

Rule 72 Family Law Masters

The opposition to this reasonable reform to Rule 72 has two problems 1) failure to disclose conflict of interest as required by ER 6.4 and other Ethical Rules now being investigated by the State Bar, complaint number 16-3179. 2) Any reasonable person may read Article 6 of the Arizona Constitution which outlines the responsibilities and duties of the Courts and Judges who are typically appointed by the Governor. Nowhere in Article 6 does it grant authority to delegate or transfer Judicial authority from a duly appointed and sworn Judge to "an attorney or otherwise qualified person" especially over the objection of either litigant. Such a scheme to circumvent and undermine the judicial system as described by the Constitution should be frightening to anyone expecting their rights to be protected by the Rule of Law.

This undermining of the judicial system does not seem to be a concern to Annette Burns or any of her 100 attorney friends, perhaps because they stand to profit from this transfer of the judicial process from the court room to lawyers who charge litigants \$300+/hr to serve as judges appointed contrary to the means prescribed by the Constitution. This neatly ties everything together, bringing us full circle to Bar Complaint #16-3179.

An attorney and the judge both have a JD degree. Expertise or a degree in forensic accounting would make more sense for the role of Family Law Master in determining an equitable division of marital assets. Assigning the case to a \$300/hr attorney who does not lawfully hold the title of judge must be deemed contrary to the form and the intent of the Constitution.

If Annette Burns wishes to become a judge, she should read Article 6 of the Constitution and do what it says.

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