



## State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

Office of the Governor  
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Main Phone: 602-542-4331  
Facsimile: 602-542-7601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 1, 2010

Contact: Paul Senseman  
(602) 542-1342  
[psenseman@az.gov](mailto:psenseman@az.gov)

# Governor Jan Brewer Announces Appointment of Superior Court Judges in Maricopa County

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced the appointment of Douglas Gerlach and Peter Thompson to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Doug Gerlach has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1981. He graduated from Arizona State University in 1981 with a joint master's degree in business administration and law. He practiced law with the firm Brown & Bain (now Perkins Coie) from 1981 to 2000, and took leave to serve as a Maricopa County Public Defender from 1993 to 1995. Since 2000, he has been a partner with the law firm of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon. He has spent most of his career handling primarily business-related litigation.

"Doug is well-known and respected by his peers for his wisdom, insight and temperament," stated Governor Brewer. "Doug's experience and legal expertise will make him an outstanding trial judge." This appointment was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Barbara Mundell.

Peter Thompson has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1985. He graduated from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University in 1985, and received his undergraduate degree from BYU in 1982. He has worked as a Maricopa County Superior Court Commissioner since 2007. Prior to that he worked in private practice from 1986 to 2000, and served as a staff attorney for the City of Mesa Police Department from 2000 to 2006. Peter served first as a U.S. Army Reservist and then a member of the Utah Army National Guard, and served as the president of the East Valley Bar Association from 1989 to 1990.

"Peter has extensive expertise in both criminal and civil law and has proven himself to be an outstanding commissioner," stated Governor Brewer. "His background, temperament and judicial experience will make him an outstanding addition to the Maricopa County Superior Court." This appointment was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable James Keppel.

Doug Gerlach and Peter Thompson are reflective of Governor Brewer's continuing effort to identify and appoint judges who share her philosophy that judges should strictly interpret and apply the laws as written by the Arizona Legislature. "I am proud to appoint these two very talented individuals who share my judicial philosophy," said Governor Brewer. "Their experience and dedication will make them tremendous additions to the Maricopa County Superior Court."

###