

# COCHISE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION: STAFF

## *Probation Training*

The protection of the rights of free citizens depends upon the existence of an independent and competent judiciary. The task of maintaining judicial competence depends on the willingness of the judiciary itself to assure that its members are knowledgeable and skilled in the study of the law and its development, and that judges are trained in the application of legal principles and the art of judging. The personnel employed within the judicial system must also maintain a high level of competence to assist judges in carrying out their responsibilities and to provide accurate and timely services to the public. To the end that judicial independence and competence might be preserved and reinforced as essential elements of our system of government, the Arizona Supreme Court established an educational system for all judges and employees of the Arizona judicial branch in 1983.

The Education Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is responsible for maintaining a statewide system of judicial education and overseeing compliance with judicial education standards. This is accomplished by managing funding for statewide and local training; maintaining a resource pool of faculty; coordinating a network of 100 training coordinators; and ensuring compliance with education standards. Each year, the division produces more than 100 programs reaching over 7,000 participants.



## *COJET Requirements*

Although the term "COJET" refers to the Committee on Judicial Education and Training, it is often used by judicial branch employees to reference education and training requirements. In general, each member of the Arizona Judicial branch must complete a minimum of 16 hours of COJET-accredited continuing education each year, including at least one ethics program. All COJET-accredited programs must meet certain procedural and substantive standards outlined in the COJET Code. Probation officers must complete mandatory orientation programs of up to 120 hours. In addition to a branch-wide compliance rate that is consistently above 98%, many Arizona judicial branch employees significantly exceed the annual minimum education and training requirements as they work towards competence, professionalism and excellence. In 2015, adult probation employees received an average of 59 hours of COJET credit.

### *Officer Training Requirements*

As mentioned earlier, probation officers must complete mandatory orientation programs of up to 120 hours. Within 30 days of employment, officers receive a minimum of eight hours of officer safety training.

The AOC facilitates the Probation Officer Certification Academy. All probation officers are required to attend and successfully complete this two-week academy within one year of being hired.

Probation and surveillance officers who work for the IPS program are required to attend a week-long Intensive Probation Institute.

### *Defensive Tactics and Firearms Training*

In 2003, the AOC developed the Defensive Tactics (DT) and firearms academies. All staff in safety sensitive positions must attend the week-long DT training. In addition, they must complete eight hours of annual refresher training.

If officers choose to carry a firearm, they must meet certain requirements before a firearm is issued. Officers must undergo psychological and drug testing; criminal history checks; successfully complete and demonstrate proficiency in defensive tactics training; and, certify they are medically and physically able to perform the duties of an armed officer. Once armed, officers must complete a minimum of eight hours of re-qualification training each year.





### *Swearing In Ceremonies*

In the mid-1990s, all probation and surveillance officers were sworn in during a mass ceremony by retired Judge Matthew Borowiec. Subsequently, probation and surveillance officers have been sworn in during individual ceremonies when they are hired. During this ceremony, officers take an oath affirming they will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona.





### *Adult Probation Chiefs*

In 1965, Beverly Jenney was appointed the first Adult Probation Officer. The sequence of Chiefs is as follows:

|                   |             |                         |                         |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beverly Jenney    | 1965 – 1970 | Milt Hargis             | 1991 – 1996             |
| Dorothy Yuncevich | 1970 – 1978 | Jim Meyers (Acting)     | 1996 – 1997             |
| Ben McBride       | 1978 - 1979 | Myrtle Young (Acting)   | 1997                    |
| John Akers        | 1979 – 1981 | Armando Fernandez       | 1997 – 2005             |
| Tyrone Peterson   | 1981 – 1982 | Livingston Sutro        | 2005 – 2013             |
| Bob Henley        | 1982 – 1989 | Patricia Muñoz (Acting) | June 2013 – August 2013 |
| Stan Miguel       | 1989 – 1991 | Edward Gilligan         | August 2013 - present   |

Ms. Yuncevich was unavailable for a full interview, but stated she was one of three probation officers in the 1970s. She stated there were approximately 300 to 400 probationers in Cochise County at that time.

### *Adult Probation Historical Sketch by Livingston Sutro*

I was hired by the probation department on July 5, 1988. When I started working there were about 15 of us in the department. The chief was Bob Henley and Mike Palmer was the chief deputy. We had a standard probation and an intensive probation (IPS) program. We were housed in offices in the courthouse and in a small house southeast of the courthouse.

After a couple of years, Bob stepped down and Stan Miguel took over as chief. Shortly thereafter, we moved from the old offices to a three-story, former residence southwest of the courthouse that had been remodeled for us.

Stan left after a short tenure and was replaced by Milt Hargis in 1992. During Milt's time, the department saw quite a bit of growth. As the caseload grew, the IPS program expanded greatly. We acquired Community Punishment Program monies from the Supreme Court and opened an office and day reporting center in Sierra Vista. The staff grew commensurately and we had full-time counselors, LEARN (GED) lab personnel, and a community work service coordinator. When Milt left in 1996, the staff numbered 45 in total. We also opened offices in Douglas, Benson and Willcox during this time.

Jim Meyer and Myrtle Young served as interim chiefs following Milt's departure. The department remained relatively stable during this time.

In late 1997, Armando Fernandez was appointed chief. Budgets began to get tighter during this period and the department was forced to abandon the day reporting center program and the counselor positions. Fortunately, we were able to acquire a Federal grant for a limited jurisdiction domestic violence (DV) supervision program, so our staff numbers did not drop dramatically. Our Bisbee operation moved from the former residence to office space in the Old Bisbee High School building.

After six years, Armando retired and I eventually replaced him. The budget situation got a lot worse and in time we were forced to turn the LEARN Lab over to Juvenile Court Services. The Federal grant for the DV program dried up, but we were able to initiate an Adult Drug Court program in Sierra Vista. We also were the second department in the state to have an evidence-based practices (EBP) program fully approved by the Supreme Court and we also had a active, on-going research program regarding successful supervision strategies. When I retired in 2013, the staff was streamlined to 40 employees.

*Livingston Sutro worked for the Adult Probation Department from 1988 to 2013. He was the Chief at the time of his retirement.*



## *Adult Probation Staff*

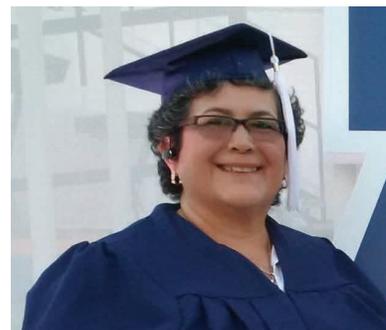


*Edward Gilligan*

Edward Gilligan has been the Adult Probation Chief since the end of August 2013. In January 2015, he was appointed Director of Juvenile Court Services. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in psychology. Prior to working for Cochise County, he worked for Pima County Adult Probation as a surveillance officer, probation officer, supervisor, and program coordinator for treatment services and Drug Court. He is looking forward to his new position as Deputy County Administrator for Cochise County.

*Mary Anderson*

Mary has been working for the department since April 2002. She is an IPS surveillance officer in the Bisbee/Douglas area. Mary will be earning a degree in government and public service from the University of Arizona within the next month. She previously worked for the Arizona Department of Corrections and the prison education division of Cochise College.



*Armando Arias*

Armando has worked as a standard field and IPS officer since 2005. He is currently a lead officer and works in the Douglas area. Prior to working for probation, he was a corrections officer at the Department of Corrections in Douglas for 10 years. He has a degree in management from Western International University.



*Dave Austin*

Dave has worked as an IPS probation officer and is currently the IPS supervisor. He is retired from the Bisbee Police Department and the Army National Guard. After more than 22 years of service to the department, he is retiring in June 2015. He has a degree in administration of justice from Northern Arizona University.



*Janet Brickey*

Janet has been a presentence officer since May 2015. She transferred from the Juvenile Probation Department where she worked since September 2012. She previously worked for the Cochise County Solid Waste Department. Janet earned her MBA in finance from Southern New Hampshire University and is currently working on her doctorate in management through Grand Canyon University.

*Kristen Brown*

Kristen worked as a standard field and domestic violence officer from 2002 to 2004. She returned to the department in 2007 and has been working as a presentence officer. She has a degree in sociology from Baylor University.



*Heather Brownson*

Heather has been a probation officer since 2000. She was a standard field and domestic violence officer. As of June 1, 2015, she is once again working with the domestic violence offender population. She has a degree in consumer resources from the University of Arizona.



*Jim Brt*

Jim has been an IPS surveillance officer since 2005. He is currently assigned to the Benson/Willcox area. He is a training facilitator for the court system. Prior to working for probation, Jim worked for court security and juvenile probation. He retired from the U.S. Navy after 25 years of service.



*Maria Cota*

Maria has been a presentence investigator since February 2014. She retired from the U.S. Army as a criminal investigator. She has a degree in intelligence operations from Wayland Baptist University.



*Patty Demeroto*

Patty began working as a juvenile probation officer in 2008. She transferred to adult probation in November 2011 where she was a standard field officer. In January 2015, she became the Treatment Services Coordinator. She has an MBA in leadership and a Master's degree in social work. Prior to working for probation, she was a medical and clinical social worker.

*Octavia Eichacker*

Octavia joined our team in May 2014. She worked as a court assistant in the Douglas office before transferring to the Bisbee office. She currently assists the presentence unit and aspires to earn a degree in nursing. Prior to working for probation, she worked for the welfare department in Nevada for six years.



*Jessica Eveningred*

Jessica has worked for adult probation since 2001. She has worked as a court assistant and absconder probation technician. She was promoted to operations supervisor in 2014. She previously worked for the Cochise County Clerk's office.

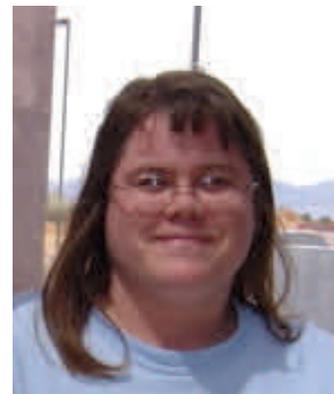


*Vince Fero*

Vince has been an IPS surveillance officer in Sierra Vista since November 2010. He was also the Drug Court surveillance officer. He retired from the Arizona Department of Public Safety as a Sergeant after 20 years of service. Vince attended Cochise College.

*Kim Gaudette*

Kim was hired as a court assistant in Sierra Vista in June 2004. She became a probation technician for the Access to Recovery and Drug Court programs. In 2015, she became the out-of-county liaison. She has a degree in business administration from Cochise College.



*Torrinio Long*

Torrinio has been working for the department since March 2015. He is a standard field officer in Bisbee. He has a degree in intelligence operations from Wayland Baptist University. Prior to working for probation, he was a defense contractor and corrections officer.



### *Jody McLane*

Jody began working as a court assistant in the Benson office in 2013. She is the training coordinator for the department. She previously worked for the Cochise County Assessor's office for five years. She attended Lansing Business University/Davenport College.

### *Henry Meraç*

Henry has worked for probation since November 2004. He has worked as a standard field, presentence, and IPS officer. He currently supervises the standard field unit. He has a degree in education from the University of Arizona. Prior to working for probation, he was a corrections officer at the Arizona Department of Corrections.



### *Erica Mortensen*

Erica began working as a standard field officer in October 2013. She was previously a juvenile probation officer in Pima County and Missouri. She has a degree in psychology from the University of Arizona.

### *Patricia Muñoz*

Patricia began working as a court assistant in the Douglas office. She has worked as a presentence and standard field officer, and Administrative Services Manager. She is currently the Chief Deputy and has worked for the department for 22 years. She has a degree in management from Park University.





*Hector Nava*

Hector has worked for our department since March 2015. He has prior experience as an officer for the Santa Cruz County Probation Department. He is an IPS officer in the Bisbee/Douglas area. Hector has a degree in criminal justice from Northern Arizona University.



*Isela Olivares*

Isela is a court assistant in the Douglas office. She started working for our department in December 2014. Prior to that, she was a successful store manager at O'Reilly Auto Parts in Douglas for 11 years



*Heather Palermo*

Heather began working for juvenile probation in December 2005 and transferred to adult probation in September 2010. She has been a standard field and IPS officer. She has a degree in political science from Luther College.

*J. Vince Romero*

Vince has been a presentence officer since February 2014. Vince previously worked for juvenile and adult probation in Cochise County from 1983 to 1987. He was integral in developing the IPS program in Cochise County. He retired from United States Federal Probation. Vince has a Master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.





### *April Saathoff*

April has been working for the department since February 2007. She has worked as a standard, IPS, and presentence officer. She recently volunteered to manage the absconder and low-risk caseload. She is a defensive tactics, firearms and SIMS instructor. She will receive the statewide Excellence in Education Defensive Tactics Instructor of the Year award this fall. She has a degree in criminal justice administration from Ashwood University.



### *Stephanie Schaaf*

Stephanie began working in the LEARN Center in 2005 and later became the center's coordinator. In 2009, she received the PROJECT Learn Teacher of the Year award. She was a standard field officer and is currently a presentence officer. She has a degree in English from the University of Arizona.

### *Trevor Schmitt*

Trevor began working for our department on June 29, 2015. He will be an IPS surveillance officer in Sierra Vista. Trevor previously worked as a defense contractor and assistant store manager for Sprint and T-Mobile.

### *Catherine Stevens*

Catherine began working for juvenile probation in 1996 and transferred to our department in 1999. She has worked as a standard field, domestic violence, and presentence officer. She was also the Drug Treatment and Education Fund coordinator. She is currently the presentence supervisor. She has prior experience as a probation officer in Pinal County. She has a degree in criminal justice from Northeast Missouri State University.





*Eric Stewart*

Eric retired from the U.S. Army after 22 years of service. He began working for juvenile probation in 2013. In March 2015, he transferred to adult probation and is currently an IPS officer in Benson/Willcox. He is a graduate of West Point Academy and has a Master's degree in Latin American Studies.

*Deborah Syphurs*

Deborah began working for juvenile probation in 1996 and transferred to adult probation in 1999. She is currently the sex offender treatment coordinator and is assigned to the specialized sex offender caseload. She has a Master's degree in criminal justice from the University of North Florida.



*Eric Thoutt*

Eric was hired as a standard field officer in October 2013. He is currently an IPS and Drug Court probation officer. He has a degree in criminal justice administration from the University of Phoenix. He previously worked for the sheriff's department in Colorado and Cochise County.

*Cheryl Tomlinson*

Cheryl has worked for Adult Probation since 1990 and is currently the management information systems manager. Prior to that, she worked for the Sheriff's department for 14 years. Cheryl is also the department's APETS coordinator and system security officer for the Arizona Criminal Justice Information System. She was also the out-of-county liaison for five years. She has a degree in liberal arts from Cochise College.



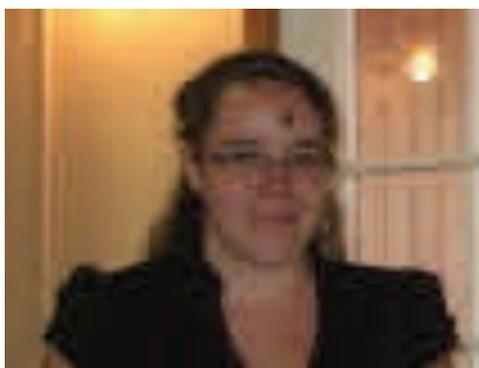
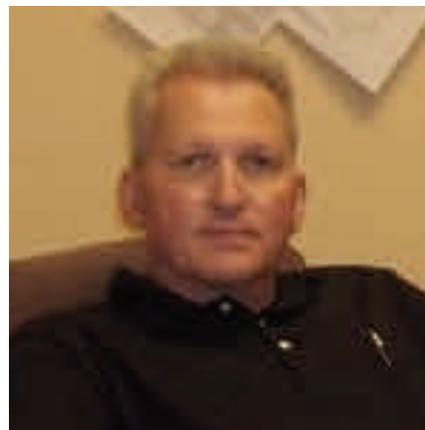


*Marcella Valtierra*

Marcella began working as a court assistant in the Sierra Vista office on June 29, 2015. She previously worked as an optician and manager at a local optometrist's office. She attended Eastern Arizona College.

*Dave Wheeler*

Dave is a retired Sierra Vista Police officer. He began working for the department in 2000. He was a standard field officer and is currently carrying an IPS caseload. He is a firearms and SIMS instructor. He will receive the statewide Excellence in Education Firearms Instructor of the Year award this fall. He has a degree in behavioral science from Western International.



*Kenni Williams*

Kenni was hired as a surveillance officer in 2008. In 2009, she became a standard field officer. She is the department's EPICS trainer. She has a degree in criminal justice from Brown Mackie College.

Many former employees have gone on to work for federal government agencies such as probation, pretrial services, and homeland security. Others have become successful business owners. Retired Judge David Morales worked for adult probation as a surveillance officer prior to being elected Justice of the Peace in Bisbee.

Former surveillance officer Don Carbajal and retired Judge David Morales





## *Moving Forward*

The Adult Probation Department has seen many changes in its 50 years of existence. However, the main goals of probation have remained the same: to protect the community and rehabilitate offenders. We look forward to continuing to serve Cochise County residents.



Cochise County Adult  
Probation  
1989

Cochise County Adult  
Probation  
2014





*In Memorium*

*Melody Carolan*

Melody Carolan worked for the Adult Probation Department in the mid 1990s. She worked in management information systems and helped pave the way for the future of technology in our department. Melody passed away in 1999.

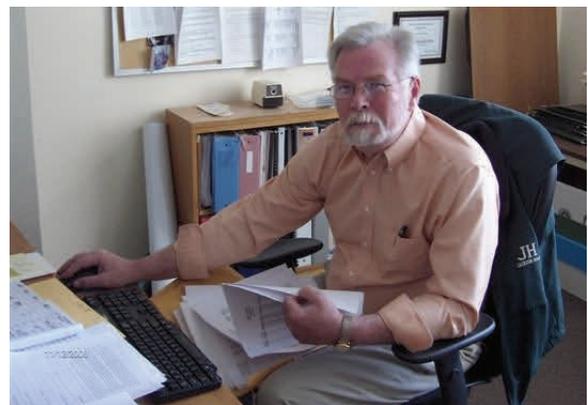


*Jeanne Cook*

Jeanne worked as a court assistant in the Benson office from September 2001 until her retirement in April 2013. We will always remember Jeanne's laughter. Jeanne passed away on January 31, 2015.

*Don Goldstrom*

Don worked as a probation officer and supervisor from April 1991 until his retirement in December 2012. He was the Chief Deputy when he retired. Don brought many great ideas to our department and was a key player in developing the Drug Court program. Don shared his love of music with his co-workers. He passed away in December 2013.



*Ginger O'Leary*

Ginger worked for the adult probation as a probation officer from 1999 to 2006. She worked as a standard field officer and out-of-county officer. In 2011, she returned as a presentence investigator. She passed away in October 2014.