

THE POST

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARIZONA COURTS ASSOCIATION

June 2023

2023 Conference

Our 2023 annual conference is in the books!! Hopefully those who attended had a great time and had a chance to engage with others from around the state. We had about 140 participants and more than 20 breakout sessions. Our plenary sessions provided for both Ethics and Cybersecurity credit, which should have put all attendees well on their way to meeting their annual COJET requirements.

We have compiled the evaluations and will be discussing all of your feedback for the upcoming years. Thank you all!

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you to all who attended the 2023 ACA Spring Conference. The ACA appreciates all of your support in making our event another great success! Enjoy the upcoming summer months. Be safe and hydrate.



Rodney Cooper
Arizona Courts Association
2023 President

BOARD MEMBERSHIP:

Our board meets monthly except for July, August, and November and the meetings are hosted by board members at their respective courts, allowing board members to visit and learn more about courts throughout the state.

Our annual business meeting for 2023 will be held on September 15th at the Pima County Consolidated Courts in Tucson. If you are interested in being on the board, please plan to attend that meeting, as we will be doing our annual election of officers. For more information, please email our current President, Rodney Cooper, at Rodney.Cooper@phoenix.gov.

“A true hero isn’t measured by size of his strength, but by the strength of his heart.”

~Hercules

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA TOO?

To stay advised about upcoming meetings and other exciting news, follow us on Facebook and visit our website at: www.arizonacourtsassociation.org





Contact Us

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MEMBERSHIP:

Please visit our website at: [The Arizona Courts Association \(ACA\) Membership - The Arizona Courts Association \(ACA\)](#) to fill out your form and submit your payment through nCourt or by mail. Membership gives you exclusive access to the ACA Post, as well as discounts on registration for our annual conference.

FEATURED COURT: COCONINO COUNTY

Not all of Arizona is desert, and yes, we do get snow in this state! One of the places to go to find that snow is up north in Coconino County, the second largest county by area in the lower 48. It covers 18,661 square miles, or about 16.4% of Arizona's total area and attracts outdoor enthusiasts from all over. It is also larger than nine of the smallest states in the country. The county seat is Flagstaff, home of the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks. As of the 2020 census, Coconino County was home to over 145,000 people, and nearly 30% of that population is Native American, representing the Havasupai, Navajo, Hualapai, and Hopi nations.

One of the most notable locations within Coconino County is the Grand Canyon, which is often considered one of the Wonders of the World. It was the 15th site in the United States to have been named a national park. Other must-see destinations in the area include the Lowell Observatory where the planet Pluto was first discovered, Bearizona off of historic Route 66 in Williams, the "Chocolate Falls" in the scenic Painted Desert, and nearby Meteor Crater, created over 50,000 years ago by a meteorite that was about 160 feet across. You will also find the highest point in Arizona located in the towering pines of Coconino County, Humphrey's Peak at 12,637 feet.

"In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun, and snap, the job's a game." —Mary Poppins

MEETING DATES:

Our next meeting will be the annual business meeting and will be held on September 15, 2023, in Tucson. Meetings are open to the public, and we highly encourage attendance from our members. Contact a board member directly for further information if you wish to attend.

OUR NEWSLETTER:

Our newsletter is intended to supplement the information that we provide to members. We are always looking for good things happening in Arizona Courts! If you would like to contribute information or celebrate an achievement with us, please contact Kristie Wooley at krwooley@courts.az.gov. We would love to highlight different courts and honor staff throughout the state!



ARTICLES ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ARIZONA:

The recent retirement of the Honorable Kevin D. White has provided an opening on the Pinal County Superior Court. Six applicants are being considered for the position and the public is invited to provide comment. A hearing will be held by the Pinal County Commission on Trial Court Appointments on July 7, 2023, to review applications and hear comments. The applicants include: Lawrence Wharton, Megan Weagant, Matthew Reed, Jamie Ramirez, Karen Palmer and Kyle Hopson. Read more here: [News Release-Applicants-White.pdf \(azcourts.gov\)](#)

With another round of Bar exams scheduled for July, the Arizona Supreme Court recently announced the results of the February 2023 bar exam. With 232 applicants, 95 met the score requirement of 273 or higher for admission to the Arizona State Bar. For a list of individuals who met the scoring requirement, including the three top highest scorers, see the news release here: [AZUBE Feb2023 NewsRelease.pdf \(azcourts.gov\)](#)

Arizona is being represented in the Miss USA pageant by Candace Kanavel, an officer with the Tempe Police Department. She says that some of her law enforcement training has come in handy as she navigates the pageant world as much as her pageant training has helped her as a police officer, saying the skills apply across the board. She is excited to be a role model for others and looks forward to competing in the pageant later this year. [From a badge to a crown: Meet Tempe PD's officer representing Arizona in Miss USA \(fox10phoenix.com\)](#)

In the continued fight against illegal and dangerous drugs, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized approximately 294,200 fentanyl pills at the Nogales port of entry on Tuesday, June 13. They also located fentanyl powder and cocaine in the cargo area of the SUV.

Arizona has more than 100 inmates on death row at the Arizona State Prison complex in Florence. Today, there is one less person, though, as Barry Jones was released after having been sentenced to death in Pima County Superior Court in 1995. After considering new evidence, the Attorney General's office requested that Jones' conviction for first degree murder be vacated. In addition, Jones agreed to plead guilty to second degree murder for failing to seek or render aid for the victim and he was sentenced to 25 years, with credit for the time he had already served, causing him to be immediately released from prison. [Barry Jones, wrongfully convicted of capital crime, freed after 29 years \(azcentral.com\)](#)



Stay safe during the summer monsoons- our next meeting is in September-hope to see you there!