

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
ESTABLISHMENT OF A) Administrative Order
LEGAL ADVICE – LEGAL) No. 2006- 40
INFORMATION GUIDELINES)
TASK FORCE)
_____)

Like many other states, the number of self-represented litigants in Arizona's courts is increasing. A recent study of the Family Court Department in the Superior Court of Maricopa County found that staff express a restrictive view of the amount of information and assistance they may provide to litigants. As a result, the current methods of assisting pro pers may frustrate rather than facilitate case processing and contribute to litigant dissatisfaction with the justice system.

Providing access to swift, fair justice is Goal One in *Good to Great, the Strategic Agenda for Arizona's Courts 2005-2010*. To that end, this court has focused on several areas including providing meaningful assistance to self-represented litigants. The initiative to develop and adopt Supreme Court guidelines defining legal assistance, as distinguished from legal advice, will authorize judicial staff to provide appropriate legal assistance and increase the amount of meaningful information provided to self-represented litigants.

In accordance with Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-104, the Chief Justice may establish advisory committees to the Arizona Judicial Council to assist the Council in carrying out its responsibilities.

Now, therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Legal Advice – Legal Information Guidelines Task Force is established to review materials and information gathered from other states that have adopted policy statements, develop standards adopting authoritative distinctions between legal information and legal advice for guidance to court staff, and to determine the best method(s) for implementation of the proposed guidelines in Arizona's courts that will promote consistent quality service. The Task Force shall provide a final report and recommendations to the Arizona Judicial Council for adoption by March 2007.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the individuals listed on Appendix A are appointed as members of the Task Force beginning upon entry of this Order until completion of the Task Force's work. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members as necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Task Force meetings shall be scheduled at the direction of the Task Force Chair. Pursuant to Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202, all meetings shall comply with the public meeting policy of the Arizona Judicial Branch. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task Force who may, as feasible, conduct or coordinate research as requested by the Task Force.

Dated this 3rd day of May, 2006.

RUTH V. MCGREGOR
Chief Justice

APPENDIX A

LEGAL ADVICE – LEGAL INFORMATION GUIDELINES TASK FORCE

Chairperson

Hon. Kevin Kane

Municipal Court Judge
Phoenix Municipal Court

Member

Claudia Aguilera

Court Supervisor
Sierra Vista Justice Court

Laura Baxter

Yavapai County Law Library
Superior Court in Yavapai County

Kathy Brauer

Jury Commissioner
Superior Court in Pima County

Rafaela deLoera

Training Director for Pima County Courts

Mary Hawkins

Court Administrator
Superior Court in Gila County

Gretchen Hornberger

Law Library and Self-Help Center
Superior Court in Coconino County

Juanita Mann

Clerk of Court
Superior Court in Navajo County

Ricky McKaig

Judicial Assistant Trainer
Family Court
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Aaron Nash

Programs Director
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Samantha Johnson

Work Leader Civil Department
Kingman-Cerbat Justice Court

Sheri Newman

Clerk of Court
La Paz County Superior Court

Patricia Noland

Clerk of Court
Superior Court in Pima County

Hon. Kathryn Stocking-Tate

Judge Pro Tem – Commissioner
Superior Court in Yuma County

Brenda Way

Court Administrator
Glendale Municipal Court

Donna Williams

Family Court Department
Superior Court in Maricopa County