

FILL THE GAP (FTG) APPLICATION FY22-23

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. COURT NAME: SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN PINAL COUNTY		
2. CONTACT PERSON: JACKIE McMURRY	3. TITLE: BUDGET ANALYST	
4. ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP): PO Box 1748, 971 N. JASON LOPEZ CR, BLDG. A, FLORENCE, AZ 85132		
5. PHONE: 520-866-5412	6. FAX: 520-866-5401	7. E-MAIL ADDRESS: JMCMURRY@COURTS.AZ.GOV

B. BUDGET INFORMATION

8. PROJECT TITLE: CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING – EDC & PRC		
9. BEGIN DATE: 07/01/2022		END DATE: 06/30/2023
10. AMOUNT OF STATE FTG REQUESTED: \$ 102,942	AMOUNT OF LOCAL FTG REQUESTED: \$ 306,898	LOCAL BALANCE (COURT PORTION): \$ 158,733 CARRY FORWARD PROJECTED AS OF JUNE 30, 2022; PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$321,868 IN REVENUE (CERTIFIED BY LOCAL FINANCE)
11. OTHER ACTIVE APPROVED GRANTS FOR FTG (STATE \$ AMOUNT): \$386,889		
12. <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REQUEST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTINUE PROJECT – TIME & \$ <input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUE PROJECT – ADDITIONAL STAFF GPT #2211FTG001	<input type="checkbox"/> EXTEND PROJECT - TIME ONLY, NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS GPT #

C. PROJECT INFORMATION

13. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT PLAN.

This is a request for continuation funding of the project outlined and funded from Pinal County's 2022 application (GPT #2211FTG001). Current funding will end on June 30, 2022. This application is a request for a combination of both State and Local Fill-the-Gap funds, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Funds requested this year will continue to support two full-time Superior Court Judges, one full-time Judicial Assistant, one full-time Bailiff, all at 100% (salary plus ERE), plus funding ACAP maintenance agreements for four ACAP computers.

Funds will be used to support the Superior Court's Probation Revocation Court (PRC) and Early Disposition Court (EDC) courts. Approximately two-thirds of all criminal cases filed in Pinal County are being assigned to EDC. EDC is designed to dispose of cases that can be identified as requiring simpler resolutions, this in turn supports increased case terminations, and a reduction in time to disposition in Pinal County's caseload management outcome. Currently, based upon present case filings, two full-time judicial officers are covering two EDC days and one PRC day in addition to other criminal calendars and trials. A significant increase in criminal case filings would trigger expanding EDC to a third day continues to be the go-to strategy should caseloads increase beyond current levels.

14. DESCRIBE THE NEED FOR THIS PROJECT AND HOW THE EXPENDITURE OF THESE MONIES WILL ADDRESS THE NEED.

Pinal County's FY 20-21 population estimates are 449,557, with a grown rate of 5.7% according to data from the US Census Bureau. Pinal County is approximately 85.6% larger than the next largest County (Yavapai County). According to the US Census Bureau, Pinal County's growth from 2010 through 2020, was at a rate of 13.2%.

A significant challenge to our efforts, starting in 2012, was the change in administration at the County Attorney's Office and the resulting change in prosecutorial philosophies. The result was a reduction in cases going through the Early Disposition Court, due to a stated preference for taking cases to trial rather than negotiating plea agreements. Further, an important element impacting our case processing time was the monumental increase in death penalty cases, which totaled 22 at one point, during the last County Attorney's administration. In January 2017, one of the first actions undertaken by the newly elected County Attorney was to review each death penalty case. The review resulted in the County Attorney reducing the total number of death penalty cases to a total of 10 active death penalty cases. At least two of the remaining death penalty cases have reached a settlement which negates a lengthy, and costly trial. To date, Pinal County has 7 capital cases.

The change in philosophy and increased support from the County Attorney, impacts our ability to improve our case time to disposition which is commiserate with that offices support of EDC/PRC and a change in charging practices.

This year has proved to be challenging with the COVID 19-Pandemic that has gripped the nation since February 2020. Trial hearings have been postponed as appropriate, thus increasing the overall backlogged cases. Criminal trials have been postponed but has resumed in a way that prioritizes the safety of the public, judicial officers and employees of the judiciary.

The below listed case numbers/percentages cover the period of July 1, 2021 to May 18, 2022.

Total Cases Filed: 2,044
Total Cases Disposed: 2,067

<i>Cases disposed in:</i>	<i>0 – 90 Days: 738</i>	<i>35.70%</i>
	<i>91 – 180 Days: 505</i>	<i>24.43%</i>
	<i>181 – 270 Days: 280</i>	<i>13.55%</i>
	<i>271 – 365 Days: 183</i>	<i>8.85%</i>
	<i>366+ Days: 360</i>	<i>17.42%</i>

<i>Felony cases disposed of within 90 days:</i>	<i>35.70%</i>
<i>Felony cases disposed of within 180 days:</i>	<i>60.13%</i>
<i>Felony cases disposed of within 365 days:</i>	<i>82.54%</i>

<i>MEDIAN time to disposition is approximately:</i>	<i>135 days</i>
<i>MEAN time to disposition is approximately:</i>	<i>214 days</i>

As in previous years, case disposition times continue to be monitored and reported to Judges monthly via the Research Analyst/Case Flow Manager in Court Administration, or alternatively a Clerk's Office-created Dashboard which provides each judge with his/her active cases, case status and the ability to correct the available data. We are confident this process brings more immediate attention to cases which have fallen behind. However, no Judge can effectively manage his or her caseload without support to perform the tasks of docketing, calendaring, minute entry processing, and mail processing. In addition, to increase the percentage of cases disposed within the target timeframes, additional hearings are required, thus increasing the size of support personnel workloads.

We continue to work toward our previously established goals of meeting the Time Standards set by the Arizona Supreme Court. Should we achieve these goals under this County Attorney's administration, we will examine whether it may be prudent to increase those goals in the future.

15. LIST THE PROJECT'S PERFORMANCE MEASURES.		
BY JUNE 30, 2022, 65% OF CASES DISPOSED OF WITHIN 90 DAYS BY JUNE 30, 2022, 85% OF CASES DISPOSED OF WITHIN 180 DAYS BY JUNE 30, 2022, 96% OF CASES DISPOSED OF WITHIN 365 DAYS		
D. BUDGET (SUPERIOR COURT) (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF PROPOSED EXPENDITURE).		
PERSONNEL	\$	404,690.00
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$	
TRAVEL	\$	
OTHER OPERATING	\$	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$	
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$	5,150.00
TOTAL	\$	409,840.00
E. BUDGET (CLERK OF THE COURT)		
PERSONNEL	\$	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$	
TRAVEL	\$	
OTHER OPERATING	\$	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT/FURNITURE	\$	
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$	
TOTAL	\$	
F. BUDGET (JUSTICE COURT)		
PERSONNEL	\$	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$	
TRAVEL	\$	
OTHER OPERATING	\$	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$	
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$	
TOTAL	\$	

G. PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE DETAIL

SUPERIOR COURT

Number of Positions	Position Description (use additional sheets if necessary)	Salary Amount (Include ERE)
1	Judicial Assistant	\$ 78,780.00
1	Bailiff	\$ 69,965.00
2	Superior Court Judges	\$255,945.00
Total		\$404,690.00

CLERK OF THE COURT

Number of Positions	Position Description (use additional sheets if necessary)	Salary Amount (Include ERE)
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Total		\$

JUSTICE COURTS

Number of Positions	Position Description (use additional sheets if necessary)	Salary Amount (Include ERE)
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Total		\$

H. EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURE DETAIL

SUPERIOR COURT

Type of Equipment	Amount
(4) ACAP PCs (Laptops)	\$ 5,150.00
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$ 5,150.00

CLERK OF THE COURT

Type of Equipment/Furniture/Other Operating	Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$

JUSTICE COURT

Type of Equipment	Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$

I. SIGNATURES OF SUBMITTING PARTIES

AGREE
 DISAGREE (ATTACH EXPLANATION)

AGREE
 DISAGREE (ATTACH EXPLANATION)

PRESIDING JUDGE SUPERIOR COURT

DATE

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE

HON. JOSEPH R. GEORGINI
PLEASE PRINT NAME

HON. JEFFREY McCLURE
PLEASE PRINT NAME

AGREE
 DISAGREE (ATTACH EXPLANATION)

AGREE
 DISAGREE (ATTACH EXPLANATION)

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

DATE

PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

DATE

HON. REBECCA PADILLA
PLEASE PRINT NAME

HON. JOHN ELLSWORTH
PLEASE PRINT NAME

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:
csdgrants@courts.az.gov
or
**GRANT SPECIALIST
COURT SERVICES DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
1501 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 410
PHOENIX, AZ 85007**