



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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AOC Director Byers Wins Prestigious Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in Court Administration

PHOENIX – The National Center for State Courts (NCSC.org) announced last week that David K. Byers, Director of the Administrative Office of the Arizona Supreme Court, has been named the 2013 recipient of the prestigious Warren E. Burger Award for excellence in court administration, one of the highest awards presented by NCSC. Named for the late Chief Justice of the United States, the Warren E. Burger award honors “a state court system administrative official who demonstrates professional expertise, leadership, integrity, creativity, innovativeness, and sound judgment,” according to the Center’s award criteria.

“The award honors court administrative officials who have taken decisive steps to improve the operations of courts at the state or local level that may have application to courts nationwide,” states the NCSC’s website.

“We are pleased and proud that Dave Byers has been honored with this award. No one could be more deserving,” said Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch. “He has provided excellent support and guidance for the Arizona court system for more than 35 years. He has been creative in finding solutions to the issues that have arisen. His leadership has helped bring national recognition to Arizona’s courts and has improved the administration of justice. He has worked tirelessly to create a responsive, world-class court system. Through NCSC and other national committees, Byers has shared his expertise to benefit court leaders throughout Arizona, the US, and abroad.”

As Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Byers is responsible for overseeing and administering a court system that employs 10,000 people and operates in more than 200 locations; processes more than 2.6 million cases per year; supervises 42,000 adult felons on probation; and has a combined budget from all courts in excess of \$550 million dollars. The Supreme Court also oversees the State Bar of Arizona and the discipline process for the state's 15,000 plus attorneys and 500 judges.

“Dave Byers serves as a national role model for court leaders everywhere. He has been on the forefront of helping courts remain innovative, effective, and accessible during the recent difficult financial downturn all state courts faced. Dave has been on the forefront in court advancements on issues from implementing e-filing to improving foster care to protecting fair and impartial courts. NCSC is proud to name Dave Byers as our 2013 Burger Award recipient,” NCSC President Mary Campbell McQueen said.

In 2012, Byers was honored with the Gabe Zimmerman Leadership Award, which recognize professional excellence of non-elected officials. The award is named for former Representative Gabrielle Giffords' director of community outreach, who lost his life in the 2011 Tucson shooting that killed six and injured 12, including Giffords.

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About the National Center for State Courts

The NCSC, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts.