



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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28 Court Leaders Graduate with Court Leadership Institute of Arizona Credentials

PHOENIX – Arizona Supreme Court Justice Robert Brutinel presided over graduation ceremonies for 28 leaders in the Arizona judiciary who graduated from the Arizona Court Executive program, which is part of the Court Leadership Institute of Arizona. The goals of the Supreme Court’s strategic agenda -- strengthening the administration of justice; maintaining a professional workforce; improving operational efficiencies and communications; and protecting children, families and communities -- are dependent on sound management practices and effective leadership for implementation.

The Court Leadership Institute of Arizona supports the administration of justice by providing management and leadership education opportunities that build and sustain a truly great judicial branch. Program participants include judges, court administrators, managers, clerks of the court, and probation supervisors, directors and deputy chiefs.

“We look to these graduates to inspire a shared vision, and to encourage commitment among our court staff to providing the people of Arizona with a court system that fairly and impartially administers justice and efficiently resolves disputes,” Justice Robert Brutinel said.

The Leadership Institute promotes these goals through a three-tiered approach, focused on proven management practices and innovative leadership principles. The Arizona Court Supervisor (ACS) program is the first leadership program tier, developing foundational skills for supervisors.

The Arizona Court Manager (ACM) and Arizona Court Executive (ACE) programs take the next step in developing leaders through a partnership with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Arizona is one of a handful of states authorized by the NCSC's Institute for Court Management (ICM) to deliver this national certification program locally for the convenience of busy managers and court executives. While ICM classes became the core of both the Arizona Court Manager and Arizona Court Executive certificates, the Court Leadership Institute of Arizona developed additional courses for other identified Arizona court leadership needs. Additionally, Arizona is one of only a few states that require participants to pass a test after each class to receive credit toward their certification.

The 28 participants who graduated today are the first class of the Arizona Court Executive (ACE) program. They have completed the six ICM court executive classes as well as an additional "Arizona Plus – Executive Capstone" course. The Capstone asked participants to examine current and future challenges facing the courts. The ACE program included topics such as: leadership skills; visioning and strategic planning; creating learning organizations through education and development; effective communications with the public and community; balancing independence of the judiciary with interdependence and accountability; and examining strategies to build high performance courts of the future.

For information about the court system throughout Arizona, visit www.azcourts.gov.

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Graduates:

The Honorable Kimberly Corsaro, Superior Court in Santa Cruz County

Jessica Cortes, Flagstaff Municipal Court

Darenda Day, Superior/Kearny Justice Court

Martie Delgadillo, Superior Court in Coconino County

Mary Ellen Dunlap, Superior Court in Cochise County
C. Rolf Eckel, Superior Court in Yavapai County
Shelly Fulcher, Apache Junction Municipal Court
Nicole Zoe Garcia, Superior Court in Maricopa County
Nancy Hinojos, Hayden Municipal Court
Brenda Jordan, Peoria Municipal Court
Dyani Juarez, Casa Grande City Court
Christine Kelly, Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court
Diana Dominguez-Kutcher, Flagstaff Municipal Court
Karen Lavelle, Surprise City Court
Michael Malone, Phoenix Municipal Court
Raquel Ortega, Eloy Municipal Court
Eloise Price, Superior Court in Gila County
Laura Real, Kearny Municipal Court
Lois Rees, Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court
Maria Rodriguez, Surprise City Court
Abril Ruiz-Ortega, Avondale City Court
Anita Salisbury, Yuma County Adult Probation
Christine Thatcher, Pima Municipal Court
Johnny Tse, Superior Court in Maricopa County
James Vance, Maricopa County Justice Court
Debora Wells-Guevara, Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court
Carol Westwood, Superior Court in Maricopa County
Sharon Yates, Superior Court in Coconino County