



JEROME MUNICIPAL COURT

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TO: Jerome Town Council

FROM: Angela M. Bradshaw Napper, Magistrate

SUBJECT: Monthly Staff Report

DATE: June 27, 2024

June feels as though it has come and gone. Blessedly, the monsoon season has arrived. The Court remains steadily busy. Filings appear somewhat slower based upon the anticipated July pretrial conference calendar, but payments and collections were on pace this month, compared to last.

Earlier this month, court staff attended training sponsored and held by the Administration Office of the Courts. My clerk attended several virtual and in-person courses on a variety of topics. I attended the annual Judicial Conference held in Tucson. Plenary sessions included topics on leadership, network/cyber security, and procedural fairness. My break-out sessions included topics such as threat awareness, understanding mental health disorders, case law updates, and a round table discussion about challenges faced by rural courts.

The discussion of rural courts was informative. For many outlying counties (Apache or Graham), Yavapai County hardly seems rural. We were all reminded that *rural* comes in different shapes and sizes. Sometimes, *rural* is a geographically large, sparsely populated area with just one division of superior court for the entire county. Sometimes, *rural* is a small municipal court in what is otherwise considered an urban county, but because of the court's long distance from the county seat and proximity to a tribal nation, the court is very much rural in nature. Sometimes, as we know, *rural* is a small court, in a small town perched on the side of a beautiful mountain in central Arizona. For all our differences, the rural courts share many some of the same challenges: lack of transportation; limited connectivity to technology; aging infrastructure; and limited economic growth. Thankfully, we also share many of the same goals: to effectively serve our unique communities; to collaborate with other courts and departments of government; to innovate positive changes to our courts; and to promote justice. I was proud to represent a rural, limited jurisdiction court and even more proud of this Court's particular accomplishments and the positive relationships between the Court, other town departments, and the Town Council. Sadly, not every judge enjoys the same kind of progress and support.

The closing event at the conference was the "Passing of the Gavel." We welcomed the new Arizona Chief Justice, Ann A. Scott Timmer. She presented her strategic five-year agenda. Her thoughtful initiatives include expanding access to justice through regulatory reform, protecting communities through fair justice initiatives, and enhancing professionalism through promoting legal community well-being. Her agenda outlines many practical and aspirational goals we can hope to achieve in the coming five years. Without hesitation, I believe it is a good time to be a part of the Arizona justice system. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.