

## At the Courthouse: Media misses chance to get educated

By Kim Smith\_Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 12:46 pm

Every couple of years or so, the folks at Pima County Superior Court invite reporters over to the courthouse to explain the many complexities involved in the criminal justice system.

On Monday, Judges Jan Kearny, Richard Fields, Christopher Browning, John Leonardo and Howard Fell set aside three hours out of their busy schedules for the session, as did court administrator Kent Batty, adult probation chief David Sanders and pretrial services director Rick Peck.

They gave out a binder filled with useful information and they talked about common terminology mistakes (jail and prison are NOT the same), how bonds are set, what influences sentencing decisions, probation, accessing court records, etc.

They also answered questions as to how reporters can do a better job in terms of putting things into context or better explaining what judges can and can't do. (They can't talk to reporters about specific cases. They can't go outside the sentencing ranges dictated by our state lawmakers.)

How many reporters showed up for this illuminating meeting?

Two.

Myself and Lou Raguse from Fox 11.