



Arizona Justice of the Peace Association & Arizona Magistrates Association



2022 AJPA/AMA Conference

September 6, 7, 8 & 9, 2022,
Prescott Resort & Conference Center

FACULTY BIOS

Darayne Achin is an enrolled member of the SRPMIC, born and raised in the community. Except for a short stint of residing in Germany for four years as a military spouse, then two years of service in Minot, N.D., Mrs. Achin and her family returned home to Scottsdale, Az. where she currently resides and serving as the community court's Presiding Judge for one year and Acting Presiding Judge for approximately two years. Judge Achin was appointed Associate Judge in January, 2004 as a Civil Judge and served for ten years, served as a pro-tem judge for a year before being re-appointed in 2016. Judge Achin currently presides in the Juvenile Dependency Court.

Charles Adornetto is the Judicial Education Officer for the Maricopa County Justice Courts and a Judge Pro Tempore in several courts. He has been the Wickenburg Town Magistrate, the Chief Hearing Officer at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, and an Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge at the Arizona Department of Transportation. Adornetto graduated from Stanford Law School and has received numerous awards including Strategic Agenda Awards from the Arizona Supreme Court: in 2015 for Best Practice for Ensuring Access to Justice for Self-Represented Litigant, and again in 2020 for Best Practice and Webinars for Eviction Actions.

Mashone L. Antone is a Tohono O'odham Tribal Court Judge - appointed terms 2013 thru 2020 and 2022 to present. Enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation and has worked with the Tohono O'odham Judicial Branch beginning September of 1993, as a temporary Court Receptionist and in the years following held positions of Secretary, Clerk for Traffic Court, Office Support Worker, Clerk for Children's Civil and Delinquency Court, Juvenile Probation Officer, Interim Juvenile Probation Supervisor, Juvenile Probation Supervisor then appointed Tribal Court Judge. Past employment also includes employed with Tohono O'odham Economic Development as Office Support Worker, Tohono O'odham Legislative Branch as a Transcriber, Baboquivari District/Coldfields Community Resource Worker Aide. Political involvement includes Baboquivari District Council Representative for Coldfields Community elected 1995 and served four terms. Graduate of Chaparral College 2003 with Associates and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree.

Lisa Banen is chief staff attorney for the Arizona Supreme Court's Staff Attorney's Office. She received her JD from Cornell Law School and has worked in private practice in Phoenix for more than 25 years, primarily representing bankruptcy creditors and trustees and commercial lenders and landlords as well as people who improvidently enter into business relationships on a handshake. Early in her career she worked for the Arizona Attorney General in the Bankruptcy, Collections and Enforcement Section where she represented state agencies including the Arizona Department of Revenue, Department of Transportation, Department of Administration, and Department of Environmental Quality in bankruptcy proceedings in Arizona, Texas, North Carolina, and Utah. In early 2016 she left private practice for the Arizona Supreme Court Staff Attorneys' Office.

Hon. Deborah Begay was elected Moon Valley Justice of the Peace in 2020, becoming the first-ever Native American justice of the peace in Maricopa County. Prior to joining the bench she worked as a tribal policy specialist for the Arizona Department of Education, Policy & Government Relations. She was born on the Navajo Nation, and regularly speaks on justice issues, including tribal sovereignty, LGBTQ+ inclusive practices in the workplace, and building diverse community partnerships. She is a U.S. Navy veteran.

Hon. James Blake has been an Associate Scottsdale City Judge since he was sworn in on September 11, 2001. Currently he handles a criminal court docket in a limited jurisdiction court. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Arizona Magistrates Association and has served as its Vice-President as well as its President in the past. He also served on two boards of directors for the Arizona State Bar; those boards were the Public Lawyers Section and the Legal Services Committee. Blake was a prosecutor at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office trying cases ranging from murder to possession of marijuana; his specialty was prosecuting white-supremacy cases. He was also appointed a special prosecutor in Yuma, Pima and Yavapai counties.

Stewart Bruner is the longtime staff member for the Commission on Technology, the top governance body over technology in Arizona's Judicial Branch of Government. He manages all aspects of strategic technology planning, policy development, technology-related grants, and project oversight for the Commission's chair, the vice chief justice of the supreme court. With 35 years of experience communicating complex technical concepts to non-technical audiences, Stewart is relied upon by technologists to accurately "get the word out" with humor and candor. He is most familiar to Arizona court employees as the face of cybersecurity awareness, hosting numerous broadcasts and live training sessions around the state since 2013.

Ryan Boyd

James Coffey

Scott Davis is the Communications/Special Projects/Public Information Officer for the Maricopa County Justice Courts and joined the MCJC system in 2016 after a career in

journalism, public relations/marketing, and television production. He specializes in media relations and communication, regularly teaching court staff, judges, and constables about public records, social media, and interacting with the press. He has served on the board of directors for the Better Business Bureau of Arizona and counsels public relations professionals how to best pitch stories to the media for positive coverage.

Mike Dzezinski began his law enforcement career with the United States Army. As a Military Police Officer, he served in Europe and Southwest Asia and achieved the rank of Sergeant. He has worked as a narcotics detective, and spent 20 years as a police officer, serving as the regional SWAT Commander and achieved the rank of Lieutenant prior to retiring and relocating to Arizona to join the TASER International (Axon) Training Department in 2012. During his time at TASER, he was recognized for his efforts in surpassing previous company training records and providing training for such venues as the 2012 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics. In 2019, he joined the Arizona Supreme Court as a Court Security Officer and is now responsible for development and implementation of court security training programs in support of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Liana Garcia is Director of Government Affairs for the Arizona Supreme Court, having joined the court staff in 2019 as legislative liaison and attorney, representing the state's judicial branch at the Legislature and in the community. Prior to that she was in private practice, focusing on litigation, administrative law and government relations. As a casualty claims director, she oversaw regulatory compliance in numerous states. She has been a voluntary mentor for the Hispanic National Bar Association as well as a volunteer lawyer for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She was named a "Super Lawyers" Rising Star in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Hon. Pam Gates is the Associate Presiding Judge for the Superior Court in Maricopa County. Prior to that appointment she served as the Presiding Civil Judge, the Associate Criminal Presiding Judge, and the Associate Presiding Judge (Downtown) for Family Court. She chairs Arizona's Task Force on Jury Data Collection, Policies, and Procedures and the Statewide Jury Selection Workgroup and co-chaired the Maricopa County Superior Court's committee tasked with improving access to justice and reforming the Court's resource center. She was awarded the Chief Justice Outstanding Contributions to Arizona Courts Award in 2022, Judge of the Year by Phoenix Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (2021), Judge of the Year from the Maricopa County Bar Association (2018).

Gabe Goltz is the Judicial Program Manager in the Education Programs Unit of the Administrative Office (AOC) of the Arizona Supreme Court. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in political science and has taught and researched intensively in areas ranging from ethics, American government and constitutional law to feminism and the politics of difference, literature, and congressional behavior. He has developed and taught courses in adult education/theory, diversity-related topics and court responsibilities.

Karl Heckart has been the Chief Information Officer for the Arizona Judicial Branch for 25 years. In that capacity he has directed many statewide projects ranging from the implementation of statewide Case Management systems for General and Limited Jurisdiction Courts and the development and implementation of probation-management systems to the deployment of the digital court initiatives of electronic filing, records access, virtual hearings, and digital evidence. He directs a staff of over 140 professionals who service 10,000 end-users in the courts and probation system in Arizona.

Hon. Anna Huberman is the Justice of the Peace of Country Meadows and Presiding Judge of the Maricopa County Justice Courts. Raised in the Midwest, she finished high school in Argentina and obtained a JD degree from the Universidad de Buenos Aires. Her love of language and law came together in her 15-year career as a court interpreter with the Maricopa County Superior Court. Throughout her time as a judge, Anna has participated in numerous Justice Court committees and Supreme Court commissions. A past AJPA Justice of the Year awardee, she is a frequent judicial trainer and mentor judge. She is a member of the Arizona Judicial Council.

Hon. Sherwood Johnston has been on the bench in Paradise Valley since 1991. Additionally, he serves in the Maricopa County Justice Courts as a Justice of the Peace Pro Tem, working in many of the Justice Courts throughout Maricopa County. A member of the Arizona Magistrates Association for more than 20 years, he is its current president. In addition to his judicial career, he has been involved in commercial real estate management, in addition to volunteering for a variety of charitable causes.

Paul Julien is Judicial Education Officer for the Arizona Supreme Court and works with judges throughout the state in all phases of educational and professional development. He practiced law for 17 years, and managed Southern Arizona Legal Aid. Prior to that, he taught at Northern Arizona University and the Flagstaff Public Schools. He has served in volunteer leadership roles with the Arizona Board of Regents and the Catalina Foothills School Board, among others, and has been a member and chair of the State Bar Professionalism Committee.

Brandi Killion has worked as a Business Analyst with the Office 365 Collaboration team at the Information Technology Division of the Arizona AOC for the past four years. She has over 10 years' experience in business process improvement and utilizing Microsoft Office applications. She works enthusiastically with AOC divisions and courts to identify O365 solutions that streamline business processes and support business needs. She is passionate about engaging users to create custom solutions as well as sharing knowledge through training and mentoring.

Ken Kung is the Court Administrator for Chandler Municipal Court, and prior was the Court Administrator for Scottsdale Municipal Court. He has served the Arizona Judiciary for more than 20 years, starting his career as a clerk for the Justice of the Peace courts. He became a supervisor for Maricopa County Superior Court – Criminal Court Administration, and then manager for Court Operations Review Unit for the Arizona Supreme Court – Administrative Office. He is a member of the Arizona Supreme Court’s Committee on Limited Jurisdiction Courts and an active member with the Limited Jurisdiction Court Administrators Association. Kung was also a member of the “Plan B” committee which has helped guide our courts through the pandemic.

Hon. Anthony Little II was appointed associate judge to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Court in 2017, and also serves as associate judge for the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Court of Appeals. He has practiced law since 2004 and served as a trial attorney for the 13th Judicial District Attorney’s Office in Valencia, N.M., and as a felony prosecutor. He also served as tribal prosecutor for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Prosecutor’s Office and as Senior Court Solicitor to the tribal court before being named to the bench.

Hon. Dorothy Little is the Presiding Justice of the Peace and Gila County’s Payson and Star Valley Magistrate. She began her court career in 1987, serving as court manager and Justice of the Peace Pro Tem from 1991 to 2004 when she became Payson’s Justice of the Peace and Presiding Magistrate. She became first Magistrate/Star Valley in 2005. She is the immediate past president of the Arizona Justice of the Peace Association and has served on numerous state Supreme Court committees and judicial organizations, including the Arizona Judicial Council.

Hon. Laine McDonald has served as the Town Magistrate for Marana since 2015. Prior to her appointment, she worked in the Marana Legal Department. A 2003 graduate of the University of Arizona and a 2006 graduate of the University of Arizona Rogers College of Law, she is vice president of the Arizona Magistrates Association and the Southern Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Women Lawyers Association and serves on the executive committee of the Morris K. Udall Inn of Court. A member of the Arizona Supreme Court’s Limited Jurisdiction Courts Committee and the “Plan B” COVID-19 workgroup, she is a frequent presenter for Arizona Judicial College and the State Bar of Arizona.

Aaron Nash is the director of the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts’ (AOC) Certification and Licensing Division. Before the AOC, Aaron worked for 16 years with the Clerk of the Superior Court’s office in Maricopa County. Previously Aaron was the Arizona Supreme Court and AOC’s Communications Director. He was the spokesperson and media contact for the Arizona Judicial Branch, oversaw the Court’s website, managed the Court’s social media, and coordinated the branch’s community outreach. He chaired the Arizona Supreme Court’s Task Force on Countering Disinformation and has worked in state courts for over 25 years.

Ron Newman

Hon. David Osterfeld was appointed to the Nation's Judicial Court in February 2020. Immediately prior to that appointment, Judge Osterfeld was twice elected as the White Tank Justice of the Peace in Maricopa County and served as Associate Presider for the Maricopa County Justice Courts. Judge Osterfeld has served as an Assistant Tribal Attorney and Acting Tribal Attorney for the White Mountain Apache Tribe, as a Tribal Court Solicitor and Legal Services Managing Attorney for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and as private counsel to many Indian nations across the country. Judge Osterfeld also served as an Assistant Attorney General for Arizona, and currently serves as a Major in the United States Air Force, Judge Advocate General's Corps. Judge Osterfeld thoroughly enjoys speaking about Indian law and is honored to be part of your conference.

Hon. John Peck, president of the Arizona Justice of the Peace Association, is a native Tucsonan, and has been Presiding Judge of the Ajo Justice Court since 2014, after more than 20 years in community outreach/development work. Prior to that, he was a reporter, columnist, and editor with Pulitzer Publishing for nearly two decades, and the managing editor of The Arizona Daily Star. Peck serves on the statewide Committee on Limited Jurisdiction Courts, several AOC workgroups, and is a member of the Arizona Judicial Council.

Albert Pouley is the founder and president of the Native American Fatherhood & Families Association, an Arizona-based non-profit organization founded in 2002. Its programs, utilizing trained facilitators, provide a culturally sensitive curriculum that addresses the unique concerns and issues that face Native Americans today. Pooley, who holds master's degrees in social work and public administration, was born to Hopi and Navajo Native American cultures and grew up in both.

Hon. Michele Reagan was appointed as Justice of the Peace to the McDowell Mountain precinct in 2019 after many years of public service, succeeding her father, Judge Michael Reagan, who served as the McDowell Justice of the Peace for 15 years. As a tribute to the work he did, she continues to wear his old robe while on the bench. She chairs the Justice Courts' Legislative Committee. She is one of a handful of Arizonans who have served in all three branches of state government: Elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2002, serving eight years before successfully running for the Arizona Senate, and, in 2014, elected to serve as Arizona's 20th Secretary of State.

Suzanne Reed received her JD from the University of Arizona and has worked as an attorney in the public sector for approximately fifteen years. Early in her career, Suzanne was a prosecutor for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office where she handled juvenile and criminal cases. From 2013 to 2019, she worked as an administrative law judge, presiding over civil hearings related to the Department of Transportation. During this time, Suzanne also was a judge pro tempore for Maricopa County. In December 2019, she joined the Staff Attorneys' Office for the Arizona Supreme Court. Suzanne is a member of the Arizona Women Lawyers Association, the Maricopa County Bar Association, the State Bar of Arizona Ethics Advisory Group, and the State Bar of Arizona Appellate Practice Section Executive Council. In her spare

time, she is active in the community as a volunteer for Fresh Start Women's Foundation and Sojourner Center. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Transplant Community Alliance.

Alberto Rodriguez is charged with the Arizona Supreme Court's media relations and community outreach and serves as a spokesperson for the Arizona Judicial Branch. In this role, he responds to media and public records requests, develops and implements communications strategies, gives presentations, and oversees public education and access to justice programming. He uses his extensive experience in working with Spanish language media on all fronts. Prior to joining the Arizona Supreme Court, Alberto dedicated more than 11 years to the State Bar of Arizona. He led its public relations and marketing initiatives, its member and community outreach, as well as its access to justice programs.

Hon. Alicia M. Skupin is Presiding Magistrate for the Chandler Municipal Court. Appointed in 2021 after serving as an associate judge for seven years, she is a member of the Commission on Diversity, Equality, and Justice in the Judiciary; faculty member for the annual Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation program; an editor for the Limited Jurisdiction Bench Book and was recently appointed to the Commission on Technology. Prior to joining the Chandler bench she was as a hearing officer for the Scottsdale City Court. While in private practice, Judge Skupin volunteered with Los Abogados and served on its executive board for six years.

Senator Thomas "TJ" Shope is a resident of Coolidge, Arizona, and has long been active in the community. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Arizona State University. Elected to the Coolidge Unified School District Governing Board in 2008 and re-elected in 2012 & 2016, he was voted to be the board's vice-president upon taking office in 2009 and in 2013, was elected the board's president. In the House of Representatives, Shope served on the House Committee on Agriculture & Water, the House Committee on Energy, Environment & Natural Resources as well as the House Committee on Commerce. He served as the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House from 2017-2021 as well as serving as the Chairman of the House Committee on Ethics, Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Rules, member of the House Committee on Education, and member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water. Shope was elected to the Arizona State Senate in 2020 and took office January 11, 2021. In the Senate, he serves as the Vice Chairman of three committees: Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Water; Transportation & Technology; and Education. He is also a Member of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services. In addition, he serves as a Senate Member of the Legislative Council.

Hon. John Tatz was appointed as a Magistrate in Mesa Municipal Court in 2016. In 2020, he was appointed as the Presiding Magistrate for the Court and has presided over the Community Court since 2018. Prior to that he was a judge pro tem from 2009-2016 in Maricopa County Superior Court. He began his career in Arizona in 1995 with the Navajo County Public Defender's Office and has been an Assistant City Prosecutor with the Flagstaff

City Attorney's Office and the Scottsdale City Prosecutor's Office, as well as serving as the Peoria City Prosecutor. He is a regular instructor at the Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation on criminal procedure and specialty courts.

Hon. Sam Thumma has served as a judge since 2007 and has been a member of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One since 2012, where he also served as vice chief judge from 2015-17, and chief judge from 2017-19. He was a judge with the Arizona Superior Court from 2007-2012 in criminal and juvenile rotations. He is a Uniform Law Commissioner and currently chairs the ULC's Study Committee on Updating the Uniform Determination of Death Act. In Arizona, he has chaired various committees, commissions and task forces for the Arizona Supreme Court and the State Bar of Arizona. He is co-chair of the COVID-19 Continuity of Court Operations During Public Health Emergency Workgroup (the "Plan B" Workgroup).

Vice Chief Justice Anne A. Scott Timmer was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2012, after serving on the Arizona Court of Appeals from 2000 to 2012. Prior to that she was in private practice in Phoenix, focusing on commercial and employment litigation. She also tried capital murder cases as a defense attorney and a special prosecutor. She has received numerous honors and awards, not the least of which was a commendation for outstanding services in the impeachment and conviction of an Arizona governor. She graduated from the ASU law school in 1985.

Hon. Gerald Williams was appointed North Valley Justice of the Peace in 2004, and last re-elected in 2018. and is the former Associate Presiding Justice of the Peace of the Maricopa County Justice Courts. Prior to his appointment, he was the staff attorney for the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct. He has also served as a staff attorney for the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Counsel's Office in Phoenix, having begun his legal career in the United States Air Force. He has served on committees that wrote the Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure, the Rules of Procedure for Eviction Actions, and the rules for the Constable Ethics, Standards, and Training Board, and was named the 2013 Arizona JP of the Year.