



State of Arizona

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2012

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Governor Jan Brewer Names Maricopa County Superior Court Appointment

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced the appointment of David Cunanan to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Mr. Cunanan has served as a Maricopa County Superior Court Commissioner since 2002. Previously, he practiced law with Cunanan & McGuire, LLC (1995-2002); served as Pro Tem Prosecutor for the City of Scottsdale (1995-2002); and worked for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (1992-1995).

"David brings to the bench a decade's worth of significant and diverse judicial experience and management skills," said Governor Brewer. "Having served as a court commissioner, a city and county prosecutor – and being well-versed in civil, juvenile, family and probate law – David will be a valuable addition to the Maricopa County Superior Court. I am confident he will continue to make impactful improvements to the judicial process."

As a Court Commissioner, Mr. Cunanan has handled a variety of proceedings – including those involving probate; initial appearances; aggravated DUI; pretrial conferences; special assignment; and criminal court. Notably impressive, Mr. Cunanan also was assigned to oversee administrative projects to help manage and improve judicial processes – a role not commonly assigned to commissioners.

Mr. Cunanan has been praised for his legal work. He received the FBI Bank Fraud Task Force Award of Recognition (2004), as well as several Awards of Appreciation from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (1995), FBI Speaker Series (2000) and the City of Phoenix (2001). In 2011, he was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court's Committee on the Superior Court, a group responsible for working to improve the quality of justice and efficiency of court operations in Arizona. Only one commissioner from the State is appointed to the committee at a time. He also is the first commissioner to be elected President of the Arizona Judges Association.

Mr. Cunanan earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina (1989). He graduated from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (1992) and has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1992.

"While I proudly welcome David to his new role, it is with a heavy heart that I also recognize another nominee who passed away during the consideration period," said Governor Brewer. "I had the pleasure of interviewing Maria Salapska on a couple of occasions. Maria was a genuine and resilient woman – regarded

highly for her character in the courtroom, and more importantly, in the community. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maria and her loved ones.”

The Governor’s appointment of David Cunanan was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael Jones.

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