



## State of Arizona

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### **Governor Brewer Appoints Two to Arizona Court of Appeals**

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today named two appointees to the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 1.

Judge Samuel A. Thumma has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Patrick Irvine.

“Sam’s knowledge of the law, judicial disposition and temperament are highly-regarded in the legal community,” said Governor Jan Brewer. “His strong work ethic and impressive professional background render him a valuable asset to the Court and to the citizens he’ll serve.”

Judge Thumma has served on the Maricopa County Superior Court since 2007, during which time he has presided over hundreds of trials and thousands of hearings. Originally appointed to the juvenile court rotation, he has been assigned to the criminal court docket since June 2010. He also has presided over the Lower Court of Appeals, for which he has managed appeals from municipal and justice courts. In 2010, Judge Thumma served in three cases as a Judge Pro Tem for the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 1.

Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court, Judge Thumma was a Director at the local law firm of Perkins, Coie, Brown & Bain (1993-2007); a Law Clerk for the Arizona Supreme Court (1992-1993); an Associate with the firm of Arnold & Porter in Washington, D.C. (1990-1992); and a Law Clerk to United States District Court Judge Hansen (1988-1990).

Judge Thumma has been an active member of his community. He served as a member of Valley Leadership (2001-2002); was named a “Forty Under Forty” honoree (2002); and is a founding member of the Maricopa County Justice Museum and Learning Center. He has received multiple commendations throughout his career, including: the American Bar Association’s Outstanding Subcommittee Chairman award (2010); National and Regional Leadership awards from the American Red Cross; and a Friend of Phoenix commendation for outstanding contributions to the Paradise Valley Village Planning Committee (1996).

Judge Thumma received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Journalism from Iowa State University (1984), and graduated as a Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholar. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law (1988), and has been licensed to practice in the State of Arizona since 1992.

For her second appointment, Governor Brewer has chosen appellate attorney Randall M. Howe to replace retired Judge Daniel Barker.

“Randy has extensive appellate experience and has consistently demonstrated a steadfast appreciation for judicial restraint – a quality of the utmost importance for an appellate judge,” said Governor Brewer. “I am confident Randy will serve with distinction to uphold the law of the land.”

Mr. Howe has been with the United States Attorney’s Office in Arizona since 2008, and has served as the Deputy Appellate Chief since 2009. In this capacity, he represents the federal government in the U.S. Court of Appeals and supervises criminal and civil appellate matters handled out of the Phoenix and Flagstaff offices.

Earlier, Mr. Howe was with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office (1988-2008), where he served as: Chief Counsel of the Criminal Appeals Section (2001-2008); Appellate Supervisor of the Liability Management Section (1999-2001); and Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Appeals Section (1988-1999). Through these roles, Mr. Howe represented the State of Arizona in courts of multiple levels – and successfully argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1998, he served as Judge Pro Tem for the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 1. Prior to his employment with the Attorney General’s Office, Mr. Howe was an Associate with the law firm of Storey & Ross, P.C. (1988).

Other notable accomplishments include: serving on the Board of Directors for both the Arizona Center for Disability Law and the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (2005-present); being named a Distinguished Public Lawyer by the State Bar of Arizona (2007); serving on the Attorney General Opinion Review Committee (1989-1999); and being nominated by the Attorney General’s Office for Prosecutor of the Year (1995).

Mr. Howe graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Arizona State University College of Business (1985), and received his law degree from the ASU School of Law (1988). He has been licensed to practice in Arizona since 1988.

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