



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

October 31, 2008

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Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor Appoints Judge Robert Carter Olson to Presiding Judge for Pinal County

Phoenix – Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor announced the appointment of the Honorable Robert Carter Olson as Presiding Judge for the Pinal County Superior Court. His five year appointment as Presiding Judge is effective on January 1, 2009.

Judge Olson was born and raised in Illinois, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Elmhurst College, and a Juris Doctor Degree from Loyola University of Chicago. He also holds a certificate as a Certified Public Accountant from the University of Illinois.

In 1990, Olson joined the Pinal County Attorney's Office as a criminal prosecutor and served in various capacities until the Pinal County Board of Supervisors appointed him as County Attorney in 1996. He was elected to that position in the same year and re-elected in 2000 and 2004, serving more than eleven years as County Attorney before Governor Janet Napolitano appointed him to the Pinal County Superior Court in 2007.

Olson primarily handles Civil and Probate cases, which well complements his public accounting background and continues his commitment to serving vulnerable populations, including children and incapacitated adults. Chief Justice McGregor remarked that, "Judge Olson is well suited to help implement the critical goals of the justice system. He will build on the efforts of current Presiding Judge Boyd Johnson, whom I thank for his service."

Olson was twice appointed by the Governor and twice confirmed by the Arizona Senate to the Board of Trustees (known as the "Fund Manager") of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System, a large pension system that covers Arizona's police, firefighters, elected officials, judges, correction officers and, most recently, Arizona's probation officers. Olson is now in his third year as Chair of this pension system, while focusing on strengthening governance and investment practices, as well as shifting the investment policy toward a global perspective.

Judge Olson's public and community involvement have included: Chair and Commissioner of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission; Vice Chair and Councilmember of the Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council; Treasurer of a state political party; Board Member of the Arizona Auto Theft Task Force; and Board Member of the National District Attorneys Association. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his civic and professional activities. Judge Olson and his wife married in 1988 and have three teenage children.

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