

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts

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Administrative Office of the Courts Director David K. Byers Earns National Award

PHOENIX – Dave Byers, Director of Arizona’s Administrative Office of the Courts, received the Kenneth R. Palmer Distinguished Service Award from the Conference of State Court Administrators. The biennial award recognizes a state court administrator who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and excellence in judicial administration. To be considered, a current or former administrator must significantly advance one or more of the organization’s core purposes:



- Developing public trust and confidence in the judicial system
- Supporting access to justice and fairness in the courts
- Contributing to the effective and efficient administration of justice
- Defending the independence of court as a neutral forum for the peaceable resolution of disputes
- Promoting the judiciary as a co-equal, co-reliant, and accountable branch of government.

The award was named after Kenneth R. Palmer who served as Florida’s state court administrator. Twenty years ago, Palmer became ill while president-elect of the organization. He successfully

lobbied Dave Byers to begin his term as president early in Palmer's place. Following Palmer's death later that year, Director Byers recommended the award be established in Palmer's name.

Director Byers was nominated by Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel and Robert J. Torres, former Chief Justice and current Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam. Thirteen current and former Arizona Supreme Court justices who worked with Director Byers signed on to the nomination. A simultaneous nomination was submitted by 17 past presidents of the Conference of State Court Administrators.

On receiving the award, Director Byers stated, "It is an honor to receive this award and even more meaningful given that the award was created on my recommendation 21 years ago following the passing of Ken Palmer. Ken was a colleague and good friend. I never envisioned that I would become a recipient 21 years later."

Director Byers has worked in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for more than 40 years, serving as Director for nearly 30 years. He has served with ten chief justices, is the longest-serving AOC Director in Arizona's 109 years of statehood, and is currently the longest-serving state court director in the nation.

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