

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Honorable Norman Fenton served admirably and honorably for 25 years before retiring as a Superior Court judge and founding the “Courts Are Us” program; and

WHEREAS, Courts Are Us is a youth employment program that educates high school youth about the legal system and was founded by Judge Fenton in the wake of the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fenton’s goal was to demonstrate to students, particularly those who may have family or friends who have had negative experiences with the courts, the beauty and complexity of the legal system; and

WHEREAS, Courts Are Us operates as a partnership between Pima County Superior Court and Pima County’s Community Services, Employment and Training Department to provide 30 students each summer an up-close view of the legal system; and

WHEREAS, the more than 700 students who have taken part in Courts Are Us have worked a variety of jobs in the Superior Court, Tucson City Court, Pima County Justice Court, and the Pima County Attorney’s Office; and

WHEREAS, the students’ employment is supplemented with educational enrichment trips to the United States Federal Court, Tucson Police Department and Pima County Teen Court, the Juvenile Court Center, among others, and includes mentoring by local attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Judge Fenton to share with students “the majesty, rights and freedoms” that come with exposure to the United States’ legal system remains as essential today as when the Courts Are Us program was founded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors, in honor of Judge Norman Fenton’s foresight in founding the Courts Are Us program 25 years ago, hereby proclaims Friday, July 14, 2017, to be:

“JUDGE NORMAN FENTON DAY”

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of July 2017.

The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors