

News Release

Michael K. Jeanes,
Clerk of the Superior Court
Maricopa County, AZ

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT'S OFFICE, MARICOPA COUNTY
620 W. Jackson, Suite 3017, Phoenix, AZ 85003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clerk of Court's Office Receives National Recognition For Innovative Programs

The Clerk of the Superior Court's Office has received three national awards for the innovative programs implemented over the past few years to increase efficiency and enhance service. The awards were presented this month by the National Association of Counties (NACo), who represents the nation's county governments in Washington D.C.

"It is an honor to be recognized nationally for our efforts to improve services," Clerk of the Court's Michael Jeanes said. "It is particularly gratifying to have achieved this recognition in a cost-effective manner during the economic downturn that has resulted in budget reductions, staff shortages, and limited resources. It is a tribute to our innovative staff and their outstanding dedication and hard work."

The programs that received the national achievement awards are:

- **Mandatory eFiling** – This program was developed to enhance case processing, decrease expenses, and reduce space and other resource needs by implementing mandatory eFiling by attorneys for all civil subsequent case documents. eFiling allows the office to process documents filed within approximately eight hours compared to an average of three days with paper filings. The office plans to further reduce the eFiling timeframe to two hours. As a result of this mandatory eFiling program, Civil paper filings decreased by one hundred percent from 2011 - 2012.

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- **Court-to-Court Program** – This program was developed to electronically transmit the record on appeal for all case types to the Supreme and Appellate Court. It created a net annual savings of \$165,000 and eliminated a time-intensive method of handling the paper documents. Prior to implementing this electronic transmittal, all Records on Appeal were disassembled, copied, indexed, and rebuilt in order to send multiple paper copies to the Court.
- **Electronic Court Record (ECR) Online** - This program was developed to provide a secure, cost-effective, and convenient method for attorneys and self-represented parties to use the internet to register and view the documents of their case(s) on their computer rather than coming to the Clerk's Office to view the hard copy file. Along with the convenience and quicker access to the ECR through the new website, the program improves the impact on the environment by decreasing travel time. In addition, ECR reduces the demand on Clerk's staff to manually pull files for viewing. At the end of FY10-11, over 10,000 attorneys and self-represented parties were registered in ECR Online.

The three achievement honors brings the Clerk of Court's total to 36 NACo awards. NACo conducts the achievement award program to recognize the best, new programs in county government. Awards are given in 21 different categories including information technology, financial management, court administration and management, children and youth, criminal justice, and health.

The **Mission** of the [Clerk of the Superior Court](#) is to provide progressive and efficient court-related records management and financial services for the justice system, legal community, and public so they have fair and timely access to accurate court records and services.

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