

# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts



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## **Arizona Supreme Court Approves First Alternative Business Structures**

PHOENIX – For the first time since the Arizona Supreme Court approved a series of legal services reforms, the Court has approved the first two entities authorized to provide legal services in an arrangement where lawyers and nonlawyers can co-own a business that includes legal services. The arrangement, called Alternative Business Structures, or ABS, allows licensed attorneys to join with nonlawyers who can provide complementary services to the clients they serve. The two entities approved by Administrative Orders of the Court today are Trajan Estate, LLC, a legal service provider focused on estate planning; and Payne Huebsch, PLC, a firm that provides transactional legal services combined with tax and accounting advice.

Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer, who chaired the Court’s Delivery of Legal Services Task Force that led to the reforms, stated, “It’s exciting to launch the first ABS entities, and I am certain that such arrangements will serve both the public and legal community in the delivery of quality legal services.” Mike Payne, a principal of Payne Huebsch, PLC stated, “We are honored to be among the first applicants to be approved by the Arizona Supreme Court as an Alternative Business Structure. The ABS designation will allow us to provide the legal, accounting, and tax services every business needs under one roof. Integrating lawyers into our staff will afford clients earlier, more frequent, and more affordable access to the protective tools and strategies available under the law.” The businesses can now begin operations under the regulations authorized by the Court.

Three additional providers have applied to the Court for authorization as Alternative Business Structures in Arizona. The ABS option is one of several reforms the Arizona Supreme Court pursued for improving access to courts and to make legal services more available to the public for

individual legal needs. To follow the Court's work, find more information about legal services reforms in Arizona, and to track the progress of these initiatives, see the Legal Services Reforms website at <https://www.azcourts.gov/accesstolegalservices/>.

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