



2023 Judicial Conference

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

June 28, 2023

JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa

2023 Judicial Conference

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AWARD

Presented by David K. Byers

PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

Presented by Chief Justice Robert M. Brutinel

JUDGE OF THE YEAR

Presented by Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer

**CHIEF JUSTICE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO ARIZONA COURTS AWARD**

Presented by Chief Justice Robert M. Brutinel



Awards Luncheon
AGENDA

JEFF FINE

*Clerk of the Superior Court
in Maricopa County*

Jeff Fine has served Arizona for 26 years as a court administrator, judicial officer, and Clerk of the Superior Court. He has also served as a law enforcement officer, corrections officer, and member of our nation's armed forces. In total, his public service spans 35 years.

Jeff is known for pursuing reforms that serve to develop people, streamline processes, promote fairness, lead to better justice outcomes, and increase access to justice. In addition to serving his community, he has contributed to initiatives of broader impact as a presenter at conferences and member of the Fair Justice Task Force, Digital Evidence Task Force, Legal Services Task Force, Committees on Superior and Limited Jurisdiction Courts, Committee on Judicial Education and Training, and other groups.

He currently serves as Clerk of the Superior Court in Maricopa County. In 2019, he and his team developed a robust strategic agenda for continuous improvement based on a five-pronged approach of starting with people, advancing technology, focusing on customers, partnering for results, and enhancing communication. Resulting achievements have been recognized with 30 awards for initiative and excellence.

Jeff credits success to his team. "They understand our role is greater than managing records, finances, and data. They know it is about people's lives. This is why our team goes above and beyond." For his part, he describes his role as promoting vision, facilitating conversation, developing relationships, supporting team members, and empowering them to do great things. According to Jeff, "simply stated, we aspire to be helpful to one another and those we serve in all that we do."



Administration of
JUSTICE
AWARD

FREDERICK J. PETERSEN

*Managing Partner,
Mesch Clark Rothschild*



Frederick J. Petersen's commitment to access to justice started immediately upon his graduation from law school and is approaching two and half decades of consistent, quality volunteer services with Southern Arizona Legal Aid (SALA). Fred has provided direct-client representation and has served on its board of directors.

Fred is one of the SALA Volunteer Lawyer Program's most committed volunteer attorneys. He has handled 151 appointments during 33 legal clinics and ultimately served 114 clinic clients (70.5 hours total). He has taken on 21 direct-representation cases for clients involving debt and bankruptcy law matters and donated 278.8 hours of pro bono work in those cases. He has provided a total of 349.3 hours of legal advice and assistance to clients. Most notably, Fred took on a seven-year-long direct-representation case in 2014 that concluded in 2021—taking it all the way through trial and defending it against an appeal.

Fred has a long history of commitment to community in other ways. He was president of Handi-Dogs (a non-profit relating to service dogs), president of The Breakfast Club, and affiliated with the Tucson Volunteer Center. During his free time, Fred appreciates outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, and mountain biking and enjoys welding and metal work, and has even rebuilt cars in his garage.

Fred grew up in southeastern Idaho and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in history and political science from Gonzaga University. He earned his juris doctor from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. Fred joined his current firm, Mesch Clark Rothschild, in 1998 as a law clerk while attending law school. He became an associate in 1999, a shareholder in 2005, and managing partner in 2011.

Pro Bono
**SERVICE
AWARD**

GREG SAKALL

*Judge, Superior Court
in Pima County*



Judge Greg Sakall serves as a Judge on the Superior Court in Pima County. He served as that bench's Family Law Presiding Judge from January 2020 through June 2022.

He was born in Tucson, and grew up in Tucson and Prescott.

Before joining the bench, Judge Sakall was an attorney with Goldberg & Osborne. He served as a law clerk for Judges William Browning and Cindy Jorgenson on the United States District Court for the District of Arizona.

Judge Sakall graduated Order of the Coif from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law in 2001, where he was on the editorial board of the Arizona Law Review; and graduated summa cum laude from Hillsdale College with a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish.

He has served on various committees, including the Family Court Improvement Committee, the Supreme Court's Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, the State Bar's Civil Practice & Procedure Committee, and the board and committees of the Pima County Bar Association.

Judge Sakall has taught at the UofA's law school for 20 years on issues of constitutional law, civil procedure, and conflicts of law. He has also taught for the UofA's Humanities Series Program, for which he has received two superior teaching awards. He has frequently presented at local, state, and national seminars on civil and family law issues.

Judge of the
YEAR
AWARD

JERRY LANDAU

*Judge Pro Tempore &
Special Projects Consultant,
Administrative Office of the Courts*



Jerry serves as a Judge Pro-Tempore in Superior and Justice of the Peace courts in Coconino, Maricopa, and Graham counties and the Scottsdale City Court. Jerry also is a Special Projects Consultant to the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts and for 16 years was the Government Affairs Director. He chaired and served on many Supreme Court task forces and committees. He served on several Arizona legislative committees and helped write many of Arizona's criminal, juvenile, and vehicle criminal laws.

Jerry was instrumental in bringing the U.S. Holocaust Museum's Law, Justice and the Holocaust program to Arizona judges. He is a former chair of the National Safety Council, Division on Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment and was awarded its "Borkenstein Award", named for Breathalyzer® inventor Robert F. Borkenstein. He is the recipient of the Arizona Supreme Court Administration of Justice Award, Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys Association Lifetime Achievement Award, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration trainer of the year.

He participated in various projects and presented training for the Arizona Supreme Court and other judicial branch and legal organizations and law schools, the National Trial Advocacy Center, American Bar Association, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety and for programs in Arizona and other states.

Jerry previously sat on the State Bar of Arizona Ethics and Criminal Rules Committees, as well as the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. Prior to joining the judicial branch, he was a Deputy Maricopa County Attorney, a manager and trial attorney, and in private practice.

Outstanding Contributions
**TO THE COURT
AWARD**

2023 Distinguished Service Award Winners
CONGRATULATIONS

Camelback Inn Garden

Photo Credit: Tripadvisor.com

