



# NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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## ARIZONA SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

Phoenix –The Arizona Supreme Court announced today that Vice Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch has been elected to serve a five-year term as Chief Justice and Justice Andrew Hurwitz was elected to serve as Vice Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. Both positions become effective on July 1, 2009 following the retirement of current Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor.

Chief Justice McGregor remarked that, “I am pleased to be leaving the leadership of the Arizona Judicial Branch in the capable hands of Justices Berch and Hurwitz. I know that they, and the rest of the Court, will continue to move the court system forward.”

Vice Chief Justice Berch stated that, “I am honored to have been asked to serve as Chief Justice. Although our court system faces challenges in these difficult times, we also have significant opportunities to review all aspects of the court system to ensure that we continue to provide access to justice to all. I look forward to this new role and appreciate my colleagues’ support as our transition takes place.”

Justice Berch noted, “Justice Hurwitz will make an outstanding Vice Chief Justice. With his broad experience in government and his exceptional analytical mind, the court system will rely heavily on him in this new role.”



### ABOUT VICE CHIEF JUSTICE BERCH

Rebecca White Berch was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in March, 2002. Before her appointment to the Supreme Court, she served the State of Arizona in several capacities, as Solicitor General of the State of Arizona, Special Counsel to the Attorney General, First Assistant Attorney General, and as a judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Following graduation from Arizona State University College of Law in 1979, Justice Berch practiced law in Phoenix. In 1986, she joined the faculty at Arizona State University College of Law as the Director of the Legal Writing Program, a position she held until 1995. During her years at the law school, Justice Berch earned a master’s degree in English and authored several law review articles and magazine articles on legal writing, two books, and two chapters for books. The textbook she co-

authored, INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL METHOD AND PROCESS, is in its fourth edition and is used in law schools throughout the nation.

An active participant in the legal and social communities of the State of Arizona, Justice Berch has served as chair of the Commission on Technology, chair of the Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments, and as a member of the Supreme Court's Committee on Examinations, the Commission on Judicial Conduct, and the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, among others. She is also a member of Valley Leadership and has served on the Board of the Homeless Legal Assistance Project, among many other boards and committee memberships. Justice Berch has remained active in legal education, having served as Dean of the Arizona Judicial College and as a member of the Committee on Judicial Education and Training. She maintains several other legal and community involvements and continues to be a frequent speaker at seminars on legal topics.

Justice Berch is a native Arizonan.



## ABOUT JUSTICE ANDREW HURWITZ

Andrew D. Hurwitz was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2003. Before joining the Arizona Supreme Court, Justice Hurwitz was a partner in the Phoenix firm of Osborn Maledon, where his practice focused on appellate and constitutional litigation, administrative law, and civil litigation. He is admitted to the bar in Arizona and Connecticut; he received the highest grade on the Arizona Bar examination in the summer of 1974. He has argued two cases before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Justice Hurwitz served as Chief of Staff to Governor Bruce Babbitt from 1980 to 1983, and Chief of Staff to Governor Rose Mofford in 1988. He was a member of the Arizona Board of Regents from 1988 through 1996, and served as President of the Board in 1992-93. He also served as the co-chairman of Governor Napolitano's transition team in 2002.

Justice Hurwitz received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University (A.B. 1968) and his law degree from Yale Law School (J.D. 1972), where he was Note and Comment Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. He served as a law clerk to Judge Jon O. Newman of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut in 1972; to Judge J. Joseph Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in 1972-73; and to Associate Justice Potter Stewart of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1973-74.

Justice Hurwitz is a member of the American Law Institute and a master of the Horace Rumpole Inn of Court. He has regularly taught at the Arizona State University College of Law, and was in residence at the College of Law as Visiting Professor of Law in 1994-95 and as a Distinguished Visitor from Practice in 2001. Justice Hurwitz delivered the Willard H. Pedrick lecture at the College of Law in 1999. He was appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist in 2004 as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Evidence and reappointed to a second term by Chief Justice John Roberts in 2007.

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