



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — August 29, 2008

Emily Poland, Communications Specialist

(602) 452-3310, epoland@courts.az.gov

Chief Justice McGregor Appointed to National Commission

PHOENIX – Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor was appointed to the American Bar Association’s Presidential Commission on Fair and Impartial State Courts by ABA President Tommy Wells. Serving as one of only two state court chief justices on the commission, Chief Justice McGregor will work with the commission to organize a national summit to address the challenges of state courts.

The goals of the summit are to foster a deeper understanding of the major challenges facing state courts in serving the public, and to identify ways that the three branches of government can cooperate effectively to assure that state courts are adequately resourced and empowered to meet those challenges. The summit is scheduled for May 2009 and will bring representatives from all three branches of state government together to identify creative initiatives to meet increasingly difficult challenges, in which all branches of government have interconnected responsibilities.

“I am honored and excited to be named to this distinguished commission,” said Chief Justice McGregor. “A fair and impartial judiciary is a cornerstone of our government, and this summit provides an excellent opportunity to improve the ability of all branches of government to work together.”

Chief Justice McGregor consistently brings people and organizations together to effectively create meaningful change in the Arizona court system. For example, in 2005 she established the Statewide DUI Case Processing Committee, made up of prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement and others involved in the system to examine ways to improve DUI case processing and enhance public safety. The findings were implemented in pilot courts across the state with impressive results and are now being implemented statewide.

In 2006, Chief Justice McGregor established the Commission on Victims in the Courts to better address crime victims’ needs by reviewing and submitting policy recommendations and procedures to improve victim access and ensure fair treatment during their involvement in the criminal justice system. The Victims’ Commission also benefits from bringing together all those impacted by crime: victims, victim advocates, prosecutors, defense lawyers, judges, and other justice system representatives. These initiatives are a part of her five year strategic agenda “Good to Great.”

Please visit www.supreme.state.az.us for more information about Chief Justice McGregor and the Arizona Judicial Branch.

###