

**FILED**  
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NOEL K. DESSAINT  
CLERK SUPREME COURT  
BY *[Signature]*

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT )  
OF A JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW ) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
PILOT PROJECT ) NO. 91- 33  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Performance Review was established by Administrative Order No. 91-7 to advise and make recommendations to the Supreme Court on a system of judicial evaluation and to plan the implementation of a pilot project which has been reviewed by the Supreme Court.

The Committee has recommended implementation of a pilot project to assess the feasibility of a proposed judicial performance review process and to determine the relevance of information received through this process to the education and improvement of the individual judge and evaluation of judges for the purpose of retention and election.

The pilot project proposed by the Committee appears to be a necessary and reasonable first step in implementing a permanent judicial performance evaluation process. The interest in public awareness of this pilot project should be balanced against the interest in candid responses necessary for a complete and accurate assessment of the performance evaluation process used in the pilot project in determining the confidentiality of the project.

IT IS ORDERED that the proposed pilot project be established as follows:

1. A total of 29 judges selected by the Committee shall participate in the project including 1 Supreme Court justice, 5 judges of the Court of Appeals, a total of 18 Superior Court judges from Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai Counties, and 5 justices of the peace. The names of these judges shall be made public.

2. Evaluation of trial judges shall involve surveys of jurors, attorneys, witnesses who have actually appeared in the judge's court, and appellate judges who have reviewed the judge's cases on appeal. Evaluation of appellate judges shall involve surveys of attorneys who have presented cases to the judge, justices who have reviewed the judge's decisions, judges who have reviewed the justice's decisions, trial judges whose cases have been reviewed by the judge or justice, and staff attorneys. The names of all persons surveyed shall remain confidential and these persons shall be asked not to discuss their participation in the pilot project.

3. All participating judges will complete a self-evaluation form.

4. An interview team composed of a judge, an attorney and a public member shall meet with the judge to discuss areas of strength and areas for development revealed in the evaluation results. The interview team and the judge shall

design a plan for self-improvement and an evaluation report shall be prepared and forwarded to each judge for signature and comments.

5. The survey responses, the self-evaluation, the interview with the judge, and the evaluation report shall remain confidential.

6. The Committee shall issue a report assessing the performance evaluation process used in the pilot project and making recommendations to the Supreme Court for a permanent judicial evaluation program. This report shall be made public.

DATED this 5th day of November, 1991.

FRANK X. GORDÓN, JR.  
Chief Justice