

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE) Administrative Order
COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING) No. 2016 - 115
SMALL CLAIMS CASE PROCESSING)
AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS)
_____)

The Arizona Judiciary’s strategic agenda, *Advancing Justice Together: Courts and Communities*, includes the goal of “Improving Court Processes to Better Serve the Public” by improving timeliness and efficiency of processing court cases.

The Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure are applicable to all civil lawsuits filed in justice courts in Arizona, including small claims cases, which are cases in which the claim does not exceed \$3,500. In addition to these rules, the Arizona Revised Statutes establish a small claims division in each Justice of the Peace court to provide a forum for “...inexpensive, speedy, and informal resolution of small claims.” (§ 22-501, et. al.).

The Court and justices of the peace handling these cases desire to review the rules of procedure applicable to the processing of small claims cases to identify any changes that may serve to reduce the time and expense to litigants in small claims cases.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Committee on Improving Small Claims Case Processing (Committee) is established as follows:

1. **Purpose.** The Committee shall develop recommendations, including proposed rule amendments or pilot projects, to reduce the time required to resolve small claims cases in Arizona’s Justice of the Peace courts.
2. **Membership.** The individuals listed in Appendix A are appointed as members of the Committee effective immediately, and ending December 31, 2017. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members as may be necessary.
3. **Meetings.** The Committee shall meet at the discretion of the Committee Chair. All meetings shall comply with the public meeting policy of the Arizona Judicial Branch, Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202.

4. **Recommendations.** The Committee shall submit its recommendations, together with proposed rule changes, to the Arizona Judicial Council no later than June 30, 2017.

Dated this 2nd day of November, 2016.

SCOTT BALES
Chief Justice

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP LIST

COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING SMALL CLAIMS CASE PROCESSING

Chair

Honorable Steven McMurry
Encanto Justice Court

Members

Honorable Timothy Dickerson
Justice of the Peace
Sierra Vista Justice Court

Honorable Lisa Royal
Justice of the Peace
Green Valley Justice Court

Mr. Michael Hellon
Public Member
Pima County

Honorable William Rummer
Justice of the Peace
Mayer Justice Court

Mr. Paul Julien
Judicial Education Officer
Education Services Division, AOC
Judge Pro Tem

Honorable David Widmaier
Justice of the Peace
Pinetop-Lakeside Justice Court

Mr. Doug Kooi
Court Administrator
Pima County Consolidated Justice Court