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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.

“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 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.”

During his career, he dedicated countless hours serving on committees and councils to improve effectiveness of court programs and processes, access to the court and professionalism of judges. He has served on several statewide groups including the Arizona Judicial Council, State-Federal Judicial Council, Committee on Criminal Justice, Judicial Ethics Advisory Board and the Arizona Supreme Court Committee on More Effective Use of Juries. He serves on the Civil Practice and Procedure Committee, is former chairman of the Arizona State Bar Consumer Protection Committee and the Unauthorized Practice of Law, Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Dispute Resolution Task Force of the Commission on the Courts.

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.