

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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Judicial Council Approves Commercial Court Continuation

PHOENIX – Commercial disputes will continue to be handled in a special venue thanks to the Arizona Judicial Council’s recent approval of the continuation of commercial court. The Superior Court in Maricopa County hosted a three-year pilot commercial court program that began in July 2015. Last week, Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales signed an [order](#) continuing the pilot program.

David Rosenbaum of Osborn Maledon chaired the Commercial Court Review Committee and reported his group’s findings to the Arizona Judicial Council, the policymaking advisory body for the Arizona Supreme Court.

“Attorneys who have cases in the program overwhelmingly support it, as do the judges who handle the commercial court cases,” Rosenbaum said.

The commercial court achieves five key goals:

- To make Arizona a more favorable forum for resolving business disputes;
- To improve the business community’s access to justice;
- To expeditiously resolve business cases and reduce litigation costs;
- To improve the quality of justice; and
- To gain the business community’s support for the State of Arizona’s dispute resolution system.

Rosenbaum said the three-year pilot program provided valuable experience over the 1,590 cases that were assigned to the program. In addition to recommending the commercial court be continued permanently, Rosenbaum's group offered six other recommendations to fine tune the program. The Arizona Judicial Council supported all the recommendations. Extension of the pilot program allows the Supreme Court time to consider the recommendations and associated rule changes that could make the program permanent.

“Attorneys and members of the business community support the program because they prefer having specified judges with commercial litigation backgrounds deciding these cases. By assigning such judges to these cases, the program provides a direct benefit to the business community,” Presiding Superior Court Judge Janet Barton of Maricopa County said.

The Commercial Court Review Committee's June 2018 report is posted at [http://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/84/MeetingMaterials/2018/June2018/TAB_2_AJC_Commercial Court.pdf](http://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/84/MeetingMaterials/2018/June2018/TAB_2_AJC_CommercialCourt.pdf).

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