



## E-Filing Saves Space and Speeds Processing of Court Records

The equivalent of 63 boxes of civil complaints, Family Court documents and miscellaneous filings were delivered to the Eighth Judicial District Court in the first two weeks of mandatory electronic filing all with the push of a button.

In the past, all 125,670 pages of documents would have been hand-stamped, scanned and then filed in boxes for storage. Today, the court is processing these filings as pre-scanned documents that are delivered electronically to the District Court's computer system.

"The Court consistently has demonstrated its commitment to efficiencies and long-term cost containment," said Chief Judge T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr. "This is a massive change in the way we do business and it will revolutionize our courts."

A total of 276,667 documents have been processed electronically by the District Court Clerk through June 15. This totals 1,944,040 pieces of paper and nearly 1,300 banker boxes of documents that did not end up in a warehouse. Every day approximately 3,000 electronic documents are filed with the Court Clerk.

Behind the scenes, clerks who used to accept documents at window counters now review electronic documents looking for proper signatures and proper formatting. Acceptance of documents has become a primary function as the Court

Clerk's Office works to ensure documents are properly scanned, signed and ready to be accepted by the court.

The first few weeks of e-filing came with some challenges, but they were met with solutions. The large number of daily filings were much larger than the Clerk anticipated prior to the start of electronic filing. In addition, the Court Clerk spent the first few weeks ensuring documents could be accepted and processed in person.

"We processed more pro bono, in-kind service and no-charge documents at our Clerk's counters than most courts process in an entire week," said Court Executive Officer and Clerk of the Court Steven D. Grierson.

The vast number of filings also slowed the court's ability to accept and process documents the first month of e-filing. However, once the system was stabilized, the wait times to process and accept a filing dropped to less than 24 hours for civil case types.

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## Wi-Fi Service Now Offered at Family Court

The Clark County Courts now offer free wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) access to customers who visit the Family Court and Services Center, located at 601 N. Pecos Road in Las Vegas. The new service provides court customers who bring Wi-Fi-enabled computers, cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to the Family Court unlimited free high-speed access to the Internet from the main public areas.

“The Family Court Judges have long recognized the need to use technology

to improve access to justice,” said Family Court Presiding Judge Gloria Sanchez. “By offering Wi-Fi access, we hope to create efficiencies for Family Court attorneys and improve access for customers who wish to find out about a court case.”

This is the latest effort by the Clark County Courts to use technology to provide services that would have otherwise been necessary to use court personnel. “The Court must innovate in order to provide the same level of

service within a reduced budget”, stated Art Ritchie, Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial District. Chief Judge Ritchie also issued a mandatory e-filing order in September of 2009 requiring all filings in civil cases to be filed electronically.

The Courts already offer free Wi-Fi service at the Regional Justice Center in downtown Las Vegas. Also, virtual court services provided by the Clark County Courts allow customers to check court cases, file documents, pay fines and report for jury service from the Internet.

Dr. Florence Jameson and Dr. Jerry Jones are honored by County Commissioner Rory Reid for providing medical care and treatment to female juveniles housed at the Juvenile Detention Center.



## Two Local Doctors Provide Needed Medical Services For Female Juveniles

On May 18, the Clark County Commission and the Eighth Judicial District Court recognized the volunteer efforts of Dr. Florence Jameson and Dr. Jerry Jones for volunteering their professional services to young women housed at Clark County Juvenile Detention Center.

Drs. Jameson and Jones have been providing medical care to an average of 6 to 8 young women each week since August 2007 who would not otherwise have received such care.

“These doctors have donated their time and staff to take care of these young girls who wouldn’t receive this care without their help,” said Juvenile Judge William Voy.

Drs. Jameson and Jones have performed 816 obstetrics (OB) visits to date, they perform cancer, pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease screenings and treatment, they supply portable ultrasound services to allow for optimal fetal assessments, assist in arranging appointments with outside specialists within the community for

young women needing specialized OB care; and have provided medical staff each week for assisting with examinations, specimen collection, and treatment of young women housed at the Juvenile Detention Center.

The Doctors have followed the youth with high risk pregnancies to completion of pregnancy following their release from the Detention Center who are not otherwise able to obtain such services in the community.



Judge Tony Abbatangelo meets with a therapeutic team to evaluate participants in the Las Vegas Justice Court's DUI Court Program.

## Justice Court Judge Demonstrates Effectiveness Of DUI Courts

Las Vegas Township Justice Court Judge Tony Abbatangelo recently provided training to a team from San Diego to assist the San Diego County Superior Court in establishing a DUI Court program. Judge Abbatangelo shared what has been learned by the Clark County DUI Courts and helped the San Diego judges to draft a program that will address the needs of individuals most likely to re-offend in the community.

Abbatangelo provided assistance and advice to a nine-person team from the San Diego Superior Court as part of a training program hosted by the National Center for DWI Courts and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The San Diego team was made up of a judge, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, law enforcement and a DUI Court coordinator. Judge Abbatangelo shared how the DUI Court Program has worked in Clark County and provided the San Diego team with the needed tools to establish a new DUI Court.

DUI Court programs have been proven to save Nevada and Clark County taxpayers money by addressing the core of the

individual's problem which is alcohol addiction or abuse.

"The Las Vegas Justice Court's two DUI Courts focus on a therapeutic court model to seek a change in behavior and a goal of reducing repeat offenses," said Judge Abbatangelo. "We have been very successful and now the Las Vegas Justice Court is sharing its experiences and examples of success with other courts."

DUI Courts address the hardcore drinkers. A driver with a blood alcohol level of .15 or greater is at least 20 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than sober

drivers. Judge Abbatangelo uses token compliance gifts to reward and motivate participants to complete the program, which usually takes a year to complete. Attending Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings twice a week is required of participants in the Las Vegas Justice Court.

Participants doing well in treatment require less court appearances as they complete each phase of treatment. However, if a participant refuses to comply or has a relapse, the Judge can impose sanctions such as ordering the offender to return to House Arrest, writing an essay, community service, or requiring additional daily AA meetings.

## Drug Court Graduates Celebrated on National Drug Court Day

On May 20, 2010, the Eighth Judicial District Court hosted a Drug Court graduation for three individuals who successfully completed the Dependency Mothers Drug Court Program in celebration of National Drug Court Day.

The three individuals, Latoy Johnson, Christina Burkes and Martina Kronberg completed an intensive program, consisting of a

residential drug court program.

The main goal of the Dependency Mothers Drug Courts to break the cycle of dependency on drugs while teaching mothers how to be better parents.

The main feature of the program allows children to be reunified with their mothers while mom receives intensive residential treatment and learns parenting skills.

## Tattoo Removal Doctor Takes Off The Reminders of Gang Membership

It's a mark of passage, or a message to others. But once you're out of a gang you just want that tattoo removed. Thanks to Dr. Julio Garcia, 117 former Clark County gang members have seen the marks of their gangs permanently erased.

On January 29, 2010 Juvenile Judge William O. Voy honored Dr. Garcia with the "Gang Task Force Citizen's Service Award" for his help in removing and erasing the marks of gangs in Clark County.

In presenting the award, Judge Voy thanked Dr. Garcia for his tireless efforts.

"We are so grateful for your efforts in this area and the lives that you've changed," he said. "Every gang-banger we can change, that's one life we've saved."

The tattoo removal program was started in 2006 and has provided services for gang involved youth who wish to change their lives but are unable to afford the cost of tattoo removal. It is administered by Clark County's Department of Juvenile Justice Services and the Clark County Juvenile Court. Since its inception, Dr. Garcia has helped the 117 individuals who wanted to erase their past in removing gang tattoos at no charge.

Judge Voy initiated this important program partnership to assist youth and families that desperately need this service but cannot afford the medical procedure. Dr. Garcia's tattoo removal service is an example of what community members can do to reduce gang crime and violence.



## Court Mourns Loss of Hearing Master Kevin Williams

Kevin V. Williams, 51, died March 30, 2010 at his home. Williams served as the Criminal Arraignment Hearing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court and was an attorney in Clark County for more than 21 years. Kevin Williams started his career in the District Court as a law clerk for Judge Addeliar D. Guy in 1989.



Kevin Williams 1959-2010

In 1990, Williams transferred to the Clark County Public Defender's Office, where he served as an attorney defending misdemeanor and felony cases. He worked for the Clark County Public Defender for more than 16 years before returning to the District Court in 2006 as its first Criminal Arraignment Hearing Master.

"Kevin was a tireless and conscientious employee who vastly improved our processes and helped this court run more efficiently," said District Court Chief Judge T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.

Mr. Williams earned a Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga., a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from Clark-Atlanta University in Atlanta, Ga. and his undergraduate degree from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. He became a member of the Georgia State Bar in 1988, the Nevada State Bar in 1989, and the United States Supreme Court Bar in 1999.

Kevin Williams is survived by his wife Chestine, and his brothers, Judge Timothy C. Williams and Carl N. Williams, Jr. MD, of Las Vegas.

## Child Support Center Offers One-Stop Aid

Faster service and one-stop convenience are the goals of the Child Support Court of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Family Division as it opened a new location to the public on March 29. Now located in the Greystone Complex at 1900 E. Flamingo Road, the new Child Support Center of Southern Nevada offers centralized and improved adjudication of paternity and child support issues. The new center is located near the intersection of Flamingo and Spencer Street.

“When this project is complete, there will be a significant increase in the adjudication of paternity, establishment and enforcement orders resulting in greater child-support collections for the citizens of Clark County. We want to become one of the most efficient, convenient and productive child-support courts in the nation and this is a monumental step in that direction” said Family Court Presiding Judge Gloria Sanchez.

Currently, Child Support Hearing Masters hear court calendars in two courtrooms. Plans are underway for the Family Court to partner with the State of Nevada to potentially double child support court calendars by July.

Ultimately, the goal is to construct a third court room and hire another Hearing Master to manage an additional calendar.

The Child Support Center of Southern Nevada provides a one-stop facility for all child support matters from filing motions, to making payments to obtaining employment assistance.

The Center houses the Family Court’s Child Support Courts and Court Clerks, the Clark County District Attorney’s Family Support Division, the Employment Assistance Program and the Nevada State Collection and Disbursement Unit (ScaDu).



Judge Dianne Steel accepts a proclamation as the Clark County CASA program celebrates 30 years of service to Las Vegas and Clark County.

## Project SOAR Offers Fall Youth Camps

Applications are now being accepted for Project SOAR’s Youth Camps scheduled for Fall 2010. Applications, in Spanish and English, can be obtained online by visiting the website <http://www.clarkcountycourts.us/SOAR/>.

Project SOAR is a challenging high-intensity experience for three or four days in a military-structured environment. Activities include a six to eight-mile hike, a high ropes challenge course, and field trips to review various careers and programs. Project SOAR is a cooperative venture between the Nevada National Guard and the Clark County Courts.

“The change in the lives of these young people is dramatic over the course of the camp,” said Family Court Judge Jennifer Elliott, who provides judicial supervision of the program. “Each individual learns more about their strengths and abilities. They come away with a better outlook and are better prepared for life.”

Project SOAR teaches young men and women various life skills and focuses on education topics such as substance abuse awareness,

conflict resolution, goal setting and other life skills training. For successful completion of the program, the youth participant and a parent/guardian must complete a mandatory four week Aftercare Counseling component.

The Fall Camps for both young men and women will be held at the Family Court and Services Center, 651 North Pecos Rd, Bldg J.

For more information call Debbie Rose at (702) 455-4306. Para más información en español puede contactar a Estelina Garnett llamando al (702) 455-4306.

## Court Names Hearing Master

The Eighth Judicial District Court has selected Melisa De La Garza to serve as the court’s Criminal Arraignment Hearing Master. De La Garza comes to the court from private practice. In the past she has worked as a public defender and a deputy district attorney in Clark County.

De La Garza earned her Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law in 1996. She replaces Kevin V. Williams who died March 30 at his home.

## Employee Service Award Recognition

EN BANC July 2010



### 30 Years of Service

Janice R. Liston  
Gail M. Reiger

### 25 Years of Service

Priscilla Papili  
Kayla J. Wells  
Debra B. Winn

### 20 Years of Service

Sylvia Beller  
Trina A. Britain  
Betty Koebecke  
Kathleen R. Lambermont  
Toni Meza  
Steve C. Rushfield  
Debra L. Vinson

### 15 Years of Service

Esperanza Anderson  
Alan P. Castle, Sr.  
Walter C. Clifton  
Susan K. Curran  
Tammy L. Estes  
Jolene V. Jolley  
Jim R. Keener  
Thomas L. Leeds  
Sonia D. McCants  
Amy M. Meedel  
Judie M. Monterroso  
Athena Morrell  
Andrea Ortega-Garcia  
Sharon A. Power  
Mary F. Ricciardo  
Linda A. Skinner  
Wendy J. Wilkinson  
Robyne A. Windhorst  
Debra A. Ybarra-Baker

### 10 Years of Service

Sandra L. Anderson  
Katrina D. Bunnell  
Brett A. Byington  
George Caro  
David Dominguez  
Jeffrey B. Dunn  
Susan J. DuPerault  
Diane L. Ford  
Lynn Hughes  
Greer E. Jennison  
John T. Jensen  
Carrie L. Kaanoi  
Shelly T. Landwehr  
Raymond J. Paik  
Melissa Palazzo  
Lori N. Parr  
Tamatha Reddick  
Dennis W. Scherr  
Paula Walsh  
April Watkins  
Paula A. Willey  
Stephanie Y. York