

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Program on the Impact of Dementia on Lawyers and Judges Earns Two National Awards

PHOENIX – Led by the State Bar of Arizona, the Supreme Court, two retired judges, and a practicing attorney developed a nationally-webcast program on the impact of dementia on the legal profession. The National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) selected the program as the winner of its 2017 Community & Educational Outreach Award, sponsored by LexisNexis. “Hidden in Plain Sight: Dementia and its Impact on Lawyers and Judges” was a free 75-minute program that addressed the magnitude of the challenge Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias presents to the nation, the signs and symptoms of these diseases, and the resulting responsibilities and ethical obligations of those in the legal and court professions when dealing with dementia.

The State Bar of Arizona accepted the award at the National Association of Bar Executives’ annual meeting August 10 in New York City. The same program won a second national award from the Association for Continuing Legal Education in the category of Professional Excellence in the Public Interest.

Following a general presentation by a medical expert on dementia, participants went through a series of scenarios that addressed practical and ethical challenges posed by dementia. These included attorneys who may have concerns about their colleagues, clients, or judges, as well as judges who might have concerns about colleagues, attorneys appearing before them, or litigants.

Using the InReach Continuing Legal Education platform, the Arizona Supreme Court and State Bar of Arizona were able to reach more than 1,100 legal professionals across the country. Participants in the training included professionals in 20 different courts, private firms,

prosecutors, defense agencies, medical providers, legal services providers, government agencies, bar associations, and employers in 26 states.

The Arizona Supreme Court acknowledges the contributions of the following individuals who assisted with the development of the training materials:

- Lisa Deane, Elena Nethers, Roberta Tepper and Lisa Panahi, of the State Bar of Arizona,
- The Honorable Louraine Arkfeld and The Honorable Roxanne Song Ong, both retired city magistrates from Arizona,
- Gabe Goltz and Renu Sapra, with the Arizona Supreme Court's Education Services Division, and
- Michelle Lauer, attorney at John C. Lincoln Law Offices.

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Cutline for Photo (L to R): Lisa Deane, NABE Representative, Judge Louraine Arkfeld (Ret.), Judge Roxanne Song Ong (Ret.)