




Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court

AZJP Conference
2022



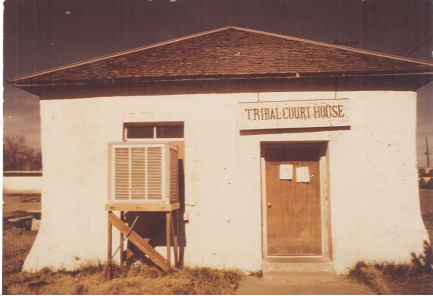
The slide features a white background with a blue and black decorative wave at the bottom. It includes the Great Seal of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, the title 'Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court', the text 'AZJP Conference 2022', and an illustration of a scale of justice.

1



History of SRPMIC Tribal Court

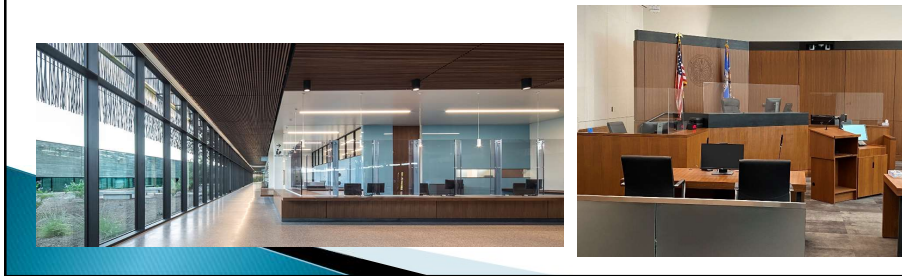
- ▶ Year Established: 1957
- ▶ Initially consisted of One (1) Judge and an unknown number of clerical support staff



The slide features a white background with a blue and black decorative wave at the bottom. It includes the Great Seal of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, the title 'History of SRPMIC Tribal Court', a bulleted list of facts, and a photograph of a small, single-story white building with a sign that reads 'TRIBAL COURT HOUSE'.

2

- ▶ Our current building was completed in 2017



3



Today's Community Court

- ▶ 1 Presiding Judge and 6 Associate Judges
- ▶ Total number of support staff – 46
- ▶ Fiscal 2022– New Case Filings:
 - 1,868 Civil
 - 565 Criminal
 - 154 Juvenile

4



Our Commitment to the Community

The **MISSION** of the Tribal Court is **To ensure justice and provide quality, courteous services with confidentiality to all.**

Our **GOAL** is **To provide progressive and efficient court related case management and professional customer service.**

Our **CORE VALUES** are:

**SERVICE
FAIRNESS
COMMITMENT
CONFIDENTIALITY
RESPECT**

5



Case Types

- **Civil Cases**

- **Tort** – a civil wrong which unfairly causes someone else to suffer loss or harm resulting in legal liability for the person who causes the problem.
- **Restitution** – legal action to determine the validity of a claim to return money or property that is alleged to belong to someone else.
- **Family/Divorce**
- **Guardianship (minors and adults)**
- **Probate**
- **Non-Criminal Traffic**

- **Criminal Cases**

- **Criminal Traffic**
- **Sexual Offenses**
- **Crimes against Minors**
- **Domestic Violence**

6



Juvenile Court

- ▶ Juvenile Court was established by Ordinance in 1995 as a division of the Community Court.
- ▶ Jurisdiction is civil rather than criminal with the right to issue orders to provide for the safety and rehabilitation of children who are declared wards of the juvenile court.
- ▶ Juvenile Court has the authority to enforce subpoenas and orders of restriction, impose fines, contempt, confinement and to order other conditions to be complied with by the child, parent, custodian or other person made a party to the proceedings.
- ▶ The general public is excluded from all juvenile court proceedings.

7



Case Types

- **Juvenile Cases**
 - Truancy – generally defined as the willful and unjustified failure to attend school.
 - Wards of the Court – individuals who are under a guardian’s charge or protection
 - Dependency Cases – those involving a needy child deprived of parental support or care because of the parent’s or other responsible person’s death, absence from the home, physical or mental incapacity

8



Appellate Court

- ▶ Appeals from final judgments or final orders
 - Civil Matters
 - Criminal Matters
 - Domestic Relations Matters
 - Juvenile Matters
 - Special Actions
- ▶ Appellate Court Justices are appointed by the Community Council
- ▶ Appellate Court Justices server a four year term
- ▶ Appellate Court cases are handled by a 3-Judge panel

9



Community Involvement

- ▶ **Jury Service**
 - By Ordinance, any person accused of any violation of a covered, non-traffic civil or criminal code violation may demand a trial by jury.
 - Potential jurors are “pulled” from a jury list prepared each January. On this list are all members of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Members, live in Maricopa County and who are –
 - Over the age of 18
 - NOT judges of the Community Court
 - NOT employees of the Community Court
 - NOT employees of the Salt River Police Department
 - Jurors are summoned in to Court and are required to report on the day and at the time specified on the Jury Summons.
 - Failure to appear can result in an Order to Show Cause

10



Jury Service Continued

- ▶ Jurors may only be excused by the Judge.
- ▶ All persons subpoenaed to serve as members of a panel from which a jury is to be chosen shall be paid for each day of their service as required by the court.

11



Drug Court

- ▶ A court managed program that can be a Diversion Program or Court-Ordered through the Juvenile Court.
 - A year long program mandatory weekly activities that include
 - Mandatory weekly alcohol and drug screening
 - Cultural awareness
 - Court appearance to discuss compliance and successes
 - Behavioral Health Services group meetings
 - Parents are highly encouraged to be active participants
 - There are periodic rewards and recognition during the year for good results
 - At the end of the Drug Court Program, there is a formal graduation with a certificate and public recognition.

12



Court Services

▶ Self –Service Center

- A “One–Stop–Shop” to obtain pre–printed forms to permit an individual to act on their own behalf.
- Forms available include:
 - Dialogue for cases involving minor children
 - Bond return request
 - Petition for appointment of guardianship for minors
 - Fine extension
 - Request for information
 - Request to be excused from jury duty
- There is no charge for the use of the forms but all applicable filing, copy and other fees must be paid
- COURT STAFF IS PROHIBITED FROM PROVIDING LEGAL ADVICE
 - Our role is to assist in providing legal information
 - Form content decision made and information provided on self–service center provided documents are to be solely and exclusively that of the party utilizing the forms

13



Questions?

Public Court Information

<https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/court/>

14