

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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Court of Appeals Chief Judge Named Faculty Member of the Year

PHOENIX – “Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year for 2014-2015” is another title that the Honorable Peter Eckerstrom, Chief Judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division Two, can add to his list of credentials. The Student Bar Association at the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law recognized Judge Eckerstrom for inspiring the next generation of law school graduates.

Judge Eckerstrom taught a course on capital punishment, exploring such themes as the history and philosophy of the death penalty, as well as current and controversial issues associated with the death penalty. His class examined capital punishment from the prosecution, defense, and victim perspectives with guest lectures from experts from the field. It was Judge Eckerstrom’s second year teaching the course.

Judge Eckerstrom said that he begins and ends the course by inviting each of his students to talk about their perspective of the death penalty.

“I ask them to challenge their preexisting view and be open to the contrary view,” Eckerstrom said. “On the last day of class, I do the same exercise. The students all come away with a more sophisticated view of their threshold perspective. My goal isn’t to change their minds, it is to give them a more nuanced understanding of the death penalty since most of my students intend to practice criminal law.”

“People may not realize that many of our state’s judges also spend time in the law school classroom, or help with moot court and other law school activities,” Judge Eckerstrom said. “We draw a lot of inspiration by teaching or coaching law students.”

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