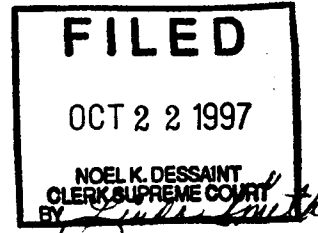


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA



In The Matter Of: ) Administrative Order  
) No. 97- 54  
)  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE )  
COMMITTEE TO STUDY )  
FAMILY ISSUES IN THE )  
SUPERIOR COURT )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

In accordance with Administrative Order 90-13, as revised on June 6, 1990, the Chief Justice may establish advisory committees to the Arizona Judicial Council to assist the Council in carrying out its responsibilities.

One of the concerns of the Judicial Department is the improved resolution of family issues in the court system. Family law matters often present unique problems not encountered in other litigation. Among other things, family law cases are distinguished from other, more traditional cases by the continuing relationship of family members; the multiplicity of potential disputes affecting a family, including delinquency and abuse; the adjudication of rights and responsibilities of persons who are not formal parties; the increasing numbers of unrepresented litigants; and, the frequently emotional nature of the issues to be determined. Of paramount importance is the protection of the best interests of children involved in family law matters.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the Committee to Study Family Issues in the Courts is established as follows:

1. PURPOSE:

The Committee shall examine the manner in which cases involving family issues, including cases involving minor children, presently are processed and determined in the Superior Court, including a review of jurisdictional issues, judicial selection, and case management; review other state's methods for promoting the fair, prompt and uniform resolution of family-related cases, including the family court model; suggest additions or amendments to current rules or procedures or other measures leading to improvement in the manner in which these cases are resolved in the court system; and, report to the Arizona Judicial Council its findings and recommendations as set forth below.

2. **MEMBERSHIP:**  
The membership of the Committee is attached as an Appendix. The Chief Justice or the Chair of the Committee may appoint additional members as may be necessary.
3. **MEETINGS:**  
Meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Committee chair. All meetings shall comply with the Open Meeting Policy of the Arizona Judicial Department.
4. **REPORTS:**  
The Committee shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Arizona Judicial Council in June 1998, and a final report in October 1998. Other periodic reports of the deliberations of the Committee also may be made at regular meetings of the Council as deemed appropriate by the Committee.
5. **STAFF:**  
The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Committee and, as feasible, may conduct or coordinate research as requested by the Committee.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 1997.

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THOMAS A. ZLAKET  
Chief Justice

## APPENDIX

### COMMITTEE ON FAMILY COURT

#### Members

##### Co-Chairs

Hon. Barry Schneider, Presiding Domestic Relations Judge  
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Hon. William J. O'Neil, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge  
Superior Court in Pinal County

##### Bench Representatives

Hon. Fred Newton  
Superior Court in Coconino County

Hon. Maurice Portley, Associate Presiding Juvenile Judge  
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Hon. John M. Quigley  
Superior Court in Pima County

Hon. Kathy McCoy  
Kingman City Court

##### Other Court Representatives

Fred Mitchell, Ph.D., Director  
Family Center of the Conciliation Court  
Superior Court in Pima County

Don Shaw, Director of Juvenile Court Services  
Superior Court in Pima County

Noreen Sharp, DR/SSC Administrator  
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Hon. Judith E. Allen  
Clerk of the Superior Court  
Maricopa County

Brenda L. Parson, Chief Deputy  
Clerk of the Superior Court  
Yavapai County

Probate

Hon. Margaret M. Houghton, Presiding Probate Judge  
Superior Court in Pima County

Administrative Office of the Courts

Mary Lou Quintana, Division Director  
Dependent Children's Services

Community and Advocacy Groups

Michelle Hallett, Executive Director  
Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Carol Kamin, Executive Director  
Children's Action Alliance

Academic

Professor Ira Ellman  
Arizona State University

Professor Clay Dix  
Arizona State University

Professor David Wexler  
University of Arizona

Attorney/Bar

Judy M. Miller, Attorney at Law  
Member of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Arizona

Jo Ann Zirkle, Assistant Attorney General  
Chair of the Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Arizona

Representative of the Office of the Attorney General

Kim Gillespie, Assistant Attorney General

Community Leader

Marty Schultz  
APS

Mental Health Professional

Dr. Brian Yee

Medical Professional

Dr. Sara Park

Clergy

Pastor John Neuson

Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Rabbi Kenneth Segal

Temple Beth Israel

County Attorney's Office

Rick M. Romley

Maricopa County Attorney

Jerry DeRose

Gila County Attorney

Members to be Appointed:

Representative(s) of the Governor's Office

Representative(s) of the Senate

Representative(s) House of Representatives