

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

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In the Matter of: )  
 )  
AUTHORIZING A LIMITED ) Administrative Order  
JURISDICTION MENTAL ) No. 2015 - 92  
COMPETENCY PROCEEDINGS PILOT )  
PROJECT IN MARICOPA COUNTY )  

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At the request of several limited jurisdiction courts, this Court created a workgroup to examine the feasibility and efficacy of limited jurisdiction courts conducting mental competency and mental examination (Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 11) proceedings for cases originating in their courts. The workgroup determined the concept had merit and recommended this Court authorize a pilot project in Maricopa County.

The workgroup examined the advantages and potential disadvantages of allowing limited jurisdiction courts to conduct these proceedings, the legal requirements for conducting these proceedings, the necessary training for judges and court staff, and how a pilot project could be implemented. The workgroup presented its plan to the Presiding Judges of the Superior Court and the Arizona Judicial Council obtaining the support of both.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Sections 3 and 5, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED authorizing a pilot project in the Superior Court in Maricopa County to allow the Glendale City Court and Mesa Municipal Court to conduct Supreme Court Criminal Rule 11 proceedings originating in their courts on behalf of the Superior Court in Maricopa County and subject to the policies, practices, and procedures established by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Maricopa County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge shall recommend judges from the Glendale City Court and Mesa Municipal Court for appointment as judges pro tempore of the Superior Court, with the approval of the Board of Supervisors, to conduct the proceedings. The policies, practices, and procedures shall ensure that the proceedings comply with current statute and court rules.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the pilot project shall run for a period not to exceed two years, beginning on a date designated by the Presiding Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that prior to the conclusion of the project, the Presiding Judge or designee shall provide a report to the Arizona Judicial Council and the Supreme Court describing the policies, practices, and procedures adopted and the effectiveness of the municipal courts conducting these proceedings.

Dated this 4th day of November, 2015.

FOR THE COURT:

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SCOTT BALES  
Chief Justice