



NEWS RELEASE

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Arizona Judiciary's Ron Reinstein Named to National Forensic Science Committee for his Expertise

PHOENIX – Ron Reinstein, a retired judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court and a consultant to the Arizona Supreme Court, has been appointed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as one of thirty-five new members to the Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). OSAC is an initiative by NIST and the U.S. Department of Justice to strengthen forensic science in the United States. The thirty-five new members were selected from among 1,300 candidates with legal or scientific backgrounds. Reinstein will serve on the Legal Resource Committee of OSAC.

Reinstein is nationally recognized for his expertise in forensic science and the law. During his 22 years on the Maricopa County Superior Court, he served as the Presiding Criminal Judge from 1990-1998 and as the Associate Presiding Judge of the Court from 1998-2000. Reinstein now chairs the Arizona Supreme Court Commission on Victims in the Courts, the Arizona Forensic Science Advisory Committee, and the Arizona Supreme Court Capital Case Oversight Committee and is the director of the Supreme Court Center for Evidence-Based Sentencing. He was a member of the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence and the Interagency Working Group of the White House Subcommittee on Forensic Science and serves as a consultant to other national organizations in the areas of law and forensic science.

“Advances in science along with better evidence gathering and preservation techniques have been instrumental in solving crimes that would have gone unsolved in prior decades as well as exonerating the innocent. Forensic science evidence plays an important role in most criminal trials, and it is important that appropriate standards and guidelines be developed for each of the forensic science disciplines,” Reinstein said. “Being named to this national committee will allow me to share my expertise while also learning from some of the brightest minds in law and the forensic sciences.”

Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales said “Reinstein is an outstanding appointment to OSAC. Improving the use of forensic science is vital to our criminal justice system, and Judge Reinstein has long supported such efforts nationally and within Arizona.” Providing better training for judges in forensic science is among the goals identified in the Court’s new strategic agenda, Advancing Justice Together: Courts and Communities.

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