

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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New Members Welcomed to the Arizona Judicial Council

PHOENIX – The Arizona Judicial Council welcomed two new members to the policymaking body that oversees the judicial system in Arizona. Justice of the Peace Judge Keith Russell joined as a representative of the justice courts and Steven B. Peru joined as a public member. The Arizona Judicial Council was created in 1990 to assist the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice in the development and implementation of policies designed to provide a central direction for the administration of all courts, uniformity in court operations, and coordination of court services to improve the administration of justice in the state.

Judge Keith Russell is a native Arizonan and graduate of Arizona State University. He began his career in real estate, before moving into the appraisal business in the 1990s. Judge Russell has been active at the state and national level with the appraisal and real estate assessing business and is qualified to teach courses on the topic. In 2004, Russell was elected Maricopa County Assessor and subsequently reelected twice. He also worked with the legislature and County Attorney's office on legislative and tax litigation issues. In June 2013, Judge Russell took his oath of office as East Mesa Justice of the Peace. Currently, he serves as Presiding Judge for the 26 Maricopa County Justice Courts.

Steven Peru is a resident of Flagstaff and obtained his bachelor and master's degrees from Northern Arizona University. He began a lengthy career with Coconino County rising from the Community Services Department to County Manager, a role he held from 2006 to 2011. After his career in public service, Mr. Peru worked in management at W.L. Gore & Associates in its Medical Products Division. In early 2015, Mr. Peru was hired to lead the United Way of Northern Arizona as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Judge Russell and Mr. Peru will serve a three-year appointment to the Arizona Judicial Council. The complete list of Arizona Judicial Council members is available at <http://www.azcourts.gov/ajc/Meet-the-Council>. The history leading to the creation of the Council is at <http://www.azcourts.gov/ajc/>.

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