



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court - Administrative Office of the Courts

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Chief Justice Scott Bales Announces Retirement**

PHOENIX – Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales today informed Governor Doug Ducey that he will retire on July 31, 2019, after completing his five-year term as chief justice. Bales has served on the supreme court for fourteen years, having been appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano in 2005. He is currently the longest-serving justice on the court.

In his letter to the governor, Chief Justice Bales recalled the tremendous people he has worked with over his thirty-four-year career as an Arizona attorney, in positions ranging from public law to serving as a partner in two different law firms. Bales stated it has been deeply gratifying to serve with his fellow justices and noted their commitment to working together and fairly upholding the law. He further recognized the efforts of thousands of court employees and judicial officers across the state in raising the profile of Arizona's judicial branch for its quality and innovation, referring to his role as "helping to lead."

Vice Chief Justice Robert Brutinel commented: "Chief Justice Bales' commitment to the rule of law and the improvement of our courts have made Arizona's courts more accessible, efficient and fair. He is nationally recognized as an outstanding leader and jurist and the judicial branch will miss his leadership. The Court has greatly benefited from his intellect and clear and logical approach to deciding cases, his tremendous work ethic and his collegiality and friendship. His colleagues will miss him very much, and we wish him a happy and productive retirement."

Administrative Director Dave Byers stated: "Chief Justice Bales is one of the most highly productive, intelligent, and energetic chief justices to ever serve on this Court. He accomplished virtually everything in his Strategic Agenda, *Advancing Justice Together* to improve access to justice in Arizona. In addition, he worked tirelessly at the national level, planning education

programs for the Conference of Chief Justices and working to improve legal education and other aspects of the legal system. He will be greatly missed.”

Under Arizona’s merit selection system, the appellate nominating commission will receive and screen applications this summer as part of the process for appointing a new justice to the court upon Chief Justice Bales’ vacancy. Governor Ducey will make the appointment from a list of qualified candidates.

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