

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Arizona Supreme Court’s Dependent Children Services Division Wins Award for Program Impacting Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court – Administrative Offices of the Court’s (AOC) Dependent Children’s Services Division has been selected as the winner of the 2021 Summit Award in Court Administration & Management by the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) for its program “Promoting Quality Representation for Children and Parents.” The AOC was recognized at AACo’s Summit Awards Breakfast on Fri., Nov. 12.

The AOC’s winning entry “Promoting Quality Representation for Children and Parents” resulted from its work with counties across the state to enter agreements allowing them to claim nearly \$14 million dollars since early 2020. The AOC initiated discussions with the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) and the Federal Children’s Bureau to help forge policy changes that led to Title IV-E reimbursement of applicable administrative expenses paid for child and parent attorney representation in these cases.

“We are extremely excited about the success of this collaborative effort that continues to lead to positive results for counties across the state, but more importantly the children and parents who benefit from it,” said Caroline Lutt-Owens, Director of the AOC Dependent Children Services Division. “Much of the \$14 million will be used to help promote and enhance high-quality legal representation for children and parents involved in child abuse and neglect cases,” she added.

According to the awards program, recipients from Arizona county governments are recognized for their innovative and creative spirit as they find new and effective ways of providing services to their citizens.

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Learn more about Arizona’s judicial branch by visiting azcourts.gov and its Dependent Children’s Services Division by visiting azcourts.gov/dcsd.

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