



**State of Arizona**

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## **Governor Jan Brewer Announces Appointees to the Maricopa County Superior Court**

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today named two appointments to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Kathleen Mead has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Helene F. Abrams.

“Kathleen possesses broad expertise in various areas of the law, including criminal, juvenile, family and appellate matters. Moreover, her work outside the practice of law and legal experience as a court commissioner, a defense attorney, a prosecutor and a sole practitioner will add a diverse professional perspective to the bench.”

Kathleen Mead has been a Court Commissioner for the Maricopa County Superior Court since 2003. In this role, Ms. Mead has handled initial criminal appearances and felony matters – including preliminary hearings, bond review and restitution hearings – and adjudicated as many as sixty sentences per week. She also was an integral part of the team that launched the Maricopa County Search Warrant Center, a centralized court that reviews and issues search warrants for law enforcement.

Prior to becoming a Court Commissioner, Ms. Mead was a sole practitioner (1994-2003); worked for the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office (1993-’94); served as a Clerk for the Arizona Court of Appeals (1988-’93); and was a paralegal with the firm of Beer & Toone (1984-’88) and a legal secretary with Warner Angle (1983-’84). Prior to entering the legal profession, Ms. Mead was employed with Long Building Technologies, in Colorado (1981-’83); Rapid City Area Schools and Rapid City West Hospitals, in South Dakota (1980-’81).

Ms. Mead currently volunteers for the Red Cross as part of the Southwest Valley Disaster Action Team, and has been active in the Juvenile Drug Court Program. She graduated from Arizona State University College of Law (1988); earned a paralegal certificate from the Denver Paralegal Institute (1983); and received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from South Dakota State University (1980, *cum laude*).

For her second appointment, Governor Brewer has selected Rodrick “Rod” Coffey to replace retired Judge Glenn M. Davis.

“Rod brings to the bench a keen intellect and sound appreciation of the judicial process,” said Governor Brewer. “His strong legal background – whether handling complex commercial and real estate litigation and

appeals while in private practice or covering family, probate and mental health proceedings as a commissioner – will be a valuable asset to the Court. Rod is well-regarded for his proven track record of objectivity and judicial restraint. I'm confident he will continue to serve with such distinction in his new role as Maricopa County Court judge.”

Rod Coffey has served as a Maricopa County Court Commissioner since 2011. Currently assigned to the Probate Division, Mr. Coffey also handles orders of protection and has experience covering mental health proceedings. He previously served as Judge *Pro Tempore* (2006-'11).

Prior to becoming a court commissioner, Mr. Coffey's law practice was primarily focused on commercial and real estate litigation at the trial and appellate court levels in Arizona and federal courts. He also has handled bankruptcy cases. Mr. Coffey practiced with the law firms Stinson Morrison Hecker (1999-April 2001, Aug. 2001-'11) and Bryan Cave (May – July 2001).

Mr. Coffey was a member of the Thurgood Marshall Inn of Court (2005-'10) and has judged mock trial competitions through Arizona State University and Phoenix School of Law . He also has coached youth basketball teams, interviewed high school students applying to Vanderbilt University and educated youth in his community about the judicial system. Mr. Coffey is active in his church, where he has taught Sunday school and served as a youth leader.

Rod Coffey graduated Order of the Coif from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University (1999). He received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Vanderbilt University (1996, *cum laude*). Mr. Coffey commenced his legal career with distinction by receiving the highest score on the July 1999 Bar Exam.

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