



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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ARIZONA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MICHAEL D. RYAN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Phoenix, Arizona – Arizona Supreme Court Justice Michael Ryan has notified Governor Jan Brewer that he will retire from his position as associate justice on August 6, 2010. Justice Ryan has served as a judge for nearly 25 years.

Justice Ryan was appointed to the Court in May 2002 by Governor Jane Hull. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Ryan served on the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One for more than five years, having been appointed to that position in September 1996. Before his appointment to the court of appeals, Justice Ryan served as a Judge of the Arizona Superior Court for more than ten years.

As a trial judge, Justice Ryan presided over a number of high-profile cases on the Maricopa County Superior Court, including AzScam, the Phoenix Suns' drug case and the 1988 criminal trial of Governor Evan Mecham, the first criminal trial in Arizona with "gavel to gavel" television and radio coverage. Prior to becoming a judge, Justice Ryan was Deputy County Attorney in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, where he served in the major felony bureau and the office's sex crimes unit.

"It has been an honor to work in Arizona's judicial system for more than 30 years," stated Justice Ryan. "Clearly, serving on the Arizona Supreme Court has been the highlight of my career but I have truly enjoyed every court I have served on. With retirement, I look forward to continuing to serve my community but this will allow me to spend more time with my family as well as allow flexibility to work on various public service projects."

"Justice Ryan has been a selfless public servant for nearly all of his life. His service to our country, our state, and this court is to be commended," said Arizona Supreme Court Justice Rebecca White Berch. "Arizona is losing a wonderful judge who is thoughtful, patient, courageous, and kind. He is a quiet, considerate colleague, who has a wonderful sense of humor and has been an absolute pleasure to work with. It has been an honor to serve with him."

Justice Ryan received his B.A. degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota in 1967. After college he served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry platoon commander from 1967 – 1969. He received a medical retirement because of wounds received in combat in Vietnam,

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and was awarded two Purple Hearts, and a Bronze Star with a Combat "V" for heroism in combat. Justice Ryan came to Arizona in 1970 and later obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Arizona State University Law School in 1977.

In 2001, Justice Ryan received the Honorable Henry S. Stevens Judge of the Year Award from the Maricopa County Bar Association and the Judicial Award of Excellence from the Public Lawyers Section of the Arizona State Bar. In 2002, Justice Ryan received the Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law Award from the State Bar's Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law. In 2003, he received the Arizona State University College of Law Outstanding Alumnus award and the Distinguished Achievement Award, and in 2005, he received the State Bar's James Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award.

In addition, Justice Ryan has done extensive volunteer work. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Maricopa County Bar Association from 1987 to 1991 and from 1997 to 2002. Since 1998, Justice Ryan has been a member of the Maricopa County Bar Association's Task Force on the Recruitment and Retention of Women and Minority Lawyers. He also serves on the State Bar Task Force on Persons with Disabilities in the Legal Profession.

Currently, Justice Ryan chairs the Arizona Supreme Court's Capital Case Oversight Committee. He also has volunteered as a judge for the Arizona High School Mock Trial Program, sponsored by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education for more than fifteen years.

From 1974 through 2000, Justice Ryan and his wife have cared for more than 80 high risk infants prior to their placement for adoption or return to their birth parent or parents.

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