

# Scottsdale City Court

## Annual Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2008/2009 July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009



Scottsdale City Court is the third largest municipal court in Arizona, based upon the number of charges filed. The Court is part of the integrated judicial system for Arizona. The Court handles: civil traffic and misdemeanor violations, petty offenses, city ordinance and code violations, protective orders and search warrants. The Court's mission is to serve the community by providing a dignified and professional forum for the efficient resolution of cases within the City jurisdiction.

### Accomplishments

**Accountability**—Integrity and public trust depends on how well court orders are observed and enforced, adherence to case processing time standards and how well court users are treated in the courthouse. The Court is proud of its efforts to enforce court orders, including collection activities and compliance with program orders. In addition to our efforts regarding increased court compliance, the court has focused on the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Arizona Supreme Courts case disposition standards reflecting a collaborative effort between the judges and court administration. Regarding case processing times, from September 2007 to September 2009, the monthly number of DUI cases older than 180 days has dropped 48%, from 54 cases to 28 cases. Finally, our Court strives to make the court user experience in our courthouse a positive one. When customers were surveyed on August 21, 2008, over 81% of respondents said they were treated fairly, had easy access to the Court, and the Court scored equal or higher to other courts in the Phoenix area.

**Less Resources, More Services** — Fiscal Year 2009 brought unprecedented budgetary challenges to all levels and branches of government including Scottsdale City Court. Drastic reductions were taken in most budget line items, fines and fee revenue forecasts were adjusted downward, and the City and Court experienced reductions in staff. The Court also utilized special revenue funds to a greater extent than in the past, moving numerous positions to this fund in order to provide respite to the City's general fund.

We are proud of our past success with the enforcement of court orders, however the economic downturn coupled with an extraordinary increase in unemployment has presented a challenge for us. While filings have slightly decreased this fiscal year, we are experiencing an increase in case activity directly related to the economic downturn. Increased litigant visits to the court to see a judge or hearing officer for sentence modifications and or to negotiate payment contracts is occurring on a more frequent basis. Litigants are asking for sentence modifications, reductions in contract payments, and for community restitution because of their inability to pay program costs and fines.

Early projections for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 seem to indicate a strong increase in the number of court visitors for sentence modifications and or reduction in payments because of the

continued downturn in the economy. Maintaining high customer service levels with staffing reductions, coupled with increased litigant contact, will continue to be a challenge and a high priority.

**Community Interaction and Outreach**—The Court was active in interactions with local scout troops and schools and judicial officers participated in mock trials, visits to the court, and speeches. Some examples include the Mayor's Youth Council and the Scottsdale 101 Citizen's Academy. Additionally, the Court has hosted visits from numerous courts to share operational best practices. Court representatives had leadership roles in various organizations, including the State Bar of Arizona, the Arizona State University Law School, the Arizona Supreme Court new judge orientation, and judicial staff educational conferences.

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*"Staff was cheerful, professional, and extremely helpful. They made a very scary situation go smoothly with their attentiveness and clear dedication to efficiently addressing the issue." - written customer comment*

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**Technology Innovations**— Technology projects focused on creating efficiencies in the Court's business practices. Court staff created new functions in AZTEC WIZARD™, the Court's case management system. The Court continued its intergovernmental agreement to provide AZTEC WIZARD™ development and technical support for three other courts in the Valley (Avondale, Glendale and Peoria). The Court provided the Scottsdale Police Department with electronic access to Court-issued arrest warrants which allows the Police Department to check whether a warrant is active and pending. An electronic subpoena application was created for Department officers and other City employees. The "eSubpoena" application replaces a more time-consuming method of issuing subpoenas. eSubpoena was developed in collaboration with the City Information Systems Department, Prosecutor's Office and Police Department.

**"Green" Initiatives** - The Court created a staff Green Team that promotes recycling, energy savings and cost efficiencies. The Team implemented recycling and energy saving projects with the goal of saving the Court money through energy reduction and reuse of pre-existing supplies.

## Charges and Petitions Filed - FY 08/09, FY 07/08 and FY 06/07

Charge Types	FY 08/09 Charges and Petitions Filed	% of Total	FY 07/08 Charges and Petitions Filed	% of Total	FY 06/07 Charges & Petitions Filed	% of Total
Criminal (Traffic and Non-Traffic)	25,357	22%	26,678	12%	28,918	13%
Civil (Traffic, Parking and Local Ordinances)	89,962	77%	197,216	88%	185,153	86%
Orders of Protection (all types)	1,044	1%	1,046	0%	1,154	1%
Total	116,363		224,940		215,225	

Note: The Loop 101 Photo Enforcement Program ended June 30, 2008, resulting in a decrease of civil filings.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts Trend Summary Statistics, Published 07/17/2009

## Customer Service - FY 08/09, FY 07/08 and FY 06/07

Measurement	FY 08/09	FY 07/08	FY 06/07
Phone Calls Answered	171,261	199,581	183,695
Lobby Customers Served*	80,093	84,045	80,332
Court Visitors*	159,895	142,410	139,849
Payments by Phone	15,357	18,271	18,532
Payments via Website	27,218	36,287	32,458

\*"Lobby Customers Served" is the number of people that were helped by customer service representatives at the Public Service windows.

\*"Court Visitors" is the number of people that passed through the Court's lobby security system.

Source: Scottsdale City Court Statistics, Published 07/17/2009

## Jury Service - FY 08/09, FY 07/08 and FY 06/07

Measurement	FY 08/09	FY 07/08	FY 06/07
Number of Jurors who Appeared for Jury Service	2,767	1,482	1,654
Number of Jurors Seated on a Trial	446	236	260
Number of Jury Trials	64	30	48

Jurors for the City Court are summoned from City residents by voter registration, driver license or government identification card lists.

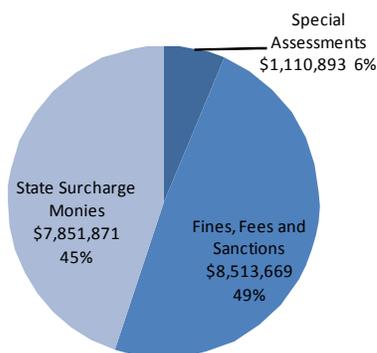
Source: Scottsdale City Court Monthly Jury Billing Records, July 2006 - June 2009

## FY 08/09 Financial Information

The total monies collected by the Court is \$17,476,433.

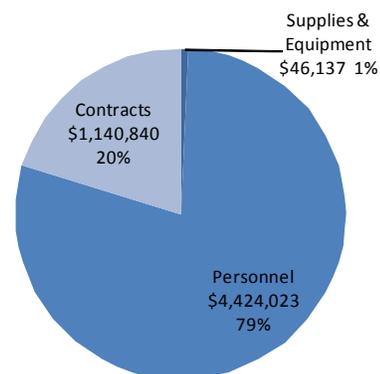
The total City General Fund expenditure for Scottsdale City Court for Fiscal Year 08/09 was \$5,611,000.

### Revenue: What The Court Collects



Source: Scottsdale City Court Monthly Revenue Report, 8/2/2009

### Expenditures: What City Budgets for Court



Source: Scottsdale City Court Monthly Expenditure Report, 8/2/2009

## Publications

The Court published the *Loop 101 Photo Enforcement Project Final Report* in April 2009 and its first *Annual Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 07/08* in March 2009. Both of these reports are located on the Court's website: [www.scottsdaleaz.gov/courts](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/courts). The Loop 101 Final Report is also located on the National Center for State Courts' website: [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org).