

Judicial Branch Newsmakers

Honored Judge Announces Retirement from Superior Court

Superior Court Judge Barry Schneider has announced he is retiring at the end of January, 2007, ending a 21-year judicial career during which he received several awards honoring his outstanding judicial qualities.



Judge Barry Schneider

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve the State of Arizona as a trial judge since February 1986," he said in his letter to the governor, advising that his last day will be January 31. He plans to return to the practice of law, specializing in mediation.

During his judicial career, he served as presiding judge of the Domestic Relations Department from 1995 to 1998 and Civil Department Presiding Judge from 1988 to 1991 and again from 1999 to 2001. He currently is assigned to a civil calendar.

In 2002, Judge Schneider received the State Bar of Arizona President's Award as the judge "who has contributed enormous effort towards the furtherance of the (state bar) president's goals and priorities. That same year he also was named "Judicial Officer of the Year," by the Phoenix chapter of the American board of Trial Advocates. The Maricopa County Bar Association honored him in 1997 with the Henry S. Stevens Award, as "Outstanding Judge."

Judge Schneider also is an educator. He has been a faculty member at the Arizona College of Trial Advocacy and has taught at New Judge Orientation of the

Arizona Judicial College. He has been an adjunct faculty member at the Phoenix College of Law and the Arizona State University College of Law. The Arizona Legislature appointed him to two councils it had created including the Child Support Coordinating Council and the Domestic Relations Reform Subcommittee.

Judge Schneider received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harpur College (now Binghamton University) in 1964 and his law degree from St. John's University of Law in 1968 where he was an editor of the law review. He was admitted to practice in New York in 1968 and in Arizona in 1972. Before becoming a judge, he was an associate at Langerman, Begam, Lewis & Marks and then a partner with Rosen & Schneider.

Judge Honored by Victims Group

A poignant emblem of crime victims sits on a table top in the office of Superior Court **Judge Ron Reinstein**. It is the "Empty Shoes Award" given to him earlier this month by the "Parents of Murdered Children" victims' organization.

The artistic memento is an empty pair of child sized brass shoes encased in glass.

"These empty shoes represent our loved ones who were taken violently from us but also represent the shoes you have filled through your support of this organization," says the etched message on the black glass box containing the shoes.

Judge Reinstein has been on the Superior Court bench since 1985, during which he has earned the respect of many community, legal and governmental groups which

have honored him with countless awards. Many of the awards have been in recognition of his dedication to championing victims' rights issues.

He currently is chairman of the Arizona Supreme Court Commission on Victims in the Courts. He serves as a consultant to the national Office of Violence Against Women and the Office of Victims of Crime. Judge Reinstein also serves the National Center for State Courts' Judicial Education Project for Victims Rights and Victimization.

Commissioners Join the Bench

Superior Court Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell announced the appointment of **Gerald Grant** and **Peter Thompson** as the two newest commissioners to join the Superior Court bench. Grant is assigned to Juvenile Court and Thompson is with Family Court.

Grant served the past 14 years as chief of the Criminal Appeals Bureau of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Before joining the county attorney's office, he worked from 1977 to 1991 as senior assistant attorney general in the criminal appeals division. He received his Juris Doctor Degree with distinction from the University of Arizona College of Law.

Thompson developed an expertise over the past 15 years litigating personal injury and civil rights cases. Since 2000, he worked as staff attorney for the Mesa Police Department. He received his Juris Doctor Degree from J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University.