

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Commission on Minorities Renamed Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Justice

PHOENIX – On April 1, 2021, the Arizona Judicial Council approved moving forward with changing the name of the Arizona Supreme Court’s longstanding “Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary” to the “Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Justice in the Judiciary.” The name and purpose changes will be reflected in the [Arizona Code of Judicial Administration](#), section 1-107. While the process for updating the website, logo, and other materials has begun, the name change takes effect once authorized by the Court in an Administrative Order adopting the revised Code section.

The Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary (Commission) was established as a standing committee of the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC) more than 30 years ago in 1990. For the past 30 years, the Commission advised and assisted the AJC in carrying out its concerns for the status of minorities in the judicial department and in Arizona’s legal community. At the time the Commission was established, “minorities” was the term used to describe people and communities of color and others not part of the dominant majority group. Words and their meaning evolve, and while the word “minority” is relevant in statistical and other discussions, the Commission’s name change is intended to reflect updated terminology and purpose.

In November 2020, Commission members voted unanimously to recommend the name and purpose changes. The new name, the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Justice in the Judiciary, reflects the goals of the Commission and is aligned with other similar state court commissions ranging from Washington to Florida to Massachusetts and beyond. The updated purpose directives more accurately reflect the goals and policies the Commission will advance

with its judicial branch partners and other stakeholders in Arizona's justice system. These efforts include improving justice, eliminating bias from court operations, promoting equal access to courts, and inspiring higher levels of public trust and confidence. The Commission strives to identify and to eliminate the occurrences and effects of racial, ethnic, and cultural bias in Arizona's state court system.

Phoenix Municipal Court Judge and Commission Chair, Frankie Jones stated, "I am greatly pleased that after receiving the unanimous support of seven other standing Supreme Court committees, the Arizona Judicial Council voted unanimously to change the name of the Commission on Minorities to the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Justice in the Judiciary. Our Commission began this process in January, and we studied 25 other state court commissions and committees. We chose 'Diversity, Equity, and Justice' because that is what we are striving for and it meets our updated purpose directives. Diversity represents inclusion and equity is treating people differently depending on need. The ultimate goal is to have justice for everyone. The Commission began its work over 30 years ago and we will continue this important work."

For more information about the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Justice, including public meeting information and resources, go to <https://www.azcourts.gov/cscommittees/CommissiononMinorities.aspx>. The Commission's website with the updated name change and directives will be published soon.

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