

A desert landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow. In the foreground, there is a large Saguaro cactus with several arms. To the left, there is a cholla cactus. The ground is dry and sandy with some sparse vegetation.

2024

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARDS

June 18, 2024

Court Judicial Conference

JW MARRIOTT TUCSON STARR PASS RESORT



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



Distinguished Service Awards



Administration of Justice Award

SUMMER DALTON

Administrative Office
of the Courts

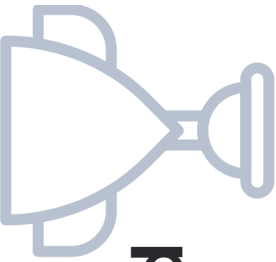


With more than 26 years of dedicated service in the Arizona judicial system, Summer is a seasoned professional known for her expertise in court management, business analysis, and senior project leadership. Her career trajectory showcases a commitment to excellence, marked by a succession of roles of increasing responsibility and impact. Her proficiency in navigating complex technology initiatives has positioned her as a trusted leader in the digital transformation of the judiciary, earning accolades from peers and leadership alike.

Summer is responsible for numerous statewide automation initiatives, orchestrating pivotal projects such as eAccess, eBench, eFiling, and Digital Evidence. Her responsibilities span the gamut of project and program management. Notably, she has spearheaded the successful implementation of transformative solutions, enhancing public access to court documents, streamlining clerk processes, automating bench operations, and modernizing evidence management.

Summer is a consummate professional, exemplifying an unwavering commitment to excellence. Her adept navigation of sensitive administrative matters with integrity and discretion has garnered the trust and respect of stakeholders at all levels. With her exceptional work ethic, collaborative spirit, strategic vision, and proven track record of success, Summer stands poised to continue making invaluable contributions to the judiciary, driving innovation, and fostering collaboration across the legal community.

Summer would say that her achievements are a testament to the dedication and talent of her exceptional team, whose unwavering support and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in realizing transformative initiatives within the Arizona judicial system. Together, they form a cohesive unit, driving innovation and excellence across the judiciary.



Pro Bono
Service Award



CHRISTINA KELLY

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, Trial Division

Christina Kelly attributes her commitment to serving others to her mother, who taught her early on the importance of giving back. Since 2007, Christina has served Arizona's families through her work with the Children's Law Center, representing clients in guardianship and adoption proceedings, and through her work as a Court Appointed Advisor in Family Court.

Christina has been one of the Children's Law Center's most committed volunteer attorneys. She has donated 496 hours representing clients in guardianship and adoption proceedings, and has donated 510 hours serving as a Court Appointed Advisor. Most notably, Christina's commitment to Arizona's families extends beyond her office in Phoenix. Over the years, she has taken on representations in Yuma, Mohave and Yavapai Counties. In addition, Christina helps educate and mentor lawyers who wish to take on guardianship cases.

Christina grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Studies from Arizona State University. She earned her juris doctor from McGeorge School of Law, where she was inducted in The Order of Barristers. Christina recently joined Nationwide's Trial Division in January 2024, after 22 years in private practice.

HON. PAUL MCMURDIE

Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One

Judge Paul J. McMurdie was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One by Governor Doug Ducey in 2016. Prior to his appointment to the appeals bench, he spent 11 years on the Maricopa County Superior Court, having been appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano in 2005. While serving as a superior court judge, he presided over civil, criminal, and family cases. Judge McMurdie was the Presiding Family Court Judge prior to being appointed to the Court of Appeals.

Judge McMurdie graduated with a B.A. degree in Political Science from Utah State University in 1982 and J.D. from Arizona State University in 1985. While in law school, he was selected for the Truman Young Fellowship as the outstanding criminal law student.

After graduating from ASU, Judge McMurdie worked for the Arizona Attorney General's Office in the Criminal Appeals Section. In 1991, he was appointed as the Section Chief for Criminal Appeals. In 2001, he began working for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office as the Division Chief for Appeals and Research.

While practicing law at both the state and county agencies, Judge McMurdie received numerous awards, including the Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council's Lifetime Achievement Award; Maricopa County Attorney's Office Division Attorney of the Year Award; Arizona Attorney Generals' Criminal Division Attorney of the Year Award; and Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council Prosecutor of the Year Award.

Judge McMurdie has served the legal profession in many capacities, including Chair of the Criminal Jury Instructions Committee, as well as Family Law Executive Counsel of the State Bar; Secretary-Treasurer, Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation; Co-Chair, Joint Legislative/Judicial Study Committee on Post-Conviction Relief; Co-Chair, Arizona Supreme Court Committee on Reducing Appellate Delay; and the Ninth Circuit Task Force on Capital Cases.



Judge of
Year Award



Outstanding Contributions to the Courts Award



PAUL JULIEN

Administrative Office of the Courts

Paul Julien has served as Judicial Education Officer for the Arizona Supreme Court for more than 20 years. He works with judges throughout the state in all phases of educational and professional development, including the New Judge Orientation, as well as tutors, mentors, and works with judges one-on-one during all phases of their judicial careers. He also serves as a judge pro tempore in courts throughout Arizona in civil and criminal matters.

He practiced law for 17 years, managed Southern Arizona Legal Aid, and consulted with the Legal Services Corporation. Prior to his legal career, Paul taught at Northern Arizona University and in the Flagstaff Public Schools. He earned a J.D. from the University of Arizona; Ed.D. and M.A. at Northern Arizona University; and a B.S. from the University of Utah.

Paul Julien has served in volunteer leadership roles with the Arizona Board of Regents, Catalina Foothills School Board, and the Governor's Commission to Stop Domestic Violence, American Diabetes Association, and Grand Canyon Association. In addition, he chairs the State Bar Professionalism Committee, was President of the Pima County Bar Association, and provided years of service to state and local bar associations. Honors include the Arizona Supreme Court's Administration of Justice Award, University of Arizona Distinguished Citizen Award, and the State Bar of Arizona Law-Related Education Award.

Paul announced his retirement from the Arizona Supreme Court for the end of June.

JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort
Photo Credit: HospitalityOnline.com



CONGRATULATIONS!

2024
Distinguished
Service
Award Winners



**THANK
YOU**
for joining us!



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