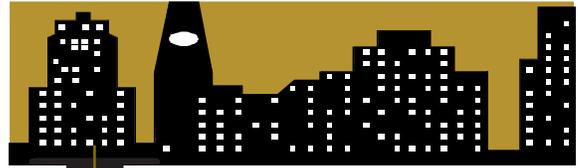




# Talk of the Town



July 2003

A periodic newsletter to keep the legal community informed about news concerning the Clerk of the Court's Office

## Office creates new on-line service to assist victims of crime

Clerk of the Superior Court Michael Jeanes is announcing the creation of a new on-line service that allows people and businesses to search the Clerk of the Court's Office website to see if the Office has any unclaimed money (restitution) that is owed to them.



The new program, which is available on the office's website at [www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov) under "Unclaimed Property," is designed so users simply enter their name or the name of their business to see if the Office has any court-ordered restitution monies or assets belonging to them. If so, they can print and complete the two forms, and either fax them to the office at 602-506-5127, or mail them to the Clerk

of the Court's Criminal Financial Obligations Unit at 201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

"Frequently, individual victims of crime who are owed restitution move without notifying the Clerk's Office of their new address," Clerk of the Court Jeanes said. "In cases where restitution is ordered to a business or government agency, it can be more complex. There may be multiple work sites within the organization and the employees who process that type of work may not be aware of the restitution."

In either of the above cases, the restitution is held by the Clerk's Office. The office's Criminal Financial Obligations Unit makes significant efforts to locate these people; however, with this new interactive web program, it will increase and enhance the chances in locating those people who have money or assets owed to them.

Currently, the Clerk's Office has approximately \$650,000 of unclaimed monies and assets that it is holding for crime victims.

"It has always been our goal to get these monies to the victims as quickly as possible," Jeanes said. "I am proud that we are now able to provide convenient access to this information."

### Family Support Center weaves a new look for its website

Clerk of the Court Michael K. Jeanes would like to invite the legal community to visit the newly improved Family Support Center website at [www.familysupportcenter.maricopa.gov](http://www.familysupportcenter.maricopa.gov). In addition to dramatic changes in the appearance, the site has been redesigned to be more user friendly. The site includes information about Expedited Services, Support Services, as well as offers links to related sites such as fees, forms, and resources, and Resources for Parents.

## Positive results on new exhibits tracking system

The Clerk's Office has increased the efficiency and speed in which it manages the court exhibits through the development of an innovative automated Exhibit Tracking System. The new system replaced a manual process.

The Exhibit Tracking System features a bar code that is placed on each exhibit tag, which enables the exhibit to be scanned in and out. Other features of the system include: providing information on the exhibit's storage location; the availability status of the exhibit; and who has had control of the exhibit.



**Picturing the news.** A current photo of the progress on the new three-story Durango Juvenile facility, which is projected to be completed by April or May. The Clerk's Office will have sections on the 1st floor for a filing counter, payment windows, file maintenance, courtroom clerk staff, distribution, appeals, and exhibits.



## Office receives several awards

The Clerk of the Court's Office has received some national and local recognition in recent months for its services, programs, and/or employees. Following is a list and brief description of the awards the office has been presented:

### Family Support Center



Support Orders' **Margaret Gardner** uses the Temporary Order Program on a daily basis in her job.

The Family Support Center's Temporary Order Program (TPO) has something permanent – an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo, which represents the nation's county governments in Washington D.C., recognized the FSC program for being innovative and enhancing service to the public.

"These awards do not come easily, and so this is an honor to have such recognition for our office and staff," Michael Jeanes said.

The TPO establishes temporary child support orders without additional petitions, and in many instances, without a hearing. The program also expedites financial assistance to children when a dissolution is pending.

### Annual Report

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) selected the office's latest annual report, titled *Service Driven*, as this year's top annual report for county governments.



NACIO sponsors the annual contest where county governments across the country compete in various communication projects including writing, publications, events, websites, etc.

The report also received a design award from NACIO and a first place design award in a local communications competition among businesses, governments, and non-profit agencies.

For a copy of the report, you may email [LKeso@cosc.maricopa.gov](mailto:LKeso@cosc.maricopa.gov)

### Outstanding Young Lawyer

Communications Director **Cari Gerchick** was selected as the "Outstanding Young Lawyer" by the State Bar of Arizona. Cari, who is an attorney, was recognized for her outstanding efforts in



law-related service to the community or the bar.

### Clerk of the Year

Family Support Center Administrator **Anje Anderson** was selected as the "Clerk of the Year" by the Arizona Family Support Council (AFSC). The AFSC is a statewide organization for child support-related agencies. They selected Anje for the award for her significant contributions to the field of child support.

### Website

The Clerk's Office website finished first in NACIO's competition among the nation's county governments. The address of the office website is: [www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov)



## Town Tidbits

► In other news, per Administrative Order number 2003-024, filing fees for the following Probate filings increased in April:

- Court Investigator Fee increased from \$325 to \$350; and
- Court Accountant Fee increased from \$227.50 to \$250.

An updated listing of all fees is posted on the Clerk of the Court's website ([www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov)) under "Filing Fees."

► The Southeast Juvenile Office has moved. The office is in a new location, but is still in the same building at 1810 S. Lewis in Mesa. The office is no longer at the entrance of the building, but down the hallway on the left side on the first floor. The new office area has twice the filing space, more work room, enhanced security, three public windows, and a lobby for customers.

## Get your minute entries sent electronically

Law firms who are interested in enrolling in the Clerk's Electronic Minute Entry Program may call Cari Gerchick at 602-506-5728 or email her at [cgerchick@cosc.maricopa.gov](mailto:cgerchick@cosc.maricopa.gov) for information and an application. Currently there are 180 law firms, representing 1,996 attorneys, enrolled in the program.

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