

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Dec. 9, 2021

Arizona Supreme Court Leads Nation in Tackling Access to Justice Gap with New Tier of Legal Services Providers

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court’s Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers approved licensure for its first group of legal paraprofessionals in Arizona. The Court’s Legal Paraprofessional Program is leading the Nation in addressing the access to justice gap by offering this new tier of legal services providers.

Ten applicants were reviewed and approved for licensure on Nov. 29, 2021. They will complete final steps to becoming affiliate members of the State Bar of Arizona and begin offering legal services.

“I am very excited to welcome the new paraprofessionals to the practice of law in Arizona,” said Vice Chief Justice Ann Scott Timmer of the Arizona Supreme Court. “I am optimistic that this marks a new era of progress in closing the justice gap in our state,” she added.

The overarching goal of the Legal Paraprofessional Program is to provide Arizonans with a viable alternative to hiring lawyers for their less complex legal needs while maintaining the standards outlined by the Rules of the Supreme Court. Newly admitted paraprofessionals can render legal services in four defined areas of practice including family law, limited jurisdiction civil, limited jurisdiction criminal, and administrative law. Paraprofessionals will not be required to work under a licensed attorney but will be regulated to ensure they follow the Code of Conduct.

As affiliate members of the State Bar, legal paraprofessionals are required to fulfill continuing education requirements, and if applicable, will be subject to investigation following allegations of misconduct. Rules violations could lead to formal proceedings and disciplinary sanctions.

Legal paraprofessionals are required to meet eligibility requirements prior to applying for a license including core-skills and subject-matter examinations; a broad range of education and experience combinations starting with an associate-level degree; and not having been denied admission to the practice of law in Arizona or other jurisdiction.

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Learn more about Arizona’s judicial branch by visiting [azcourts.gov](https://www.azcourts.gov) and the Legal Paraprofessional Program by visiting <https://www.azcourts.gov/Licensing-Regulation/Legal-Paraprofessional-Program>.

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