

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE) Administrative Order
CAPITAL CASE TASK FORCE) No. 2007- 18
)
_____)

The unprecedented number of capital cases currently awaiting trial in Maricopa County calls for an examination of procedures and staffing at both the trial and appellate court levels to ensure these cases are resolved in a timely fashion, giving due regard for the interests of the victims' families and the requirements of due process.

In accordance with Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-104, the chief justice may establish advisory committees to the Arizona Judicial Council to assist the Council in carrying out its responsibilities. Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Capital Case Task Force is established to examine the issues relevant to ensuring the availability of adequate resources for processing capital cases in Maricopa County and in the appellate courts of Arizona and make recommendations for rule and statutory amendments that would promote efficient resolution of these cases in light of the pending caseload, including consideration of case management practices, and judicial, clerk, and defense team staffing levels. The Task Force shall report its recommendations to the Arizona Judicial Council by October 2007.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the individuals listed on Appendix A are appointed as members of the Task Force beginning upon entry of this Order and ending on December 31, 2007. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members as necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Task Force meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Task Force Chair. Pursuant to Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202, all meetings shall comply with the public meeting policy of the Arizona Judicial Branch. The Administrative Office of the Court shall provide staff for the Task Force, who may, as feasible, conduct or coordinate research as requested by the Task Force.

Dated this 12th day of February, 2007.

RUTH V. MCGREGOR
Chief Justice

Appendix A

Capital Case Task Force

Chair

Hon. Michael D. Ryan
Arizona Supreme Court

Members

James P. Beene
Appeals Bureau Chief
Maricopa County Attorney

Hon. Stephen M. McNamee
U.S. District Court
District of Arizona

James Belanger
Lewis and Roca, LLP

Dan Levey
Advisor to the Governor for Victims

Kent Cattani
Appellate Division Chief
Arizona Attorney General

Paul Prato
Attorney Manager
Maricopa Public Defender

Donna Hallam
Staff Attorney
Arizona Supreme Court

Hon. Ronald Reinstein
Superior Court
Maricopa County

Mark Kennedy
Director, Office of Contract
Counsel, Maricopa County

Robert J. Shutts
Homicide Bureau Chief
Maricopa County Attorney

Hon. James Keppel
Superior Court
Maricopa County

Hon. Ann Scott Timmer
Vice Chief Judge
Court of Appeals, Division 1