



## Mandatory E-Filing Update

Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch and the Arizona Supreme Court further solidified their dedication to electronic filing in Arizona by moving forward with a series of phase-in dates for mandatory e-filing. Supreme Court Administrative Order 2010-117 provides details for the planned implementation. The mandatory status of e-filing has several requirements and limitations under the Administrative Order, some of which are:

- Applies to civil cases in Maricopa County only.
- Mandatory for attorneys filing on behalf of a client. Not mandatory for self-represented.
- Civil cases are still initiated on paper with the Clerk of the Superior Court. Mandatory e-filing applies to post-initiation civil case documents only.
- E-filing through AZTurboCourt is available now, but is required by the dates stated in the Administrative Order's phase-in schedule.
- Training is available now through the Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and sanctions are authorized for non-compliant counsel.
- Exceptions, costs and definitions are contained within the Administrative Order.

Law firms and attorneys received a related notification directly from the AOC in November, including contact information for training and questions. AZTurboCourt is not operated or maintained by the Clerk of the Superior Court, but the Clerk's Office encourages early adoption of e-filing through AZTurboCourt. The Administrative Order is available online at <http://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/22/admorder/Orders10/2010-117.pdf>.

## Adoption Day Success

Maricopa County has historically led the nation in the number of adoptions completed on National Adoption Day and all signs point to another nationally-successful event. Held on November 20, the Superior Court finalized the adoption of 316 children, providing them forever-homes in the Valley. The Superior Court opens court proceedings on this day and welcomes the public to take part in what is a life-changing day for newly-formed and expanding families. Special guest appearances and a fun-filled atmosphere surround this event, held yearly in November. Clerk employees come in for the Saturday event to staff the hearings and report it is one of the best days of the year to work, with judges, families and staff sharing smiles and congratulations throughout the day.

## Office Closures

Remember that Clerk's Offices will be closed on the last two Fridays in December in observation of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. E-filing is encouraged in applicable civil, criminal and family court case types. For paper filings, external filing boxes are located at each Clerk's facility around the Valley and are available 24 hours-per-day. Filing box locations are posted on the Clerk's website at [http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/alternative\\_filing.asp#External](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/alternative_filing.asp#External). The Clerk's Office is looking forward to working with you in 2011!