

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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June 16, 2026

Supreme Court Recognizes 2026 Distinguished Service Award Winners

PHOENIX – Each year the Arizona Supreme Court recognizes deserving individuals for their judicial service, service to the judicial branch, and pro bono service for representing those who would not otherwise be represented by an attorney.

This year's award recipients are:

- **Raymond Billotte**, Superior Court in Maricopa County
Administration of Justice Award
- **Hon. Wendy Million**, Tucson City Court
Judge of the Year
- **Hon. Thomas Zlaket**, Retired Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court
Outstanding Contributions to the Court
- **J. Robert Walston**
Pro Bono Service Award (*posthumous*)

Raymond Billotte was selected for the Administration of Justice Award by Dave Byers, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Raymond has served as the senior executive officer for the nation's fourth largest trial court since 2012. His career in court administration spans decades, and he has led multiple transformative initiatives in Arizona's courts, including caseflow management reforms, jury modernization, and jail population reduction strategies.

Hon. Wendy Million was named Judge of the Year by the justices of the Arizona Supreme Court for her dedicated work as Presiding Judge of the Tucson City Court Domestic Violence Court. She has been a leader in addressing domestic violence issues for decades, gaining national recognition for her innovative approach as a judicial officer and her commitment to educating others.

Retired Chief Justice Thomas Zlaket received the Outstanding Contributions to the Court Award, which is awarded by the Court's Chief Justice. Since retiring from the state's highest court, Justice Zlaket has served as Chief Judge of the Tonto Apache Tribal Court of Appeals and as Judge Pro Tem of the San Carlos Apache Tribal Court while also acting as a private mediator and arbitrator. He has received numerous national awards honoring his judicial service, and continues to be actively involved in local community initiatives.

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J. Robert Walston received the Pro Bono Award posthumously for his extensive service in family law. Although he handled many types of cases throughout his career, for more than 30 years he focused his practice to helping families navigate the complex nuances of the family law arena. He remained dedicated to this cause, volunteering every week almost immediately upon licensure with the Family Lawyers Assistance Project to help those in crisis.

The Arizona Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts congratulate this year's award recipients. More information and pictures can be found on the Court's website [here](#).

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