the clerk or judicial staff will notify the attorney or party when the copy for certification is ready to be picked up from the division so it can then be taken to the filing counter to have the copy certified. If the copy for certification is not certified within two business days of the filing date, the attorney or party will need to obtain a certified copy of the original from the Customer Service Center in Phoenix or at the filing counters at the regional court centers.

Pro Hac Vice

Sponsoring an out-of-state lawyer who will be filing with the Superior Court in Maricopa County? Pro Hac Vice attorneys (PHV) can register to electronically file directly with the Clerk's Office from their home state. The registration process is intuitive, and by having the case number and document to file, eFiling is as close as the nearest computer with an internet connection. Access to the images of documents on the case via the Electronic Court Record Online (ECR Online) is also available to PHV attorneys who have a court order indicating their admission for the particular case. The Clerk's Office and the PHV attorney will need to coordinate the necessary information to manually complete the ECR Online registration. In addition to civil cases the court has mandated for eFiling, attorneys can choose to eFile in all general civil cases, criminal court trial divisions, and in several family court divisions.