

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Markham Earns Justice of the Peace of the Year Award

PHOENIX – The Arizona Justice of the Peace Association selected Justice of the Peace Arthur Markham to receive its highest honor, the Sherry Geisler Award for Justice of the Peace of the Year.

Judge Markham has served as a full-time judge for approximately 14 years at the Prescott Consolidated Courts, which includes the Prescott Justice Court and the Prescott Magistrate Court. He is also the Yavapai Prescott Tribal Magistrate. For the last seven years, Judge Markham has been Presiding Justice of the Peace for Yavapai County. Judge Markham is currently serving on the executive board for the Arizona Justice of the Peace Association and has participated on its legislative committee for a number of years.

Under Judge Markham’s leadership, Prescott Consolidated Courts have ushered in several innovations to advance justice and case processing procedures. They led the way for E-citations, paperless initial appearances, and served as pilot courts for a new case management system. Prescott Consolidated Courts also piloted the pretrial release procedures in conjunction with the Laura and John Arnold Foundation and the Arizona Supreme Court. The success of that pilot program resulted in statewide implementation of the pretrial assessment tool.

Judge Markham has served, and continues to serve, on many committees and forums for the Arizona Supreme Court. As a member of the Limited Jurisdiction Courts Committee for the last seven years, Judge Markham works to make sure proposed rules and procedures affecting all limited jurisdiction courts reflect the views of justices of the peace. He serves on the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission subcommittee on criminal history to ensure proper reporting of

criminal convictions. He has assisted with updating the handbooks judges use for the enforcement of civil judgments. Judge Markham served on the DUI case processing committee, which helped formulate DUI case processing standards. He served on a DUI education panel at the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Conference.

Judge Markham frequently speaks about the court system to local organizations such as Rotary and Lions Clubs as well as the county bar association. He has served on local community boards such as Catholic Social Services, the Zoo, band boosters, and the Orme School.

Judge Markham is instrumental in maintaining effective working relationships with the Board of Supervisors, the Prescott City Council, Yavapai Tribe, law enforcement, and probation departments.

Peer judges nominate a colleague for the Justice of the Peace of the Year award and then nominees complete an application relating to their service as a judicial officer. A committee selects the final winner. In 2013, the award was renamed the Sherry Geisler Award in honor of the late Honorable Sherry Geisler of Round Valley Justice Court. Judge Geisler was a great leader in the judicial community she was the first association president when the association split from the partnership with the constables in 1996. Judge Geisler served as a mentor judge and on multiple committees for the Supreme Court, including the Judicial Ethics Commission.

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