

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO)
 THE ARIZONA STATE, TRIBAL, AND) Administrative Order
 FEDERAL COURT FORUM) No. 2001 - 70
) (Replacing Administrative
) Order 98-16)
 _____)

The interaction of federal court jurisdiction with tribal court and state court jurisdiction in Arizona results in unique opportunities for cooperation between state, federal and tribal judiciaries. Recognizing this interaction, the Arizona State and Tribal Court Forum, formed in 1990 under the auspices of the Conference of Chief Justices, recommended creation of an ongoing colloquium, which includes state, tribal and federal members. In response to this recommendation and the continuing work of the original Forum, in 1994 the chief judges of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the District Court of Arizona appointed judges to serve on such a body. Chief judges and justices of Indian tribes and nations throughout Arizona also expressed interest in participating in this court forum.

This order updates forum membership by adding a clerk of the superior court member and an additional public member and by providing for appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair. This order also reappoints members whose terms have expired and appoints new members.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the "Arizona State, Tribal and Federal Court Forum" is hereby reestablished for the following purposes:

1. To foster mutual understanding and acceptance by state, tribal and federal judges of the similarities and differences between each other's courts and legal systems, particularly pertaining to the resolution of jurisdictional issues.
2. To promote improvement in the quality of justice delivered in the context of the overlapping jurisdiction of state, tribal and federal courts through judicial education, professional court administration, education of attorneys and the public about tribal courts, and the sharing of personnel, facilities and programs, as well as state, tribal and federal funding, as appropriate.
3. To promote respect for and recognition of the judicial proceedings and judgments among the three court systems in order to minimize the need for litigation regarding jurisdictional issues.

4. To increase operational communication, cooperation and coordination among state, tribal and federal courts and other justice agencies in Arizona.

5. To promote legislative, regulatory and court rule changes to further the coordination of and cooperation among the three court systems.

6. Any other purposes deemed by a majority of forum members to be in the best interests of state, tribal and federal courts and of the justice system serving the citizens of Arizona affected by the interaction of these three systems.

Organization

The Court Forum shall consist of four federal members, six state members, at least seven tribal members, one State Bar member, and two public members. The federal members shall include a judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals appointed by the Chief Judge of the Circuit, a judge of the District of Arizona appointed by the Chief Judge of the District, the U.S. Attorney or designee, and the Federal Public Defender or designee. The state members shall include an appellate judge, three trial court judges, and a clerk of the superior court or deputy clerk appointed by the Chief Justice and the Arizona Attorney General or designee. The tribal members shall include at least seven chief judges or justices or their designees who express interest in Forum membership and who are appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall appoint one of the members to chair the forum. The Chair shall appoint a member to serve as Vice-Chair.

Membership

State and tribal judicial members and the public members shall be subject to appointment for two year terms. Members serving due to office, by appointment of an officer other than the chief justice, or by designation of an officer, shall not have a term. Based on action of appointing authorities and agreement of all persons named, the court forum membership shall consist of the persons listed in Appendix A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order replaces Administrative Order 98-16.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2001.

THOMAS A. ZLAKET
Chief Justice

Attachment: Appendix A

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ARIZONA STATE,
TRIBAL, AND FEDERAL COURT FORUM
APPENDIX A**

The following members shall serve a two-year term beginning upon entry of this Order and ending June 30, 2003.

Michael Nelson, Presiding Judge
Superior Court in Apache County
Reappointment, State Judge Member

Cornelia Cruz, Chief Judge
Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court
Reappointment, Tribal Judge Member

Gloria Kindig, Presiding Judge
Superior Court in Navajo County
Reappointment, State Judge Member

Gary LaRance, Chief Judge
Hopi Tribal Court
New Appointment, Tribal Judge Member

Sherry Hutt, Judge
Superior Court in Maricopa County
Reappointment, State Judge Member

Kathleen Gratz, Chief Judge
Ak-Chin Indian Community
New Appointment, Tribal Judge Member

Malcolm Escalante, Chief Judge
Tohono O'odham Judiciary
Reappointment, Tribal Judge Member

Mr. Frederick Steiner, Jr.
Phoenix, AZ
New Public Member

William R. Rhodes, Chief Judge
Gila River Indian Community
Reappointment, Tribal Judge Member

Brenda Parson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Superior Court in Yavapai County
New Clerk of Court Member

Leroy S. Bedonie
Family District Court, Navajo Nation
Reappointment, Tribal Judge Member

Mark Curry, Deputy Attorney General
Tohono O'odham Nation
New State Bar Member