

To: Guadalupe Town Council

Date: August 11, 2016

From: Lilia Alvarez  
Presiding Judge

Subject: TWO YEAR REPORT: GUADALUPE MUNICIPAL COURT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As Presiding Judge of the Guadalupe Municipal Court, it is an honor to provide a summary of achievements since my appointment on September 3, 2014. Guadalupe Municipal Court exists to ensure that all people, including victims of crimes, are treated with fairness, respect and dignity. We accomplished these goals through institutional courage; persistently identifying best practices for court operations and diligently working to become the "best little court in Arizona." The Court's Pro Tempore Judges include: Retired Chief Presiding Judge from Phoenix Municipal Court, Honorable Roxanne Song Ong, Honorable Lance Jacobs and Honorable Margarita Silva.

In the last two years, the Court has transitioned from a culture of apathy to a culture of justice and excellence. The Court has aligned itself with the goals of the Arizona Supreme Court 2014-2019 Strategic Agenda, *Advancing Justice Together: Courts and Communities*. The Court previously submitted its Annual Report on September 3, 2015, which is published at <https://guadalupecourt.org/CourtOneYearReport.pdf>. This report expands on those accomplishments and is organized according to the five (5) strategic goals of the Arizona Supreme Court's Strategic Agenda.

## 2015-2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**2016 Arizona Supreme Court Operational Review:** From January 4 to January 6, 2016, the Arizona Supreme Court, through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), conducted an operational review of the Court. The Court received immediate feedback on its professionalism and high-level compliance with financial and case management requirements. This is a dramatic shift from previous operational reviews.

### Honors and Awards:

- **Arizona Supreme Court 2016 Strategic Agenda Award Recipient** in the Limited Jurisdiction category for Improving Court Processes to Better Serve the Public.
- July 11, 2016: Guadalupe Teen Court received **National Recognition Award for Innovation by the National Association of Counties (NACo)** for being the only Teen Court in the entire state of Arizona held in a library setting with a Judge as its leader. <http://www.uscounties.awardsprogram>
- June 17, 2016: The Arizona Republic featured Judge Alvarez as one of the community leaders invited to the **White House United State of Women Summit** in Washington D.C., on criminal justice reform. <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local>
- June 14, 2016: Judge Alvarez was interviewed on 91.5 KJZZ, regarding the role of women as leaders for social transformation. <http://theshow.kjzz.org/NWS>
- June 14, 2016: Judge Alvarez attended the White House United State of Women Summit in Washington D.C., as one of six from Arizona invited to attend.
- May 20, 2016: Judge Alvarez gave a **presentation to the Arizona Supreme Court Task Force on Fair Justice for All**, explaining the Court's successful practices on transitioning to Justice. <http://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/74/TFFAIR/05202016/GuadalupeMunicipalCourtFinalV2.pdf>
- May 13, 2016: Judge Alvarez was honored with **the Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) "Heart and Hand Award,"** for contributing to improving the lives of limited income families in our community.
- April 9, 2016: **Tempe Union School District Recognition of Guadalupe Teen Court** members for leadership, innovation and commitment to education.
- March 19, 2016: At the **5th Annual Prison Education Conference**, Judge Alvarez was the keynote speaker on diversion programs and Guadalupe Teen Court. <https://english.clas.asu.edu/5th-annual-prison-education-conference>  
October 2014 – September 2016: Judge Alvarez represented the Town of Guadalupe on the **Maricopa County Human Services Department Community Services Commission**.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Strategic Goal 1: Promoting Access to Justice

**Services for Self-Represented Litigants:** The Court must be prepared to assist self-represented individuals in understanding court processes and legal procedures. Limited English language skills should not be a barrier to accessing justice.

- ✓ The Court has expanded access to interpreter services and translated forms, instructions and court information.
- ✓ The Court has published web-based bilingual forms and information describing legal terms and court procedures.
- ✓ The Court consistently provides court interpretation services via a telephonic service through the Arizona Supreme Court. The Court is also prepared to contract in-person interpretation services for trials.
- ✓ Court forms and information, whether in electronic or paper form, are easily understandable, and the Judge explains the availability of these resources to defendants in the Courtroom.
- ✓ The Court is currently implementing a system for sending defendants reminders regarding upcoming court dates and due dates by email and/or text message.
- ✓ Court staff provides front-end triage and referral services to assist self-represented litigants in identifying and obtaining appropriate services.

## AUTOMATION

**Court Website:** Launched on June 15, 2015, the Court has processed a total of \$27,225.29 in online payments from June 15, 2015 to August 2, 2016. Benefits of payment automation include freeing up employee time for more efficient and productive efforts that meet other case management needs.

- ✓ Website content includes court information, user-friendly forms, public resources and victim's rights information.
- ✓ The website is fully bilingual in Spanish and English, including the online payment options and court forms.
- ✓ The Court expanded electronic access to court documents by enhancing the ability of defendant's to submit motions to the Court electronically.

- ✓ All data and payment information has the appropriate protections for security and privacy.
- ✓ The Court's website is mobile friendly.

#### **Video Court:**

- ✓ In June 2015, the Court updated its video and software systems to access the Maricopa County Virtual Private Network (VPN), in order to see in-custody defendants within 24 hours.
- ✓ The Court prioritizes seeing in-custody defendants right away. Jail is no longer a waiting room.
- ✓ The Court now provides all Court orders to the Video Appearance Center (VAC), located Downtown Phoenix, through email and not fax.
- ✓ Hearings and proceedings for in-custody defendants are now recorded and held in public for people to hear the proceedings.

**Fill the Gap (FTG) Grant:** On April 28, 2015, the Guadalupe Municipal Court received a grant approval for \$5,000, from the Arizona Supreme Court, to invest in consulting services from Court Executive, Leonard Montanaro.

- ✓ Mr. Montanaro's contributions to the Court include budget review and preparation, case flow management and creation of online PDF forms for the Court's website. Mr. Montanaro's contract ended on June 30, 2016.

**Judicial Collection Enhancement Fund (JCEF) Grant:** The JCEF grant was approved on April 30, 2015, and a 3-month extension was granted on September 22, 2015, allowing the Court to complete its project of developing a comprehensive website.

- ✓ The Court assembled a mobile media station with the following equipment: Lenovo desktop computer, speakers, mouse, HDMI cables, HDMI selector, camcorder (document camera), tabletop tripod, Panasonic flat screen, and audio-visual cart.
- ✓ The media station is used to display Victim's Rights, Courtroom rules, and the Court docket inside the Courtroom.
- ✓ The media station is available for Counsel and self-represented litigants to display evidence during trials.

## Strategic Goal 2: Protecting Children, Families and Communities

**Evidence-based practices:** Important research regarding evidence-based practices in the legal system is underway throughout the nation. The Court must stay current with evidence-based research and implement successful approaches.

- ✓ In the past two years, the Court has emphasized a consistent court culture of formal courtroom decorum.
- ✓ Judicial employees have been trained on neutrality and understand how to remain impartial at all times.
- ✓ All defendants, alleged victims and court customers receive the same information on a consistent basis.
- ✓ The Judge consistently informs defendants of consequences for not appearing to their scheduled Court dates.

**Victim Rights:** The Court's media cart is used to display Victim's Rights inside the Courtroom in accordance with ARS 13-4438.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Fair Justice for All

On March 4, 2015, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) provided courts with guidance on enforcement of fines and fees. The Ferguson Investigation Report states: "Courts must not incarcerate a person for nonpayment of fines or fees without first conducting an indigency determination and establishing that the failure to pay was willful; Courts must consider alternatives to incarceration for indigent defendants unable to pay fines and fees; Courts must not use arrest warrants or license suspensions as a means of coercing the payment of court debt when individuals have not been afforded constitutionally adequate procedural protections; Courts must not employ bail or bond practices that cause indigent defendants to remain incarcerated solely because they cannot afford to pay for their release; and Courts must safeguard against unconstitutional practices by court staff."

On March 3, 2016, the Arizona Supreme Court issued Administrative Order (AO) 2016-06: "'Justice for All' means that people should not be disparately punished because they are poor. While everyone should face consequences for violating the law, criminal fines and civil penalties should not themselves promote a cycle of poverty by imposing excessive amounts or unduly restricting people's ability to be gainfully employed."

**Ending Debtors Prison:** Guadalupe Municipal Court was ahead of federal and state guidance: since September 2014, the Court does not issue warrants for arrest for non-payment of monetary penalties. The Court’s approach has maximized justice for all.

<b>Jail Cost Savings</b> September 2014-Present	
Costs Fiscal Year 2013/2014	\$219,298.00
Costs Fiscal Year 2015/2016	\$36,808.00
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$182,490.00</b>
<b>Reduction</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Total Number of Active Warrants</b>	
September 2014	1,563
January 2015	1,276
January 2016	659
July 2016	629
<b>Reduction</b>	<b>60%</b>

**Appearance Rate for Court Proceedings:** Confidence in the local Justice System has been restored.

- ✓ The Court has emphasized a culture of procedural justice: dignity, respect and transparency in all court proceedings.
- ✓ Two years ago, only 15% of all defendants appeared for Court proceedings. Today, the appearance rate is 95% – 100%

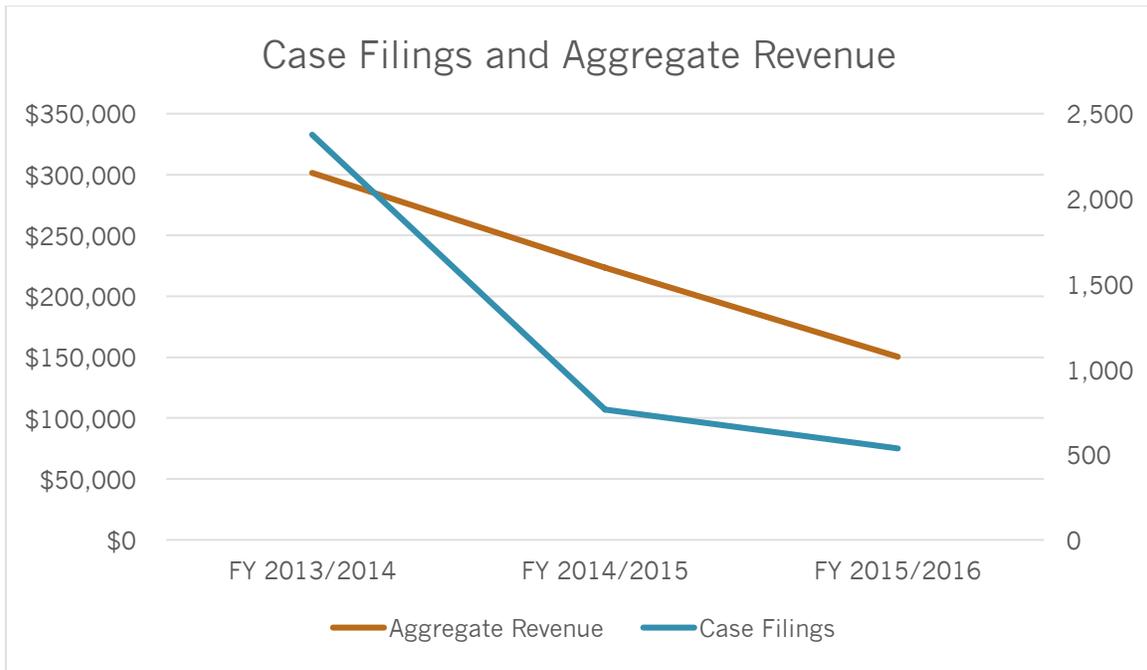
<b>Public Service Activity</b>	
<b>Activity Type</b>	<b>Total Contacts</b>
Payments Processed	756
Bonds Processed	11
Telephone Calls	288
Counter Activity	1,344

Courtroom Activity	
Proceeding Type	Number of Cases
Arraignments	621
Pre Trial Conferences	320
Trials/Hearings	356
Protective Orders	14

**Financial Records:** The Court has been in regular communication with the Town of Guadalupe Financial Department, to ensure the Court’s and the Town’s Finance records are in sync.

- ✓ Daily financial reconciliation is streamlined based on the needs of the Town Finance Department and the Court’s required Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS).
- ✓ Monthly financial reconciliation is streamlined. All monetary transactions are clearly delineated on the cover of each report.

Case Filings					
2014		2015		July 2015-July 2016	
Filed	2,377	Filed	764	Filed	687
Aggregate Financial Activity					
FY 2013/2014	\$301,284.00	FY 2014/2015	\$223,378.29	FY 2015/2016	\$150,207.20



Though filings of citations have decreased throughout the State of Arizona, the processes and technology that have been instituted at the Guadalupe Municipal Court have poised the court for any potential growth without additional staff resources.

**External Triennial Review:** In December 2014, the Court timely hired an external auditor to complete the required External Triennial Financial Review, as is required by the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA) Section 1-401 and the Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS). Most recently, in January 2016, the Court was selected for an Operational Review by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The next triennial review will be performed in December 2017.

**Arizona Judicial Department Fines/Fees and Restitution Enforcement (FARE) Collections:** The Court consistently educates Defendants regarding the process for dealing with delinquent balances within the Court system.

- ✓ Defendants have the option to create payment plans that are reasonable to the individual, including the option for community restitution in lieu of fines.
- ✓ These options promote compliance with case obligations and avoid case assignment to FARE collections that may include subsequent suspension of driving privileges.

Case Closure with FARE Administrative Order 2016-06	
FARE Report Cases (1990-2006)	1,324
MVD cases	620
Total	1,944

**Tax Intercept Program (TIP) Case Processing:** As part of the Court's participation in the FARE collections program, the Court is a TIP auto user. The TIP program automatically includes eligible cases for tax interceptions by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Revenue Collected from Tax Intercepts			
FY 2014-2015		FY 2015-2016 (July 2015-June 2016)	
Cases	75	Cases	113
Aggregate Revenue	\$11,121.63	Aggregate Revenue	\$14,776.15

**Strategic Goal 3: Improving Court Processes to Better Serve the Public**

**Judicial System Process Improvement:** As more people interact with the Court each day, the Court must continue to identify ways to improve judicial system processes. This effort requires that the judge, clerks, and court supervisor have the tools needed to timely and efficiently process cases.

- ✓ Court Staff Members understand their roles in and out of the courtroom and interact with all of the people that we serve in a professional and respectful manner.
- ✓ Court protocols are posted and each litigant must read and acknowledge the Courtroom decorum rules before they enter the courtroom.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

**Court Calendar:** To date, the Court has revamped its entire calendar system to ensure that every case deadline is documented and addressed on a daily basis.

- ✓ The Court has established a consistent practice of setting ticklers for cases with pending time sensitive requirements, such as bonds, restitution, and probation.
- ✓ The Court's consistent practice ensures timely justice for all parties.
- ✓ The Court has ensured consistent calendaring for bench trials, probation revocation hearings, bond hearings, and civil traffic hearings.
- ✓ The Court has staggered the Pre-Trial Conference (PTC) Calendar with 9AM and 10AM hearing times, to ensure defendants are not waiting 1 hour or longer to be heard. Comment by Prosecutor, "The Court used to have a lot of difficulty getting defendants to show up. Now waiting time has become an issue and staggered scheduling approach is reasonable."

**Records Retention and Disposition:** The Court is committed to removing redundancy in all Court processes. Court staff will continue to reduce paperwork and archival space by timely processing documents needed to comply with record retention policies, per Arizona Judicial Code of Administration (ACJA) Section 4-302.

- ✓ On December 18, 2015, the Court shredded 9 boxes of files, pursuant to the Arizona Supreme Court's Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Records Retention and Disposition Schedule	
Year of Eligibility/Destruction Date	Number of Files Boxed for Destruction
December 31, 2009-2014	2,873
December 31, 2015	987

- ✓ With the approval of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and in accordance with the Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS), the Court discontinued the process of retaining check copies in an additional binder.

**Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Disposition Reports:** Timely communication with DPS regarding the final disposition of charges is essential for case processing and case completion.

- ✓ The Court utilizes an internal process to ensure all reports are handled appropriately.
- ✓ The process ensures inconsistencies reported by DPS or the Court are timely addressed.

- ✓ The process ensures that, after a case is completed, there are no lingering charges within the Court's case management system or Arizona's DPS Computerized Criminal History System (ACCHS).

**Courthouse Facilities and Security:** Arizona's courts are forums for resolving difficult issues that affect people in vital aspects of their lives, including cases involving domestic relations and individual liberties. Emotions can run high in court proceedings. Courthouses must be a safe place for all who enter their doors.

- ✓ Since August 2016, the Court has worked closely with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) to develop an Emergency Action Plan for the Court.
- ✓ On July 7, 2016, the Judicial Branch Security Department conducted a needs assessment for courthouse security infrastructure and the Court later received a comprehensive report for best practices.
- ✓ The Court has established Courthouse and Courtroom Security Standards and a Court Emergency Action Plan.
- ✓ Court Staff has received training on court security, by the Arizona Supreme Court and MCSO.
- ✓ In conjunction with the development of the Emergency Action Plan, the Court continues to work with the MCSO and Arizona Superior Court to assess the security needs of the Court, as well as the Town Hall building.

#### CASE MANAGEMENT

**Case Filings:** The Court has successfully implemented processes for compliance with case management requirements. Court Management has created case processing standards that ensure timely processing of cases by case type. This approach also assists Judicial Employees with staying competitive with the skills and expectations accepted by sister courts.

**Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) Processing of Completed Cases:** Cases as old as 1984, although completed, had not been updated in the MVD system to remove driving suspension codes.

- ✓ In April 2016, the Court reviewed 3,594 charges in a report by the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) and cross-analyzed with Court case management system. As

a result, the Court lifted driving privilege suspensions from the 1990's. Some cases had balances paid in full with no pending issues.

- ✓ The Court now works with the MVD to clear suspension codes for matters which the Court no longer has a file, and the Court ensures cases are properly adjudicated in the Court's case management system.
- ✓ **2,480 residents had their driving privilege reinstated, to ensure the Court's compliance with accurate case processing.**

<b>Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Charges Report</b>	
Number of Charges Reviewed	3,594
<b>Number of Suspensions Lifted</b>	<b>2,480</b>

**E-Citations:** The Court consistently communicates the Court's needs to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) who cite into Guadalupe Municipal Court.

- ✓ In June 2016, the Court provided the calendaring policy for arraignments to Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Animal Control and Tempe Police Department. This communication ensures timely processing of cases.
- ✓ The Court informs the MCSO of filing delays and court date or violation code errors.

**Timely Processing of Bonds:** Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA) Section 1-401: Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS) requires that the Court review all pending bonds 90 days or older on a monthly basis.

- ✓ The Court reviews all bonds every 30 days, with monthly reconciliation.
- ✓ To ensure compliance with ACJA Section 1-401, the Court has implemented a tickler system to timely track all posted bonds within the Court's case management system (CMS).

**Review of Un-Adjudicated Criminal Matters:** In November 2015, the Court established a formal process with the Town Prosecutor for monthly review of all un-adjudicated misdemeanor cases, three years or older from the date of filing, with outstanding warrants. From November 2015 to June 2016, the Prosecutor has reviewed 209 cases. Several of these cases no longer had a physical case file and the cases remained pending in the Court's case management system (CMS). This process is ongoing.

Review of Un-adjudicated Criminal Matters	
Date Range	Number of Files
January 2015-August 2016	641

**Bond Card/Civil Traffic Fine Schedule:** The Court updates the Court’s bond cards and provides final versions to the Maricopa’s Sheriff’s Department for distribution.

- ✓ The first distribution was in May 2015 and the last distribution was in March 2016.
- ✓ The bond card provides accurate and clear information regarding an individual’s rights and responsibilities when faced with a civil traffic charge.
- ✓ The bond cards are printed in English and Spanish.

**Jury Trial Protocol:** In May 2016, the Court along with the Town of Guadalupe, renewed the Intergovernmental Agreement with Superior Court for Jury Trial Summons Services.

- ✓ Guadalupe Municipal Court also has an agreement with Mesa Municipal Court for holding jury trials, due to a current lack of adequate facilities at Guadalupe Municipal Court to hold jury trials.
- ✓ In October 2015, Court Personnel received training at Mesa Municipal Court for properly facilitating a jury trial.

**Strategic Goal 4: Enhancing professionalism within the Courts**

**Judicial Excellence:** The judicial branch must continue the professional development of judges to ensure they adhere to the highest standards of competence, conduct, integrity, professionalism, and accountability.

- ✓ The Court has appointed three (3) pro-tem judges.
- ✓ The Court has developed internal protocols for when the presiding judge is conflicted out of cases.

**Workforce Development:** Judicial branch employees who are not judges must possess the tools and skills needed to properly and timely process cases and accurately

maintain court records. Court support staff is required to attend 16 hours of continuing education, annually.

- ✓ The Court has three (3) competent and experienced judicial employees.
- ✓ The Court emphasizes excellence through trainings.
- ✓ The Court prioritizes staff development that includes training methods that are convenient, timely, and relevant. For example, the Court currently uses web-based video/audio trainings for court employees.
- ✓ The Committee on Judicial Education and Training (COJET): In December 2015, the Court ensured that 100% of Court staff, including the Judge, was in compliance with COJET requirements.
- ✓ To date, Court staff has participated in specialized training sessions to learn court ethics, leadership skills, customer service and critical thinking. These trainings help promote consistency in Court culture.
- ✓ Offsite Training: On May 20, 2016, the Court Team attended Judge Alvarez's presentation on "Fair Justice for All" at the Arizona Supreme Court. On June 24, 2016, the Court Team attended the Pinal County COJET conference in Florence, AZ. On July 8, 2016, the Team had a site visit at the Maricopa County Justice Court Video Appearance Center (VAC) in Downtown Phoenix.
- ✓ The Court has developed guidelines on the use of social media by court employees in the workplace. In addition, the Court strives to create a rewarding work environment for all court employees, in order to retain a culturally diverse workforce.
- ✓ Court facility: Painted by partnership with volunteers.
- ✓ Staff Meetings: The Court currently holds staff meetings twice per week. Each staff member contributes to the agenda, so questions and concerns are addressed as a Team and everyone benefits from the information provided.
- ✓ Presentations: All staff are required to present on information they learned from previous training. This practice ensures consistent information for all Team members, as well as leadership opportunities for each staff member.
- ✓ Practicums: Court staff meets weekly to practice requested scenarios and discuss proper application of Court protocols. Practicums are an opportunity for each staff member to contribute to preserving and uplifting the Court culture.
- ✓ Administrative Orders: The Court has implemented new administrative orders to facilitate consistent procedures for processing cases with deferred prosecution and extending authority to staff for properly processing aged civil and criminal cases.

**Criminal Justice Team (CJT):** In accordance with best practices, the Court established a meeting time among law enforcement, town council, the prosecutor, defense counsel and the Court to discuss and resolve any issues affecting the integrity of the Guadalupe criminal justice system.

- ✓ As of March 2015, the team has convened six (6) meetings: March 31, 2015; May 26, 2015; September 1, 2015; January 19, 2016; March 15, 2016; and July 19, 2016.
- ✓ The convening of the Guadalupe Criminal Justice Team (CJT) has resulted in key actions that further promote consistent professional communication within the local criminal justice system.
- ✓ Highlights include: a protocol for consistent review of aged un-adjudicated criminal cases by the Prosecutor; establishing the proper lines of communication with the Court in accordance with the Judicial Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees; development of a Court Emergency Action Plan; an on-going effort to develop a Security Plan that incorporates the Town Hall Building and Personnel; and a memo to the Town on the need for cleanliness in the MCSO Substation.

**Counsel-Public Defender and Prosecutor:** The Court continues to safeguard the integrity of the Guadalupe Criminal Justice System by ensuring defendant's constitutional rights, by consistently assigning public defender services for eligible cases.

- ✓ From July 2015 to May 2016, 38 cases have been appointed a public defender.
- ✓ The Court has established a protocol to promote attorney decorum as part of the Court's trial procedures.
- ✓ The Court has implemented a consistent process for communicating the pre-trial conference calendar to counsel.

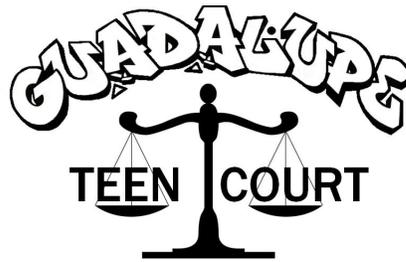
### Strategic Goal 5: Improving Communications and Community Participation

**Communications within the judicial branch and with other branches of state and local government:** The judicial branch has many components and it is our duty to further enhance communications across programs, jurisdictions, and branches of government.

- ✓ As a separate branch of government, the Court promotes professional and transparent communication by working with the Town of Guadalupe on all relevant issues.
- ✓ The Court reconciles monthly jail bills, provided by the MCSO, and regularly communicates with the Town Finance Department regarding any discrepancies with charges to the Town.
- ✓ The Court partnered with painters, who volunteered their time to paint the walls in the Court's work area and the Judge's chambers.
- ✓ Presiding Judge Alvarez presents at educational speaking engagements on a regular basis. Most recently, on July 21, 2016, Judge Alvarez gave a presentation on the law at the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Teen Camp.
- ✓ The Court also worked with the Town to remove a digital recording device (DVR) from the Judge's chambers and relocated the equipment to a neutral location within the Town Hall building.

**Counseling Agencies:** The Court encourages defendants sentenced to counseling to choose a provider of their preference. This approach promotes the defendant's compliance with sentencing requirements and results in timely completion of cases. The Court provides a handout with counseling agency options and defendants choose the agency.

**Veterans:** January 28-30, 2016, the Court participated in Veteran's Stand-down by establishing communication with Mesa Municipal Court. Mesa Municipal Court was present for the weekend event and was able to direct any Guadalupe Veterans at the event to Guadalupe Municipal Court. On September 24, 2016, the Court participated in Stand Up for Veterans by providing the Glendale City Court with an order establishing the dates Guadalupe Veterans can come to the Guadalupe Municipal Court to resolve their pending issues.



In operation since January 2015, the Guadalupe Teen Court Program is a partnership between the Guadalupe Municipal Court and the Maricopa County Superior Court, Juvenile Court Division. This program is the only Teen Court in the State of Arizona sponsored by a local Municipal Court. Other programs are housed in local high schools or other educational venues.

Most recently, Guadalupe Teen Court has partnered with Maricopa County Human Services Department, to provide Teen Court members with various services including career development sessions and other work-related experience.

The Court continually seeks out a talented and diverse volunteer base for Guadalupe Teen Court. The Presiding Judge continues to volunteer time once a week to meet and mentor Guadalupe Youth.

**Quote by Teen Court Member:** "Teen Court has helped me understand the meaning of restorative justice. By participating in hearings of actual people, you can see there is a way to help people see a way out of making the same mistake again."

#### **Guadalupe Teen Court Accomplishments:**

- ✓ Thirty-eight (38) Superior Court cases adjudicated from February 2015 to date.
- ✓ National Recognition Award by the National Association of Counties (NACo)
- ✓ Twitter Account: @GUTeenCourt
- ✓ Guadalupe Teen Court is the only Teen Court in Arizona with its own Website: <http://guteencourt.weebly.com>.
- ✓ Training with Maricopa County Work Force
- ✓ Developed Personalized Logo
- ✓ Guadalupe Teen Court members meet with Presiding Judge Lilia Alvarez on a weekly basis for one hour to learn constitutional law, civics, and community leadership.

- ✓ Since January 2015, teen court members have met with Judge Alvarez 68 times.
- ✓ In November 2015, Teen Court members attended the Statewide Teen Court Summit at Northern Arizona University and participated in conferences presented by prosecutors, defense attorneys and law enforcement investigators. The second Teen Court Summit will be held in Maricopa County and the Guadalupe Teen Court is scheduled to participate in a panel discussion on November 10, 2016.
- ✓ Teen Court members have visited Northern Arizona University, the Mesa Public Library Genesis Youth Center and South Mountain Community College. They have also attended Guadalupe Town Council meetings and met with elected officials and community leaders. Also, one Teen Court member joined the Town's youth and education committee.
- ✓ Five Teen Court members graduated high school and all have enrolled in college.
- ✓ Teen Court members have met and interacted with numerous guest speakers, such as court professionals, community leaders, and educators.
- ✓ Most recently, Guadalupe Teen Court has partnered with Maricopa County Human Services Department, to provide Teen Court members with various services including career development sessions and other work-related experience.

**One-Year Report and Guadalupe Teen Court Celebration:** On February 25, 2016, Judge Alvarez presented the Guadalupe Teen Court One Year Report to the Guadalupe Town Council. Following the Presentation was a celebration honoring the Teens' commitments and services to the program. Each Teen Court member received special recognition and a \$100.00 scholarship for school supplies. Five of the Teen Court members were seniors in High School and were recognized for their hard work and future plans to attend college. All five Teen Court members who graduated high school in 2016 are college bound.

The future of Teen Court requires an ongoing recruitment effort. On April 6, 2016, Judge Alvarez presented at Marcos De Niza High School to recruit more volunteer participants for Guadalupe Teen Court.

## CONCLUSION

It is our goal to continue serving the community with integrity and professionalism. Our commitment to provide justice through innovation and efficiency remains steadfast. The accomplishments of the past two years are a reflection of the dedication and commitment of our judicial employees: Judicial Clerk Supervisor Jessica Swanson, Judicial Clerk/Bailiff Elisabeth Rapacz and Judicial Clerk/Bailiff Karla Rodriguez. Everyone is focused on advancing fair and impartial justice for the citizens of Guadalupe.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve the community and for the confidence that the Mayor and Town Council have placed in me to lead the Guadalupe Municipal Court in its transition to justice.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the following people: Mayor Rebecca Jimenez, Honorable Roxanne Song Ong, Honorable Alice Wright, Honorable Matt Tafoya, Virginia Hauflaire, Paul Thomas and Leonard Montanaro for inspiring me to lead Guadalupe Municipal Court with an unceasing commitment to justice, professionalism and institutional courage.