



# NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JUDGE THOMAS FINK APPOINTED PRESIDING JUDGE FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court has appointed the Honorable Thomas Fink to a three-year term as Presiding Judge of Santa Cruz County.

Judge Fink’s wide-ranging administrative and leadership experience at the U.S. Attorney’s Office provided a level of expertise ideal for the role of Presiding Judge.

Presiding Judges in Arizona take on extra duties and serve as the chief executive officer of the courts in the county, overseeing all aspects of court business, including financial management. The Presiding Judge oversees case assignments and court calendar and monitors performance of the courts to ensure that cases are processed in a timely manner.

“Given the financial challenges that Santa Cruz County faces, it is important to have someone with Judge Fink’s experience. While at the U.S. Attorney’s office, he supervised more than 40 trial attorneys and additional support staff while also managing the budget and finances of the office,” Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch explained.

“Judge Fink was the Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney during a massive increase in federal cases. My colleagues and I were impressed by his approach to managing the increased caseload when no additional financial resources were forthcoming. He reached out to various stakeholder groups to streamline processes in order to manage the caseload more effectively,” Chief Justice Berch said.

Prior to being appointed by Governor Jan Brewer to the Superior Court in Santa Cruz County, Judge Fink worked in private practice following several years as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona. From 2009 to 2011, Judge Fink served as a court-appointed mediator for domestic relations and civil matters for the Superior Court in Santa Cruz County.

He also brings experience from roles as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division; and attorney with the private Chicago law firm of Bell, Boyd and Lloyd.



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In addition to litigation experience, Judge Fink has appellate experience having argued ten separate occasions in front of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Fink earned several important professional honors for his service, including: Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney; Special Achievement Award Sustained for Superior Performance of Duty; and Outstanding Attorney Award, Tax Division.

Judge Fink is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan.

For information about the court system throughout Arizona, visit [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov).

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