

# THE

# BRIEF

Vol. 2, No. 8

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



September 2006

Michael K. Jeanes,  
Clerk of the Superior Court

## Buried Bonds

The Clerk's Office is holding thousands of dollars in bond money posted primarily in civil matters. The bulk of these are filed for arbitration appeals, appeal bonds and supersedeas bonds. It appears most of these bonds are not addressed when a settlement is reached in the case and the parties stipulate to a dismissal. There is a lesser problem with all types of civil cases in which bonds are posted. Civil cases can be lengthy, and the bonds are apparently overlooked when the matter settles. For bond matters, like many other court situations, the Clerk receives direction from court orders. If you think you may have an unresolved civil bond, contact the Clerk's Office with the case specifics to assist the Office's search, and then pursue a court order directing the bond's release. For more information, please contact the Clerk's accounting department at 602-506-7757.

## Back-scanning Project

The Clerk's Office recently contracted with a vendor to scan and image inactive case files that have not been microfilmed. The success of the electronic court record (ECR) has encouraged more judicial officers to turn to their computer for immediate access to court filings instead of ordering a paper file. As the ECR expands, the demand for more electronic records has increased.

Civil cases from 1998 will soon be available electronically, followed by civil cases from 1999. The project seeks to convert between five to six million pages of paper to electronic images in this phase, with an estimated 35 million images that could be captured from all inactive cases, regardless of case type or year. Currently, the Office's repository contains about 11 million electronic documents, containing tens of millions of imaged pages, from filings in Criminal, Civil, Family Court, Mental Health, and Tax cases dating back to 2002, and Probate cases dating to 1997. In the future, the project will involve converting the electronic images to microfilm. The back-scanning project will also provide essential space at the Clerk's Office, as we continue to process over 40,000 pieces of paper each business day.

## New Online Civil Coversheet

A new code, 136, has been added to the civil coversheet for residential and commercial construction defects cases. Using the most up-to-date forms allows the Clerk to accurately process and docket the high volume of cases filed each day at Clerk locations throughout the valley. The new form is available on the "e-forms on demand" section of the Clerk's website at <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/faxondemand/204.pdf>.

## eFiling CLE

The first two eFiling CLE's featuring Michael Jeanes, Clerk's Office staff, and Mohyeddin Abdulaziz of the Arizona Court of Appeals filled to capacity in May and August. Another session is tentatively scheduled for October 26 at the ASU Downtown Center. For more information, visit the CLE section on the State Bar's website.