

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Arizona Judiciary Mourns Loss of Sitting Court of Appeals Judge Jon Thompson

PHOENIX – The Arizona Judicial Branch shares its condolences with the family of sitting Court of Appeals, Division One Judge Jon Thompson. Judge Thompson passed away on July 22, 2019, soon after his 65th birthday. Judge Thompson is survived by his wife of nearly 44 years, Paulene; their sons, Hans Thompson (Nanna) and Paul Thompson (Lindsay) and an unofficially adopted daughter, Mina Holliday; Judge Thompson’s mother, Beatrice Ann Thompson; brothers Alan Thompson and Thomas Thompson; and five grandchildren. Judge Thompson was preceded in death by his father, William Alan Thompson and his sister, Ann Thompson Bergner.

Judge Thompson was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals by Governor Fife Symington in 1995. At the time of his passing, Judge Thompson’s 24 years on the bench made him Arizona’s second-longest serving appellate judge on the bench. Before his appointment to the court of appeals, Judge Thompson was a partner in the law firm Mangum, Wall, Stoops & Warden in Flagstaff, was a Judge *Pro Tempore* in the Superior Court in Coconino County, and served as a deputy county attorney for both Coconino County and Yuma County. Judge Thompson attended Glendale Community College, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Arizona University where he met Paulene, and earned his law degree from the University of Colorado.

Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One Chief Judge Peter Swann stated, “Judge Thompson was not only our most senior judge, he was also one of the longest-serving judges in Arizona at the time of his death, and he had an encyclopedic knowledge of the history of our court. Those of us lucky enough to have worked with Jon know what a dedicated scholar of the law he was, and how generous he was with his mind, even to the point of assisting judges on decisions with

which he disagreed. I have counted Jon as a friend since 1995, and his loss will be felt by many for years to come. I know the court will never be quite the same.”

Judge Thompson’s public service included more than 30 years as an Elder and Deacon with the Flagstaff Federated Community Church. His service with the courts included roles as a board member with the Coconino County Silent Witness and Victim-Witness boards, the State Bar of Arizona’s Criminal Justice Section, and service on the State Bar’s Civil Jury Instruction Committee.

Judge Thompson was a well-regarded musician, playing in a band with Court of Appeals, Division Two Judge Philip Espinosa (Arizona’s longest-serving sitting appellate judge); Court of Appeals, Division One Chief Judge Peter Swann; Court of Appeals, Division One Judge Lawrence Winthrop; and with other lawyer/musicians.

Information on memorial services is pending with the family.

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