

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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Tax Credit May Be Used to Fund Legal Aid for Poor, Disadvantaged

PHOENIX – Resolving conflicts in court can be daunting. If you’re struggling to put food on the table, pay your bills, or feed your kids, dealing with legal trouble can seem overwhelming. Whether it is a landlord/tenant issue, employment, divorce, child custody, or other issue, those with limited financial means should still have access to fair and equal justice. Legal aid organizations help fill that gap but they consistently struggle for funding. Fortunately, there is a way to provide vital funding for legal aid through Arizona’s charitable tax credit program.

The Arizona Commission on Access to Justice was recently appointed by the Chief Justice and held its first meeting October 15. Among its stated goals, the Commission is promoting Arizona’s charitable tax credit, which can be used to support legal aid to the poor or disadvantaged. Under this credit, contributions to eligible legal aid organizations can reduce a person’s Arizona income tax liability dollar-for-dollar, up to \$200 for individual filers and \$400 for those filing a joint return. By choosing to support a qualifying legal aid organization, Arizonans can take an important step toward closing the justice gap.

Click on these links to learn more about the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice <http://www.azcourts.gov/cscommittees/ArizonaCommissiononAccesstoJustice.aspx> and the tax credit. The brief video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUz9G5qBWDU> explains the program in more detail. For a list of participating organizations or to contribute now, visit http://www.azflse.org/azflse/get_involved/donatenow_wptc.cfm. For the official Arizona Department of Revenue page on the charitable tax credit, go to <http://www.azdor.gov/About/FAQs/CharitableTaxCredit.aspx>.