

# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts



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## Arizona Judicial Council Reaches Thirty-Year Milestone

PHOENIX – The Arizona Judicial Council (AJC) celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a meeting this week both remotely and in the State Courts Building in downtown Phoenix. The AJC is the policy-making body that oversees the judicial system in Arizona. It functions under [Arizona Code of Judicial Administration §1-104](#), to assist the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice in the development and implementation of policies and procedures for the administration of all courts, for uniformity in court operations, and for coordination of court services that will improve the administration of justice in the state of Arizona.

In 1978, the Arizona Supreme Court created the Council on Judicial Administration to recommend administrative policies and procedures designed to accomplish the full and complete integration of the Arizona Court System. In 1988, then-Chief Justice Frank X. Gordon signed [Administrative Order No. 88-06](#) creating the Commission on the Courts to ensure that all Arizonans are entitled to a justice system that:

- Resolves criminal charges and civil disputes between citizens fairly and without undue delay
- Employs modern management and technology to facilitate its task of providing justice
- Is accountable for its work
- Receives the human and technical resources it needs to perform its mission and manages those resources to maximize its effectiveness and minimize waste; and
- Is able to respond to foreseeable and unforeseeable social, technological, demographic, and environmental changes

In 1989, the Commission on the Courts recommended that a judicial council be established to oversee the administration of the state's court system to help alleviate some of the administrative burdens placed on the Court. The Court determined that the court system would be best served by restructuring the existing Council on Judicial Administration and, in June of 1990, the Arizona Judicial Council was established by [Administrative Order No. 90-13](#).

Today's AJC includes 25 members: Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel; Administrative Office of the Courts Director Dave Byers; Court of Appeals, Division One Chief Judge Peter Swann; Court of Appeals, Division Two Chief Judge Garye Vásquez; Pima County Superior Court Presiding Judge Kyle Bryson; Maricopa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Joseph Welty; Mohave County Superior Court Presiding Judge Charles Gurtler; Greenlee County Superior Court Presiding Judge Monica Stauffer; Surprise City Court Presiding Judge Louis Dominguez; East Mesa Justice Court Presiding Judge Keith Russell; Payson Regional Courts Presiding Judge Dorothy Little; State Bar of Arizona President Brian Furuya; Santa Cruz County Clerk of the Superior Court Juan Pablo Guzman; Yuma County Superior Court Administrator Kathy Schaben; Yavapai County Superior Court Presiding Judge David Mackey; Tucson Municipal Court Presiding Judge Antonio Riojas; and public members Mike Hellon, Don Bivens, Steve Pierce, Athia Hardt, George Weisz, Steve Peru, Lisa Urias, Lea Márquez-Peterson, and Kevin Robinson.

The Arizona Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Courts extend their thanks and congratulations to the Arizona Judicial Council on thirty years of service. For more information on the Arizona Judicial Council, see its website at <https://www.azcourts.gov/ajc/>.

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To learn more about Arizona's judicial branch, visit [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov).

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