

PEOPLE, PLACES, HONORS & AWARDS



Appellate attorneys **Robert A. Mandel** and **Taylor C. Young** formed **Mandel Young plc**, a Phoenix-based boutique appellate law firm serving trial lawyers, businesses and individuals in Arizona and beyond. Mandel's practice focuses on the prosecution and defense of federal and state court appeals as well as appellate counseling and litigation support services such

as dispositive motion preparation in commercial and non-commercial civil disputes. Young, who served as a law clerk to former Arizona Supreme Court Justice Thomas A. Zlaket in 2000-2001 and thereafter as an appellate attorney with several firms, handles appeals in a wide variety of cases. Website: <http://mandelyoung.com/>



Russ Stowers has opened his own law firm, focusing on professional liability, commercial litigation and trial matters in Arizona and Nevada (www.StowersWest.com).

Amber D. Curto was promoted to Junior Managing Associate of **Mull & Associates, PLLC**, Sun City. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration, as

well as family law and chapter 7 bankruptcies.

The firm also announced the hiring of **Lorraine Morey** as an associate. Her area of focus is estate planning, probate and trust administration, business disputes and business transactions.



Ishra K. Solieman joined **Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck** as an associate in its health care practice.

She previously served a clerkship with Judge Craig Blakey on the Arizona Superior Court–Juvenile Division, where she acted as a legal aid for proceedings concerning juvenile dependency and delinquency. Her prior experience includes a clerkship with the Pima County Attorney's Office and a position with the Tucson Family Advocacy Program.

DLA Piper introduced **David P. Lewis** as the new Chair of its U.S. Education Sector. Lewis is in the firm's Phoenix office and was one of the founders of the Sector.

He focuses his practice in the area of corporate and securities law.

Dean C. Waldt, a **Ballard Spahr** partner, relocated from New Jersey to the firm's Phoenix office. His practice includes commercial litigation, business reorganization and corporate finance. He handles all aspects of bankruptcy, insolvency and creditor-rights litigation, including foreclosures and replevin matters, and conducts negotiations in corporate loan restructurings.



Lynne Adams joined Phoenix law firm **Osborn Maledon PA**. She is a litigator who focuses her practice on complex litigation matters, school law, Arizona's Open Meeting Law and construction law.

She previously served as chief counsel of the Education and Health Section of the Arizona Attorney General's Office. In that capacity, she oversaw all aspects of the Education and Health Units of the office, including litigation, appeals, licensing and enforcement matters.



Tracy Gordon was named partner in Phoenix-based **Jensen and Gordon PLLC**, a firm that principally practices domestic relations law. Previously, she worked for several Arizona family lawyers. She has a strong background in finance and accounting and works on complex divorce-related financial issues.

Lisette B. Flores, previously an Assistant City Prosecutor with the City of Phoenix, joined the Phoenix office of **Hernandez Global** as a member of the criminal practice section. She was also recently selected as one of 50 participants for **Valley Leadership, Class 34**.



Three attorneys recently joined the Phoenix law firm **Osborn Maledon PA** as associates: **Yaser Ali**, a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law; **Andrew Case**, a graduate of the Columbia University School of Law; and **Joshua Ernst**, a graduate of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.



Suzanne Nicholls Miner joined the firm **Byrne & Benesch PC** as an associate. Her practice is focused on business and corporate law, contract law, insurance defense, product and professional liability, appellate practice, public agency law, estate planning and probate.

Matthew Hesketh joined the Phoenix office of **Sherman & Howard**, in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group. Previously, he was a law clerk to Hon. Patricia Orozco, Arizona Court of Appeals.

Paul J. Sheston joined the **Checkett Law Firm PLLC** in Scottsdale as an associate. His litigation



practice will continue to focus on commercial litigation and the defense of medical negligence, wrongful death, products liability and employment matters.



G. Van Velsor Wolf Jr. joined **Salmon, Lewis & Weldon PLC** as of counsel practicing environmental and natural resources law.

Carlo Mercaldo joined the **Mercaldo Law Firm** as a partner and shareholder, following several years practicing civil litigation in Phoenix. He spent the last three years in public practice in Washington, DC, where he was Deputy Chief of Staff for the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the General Counsel from 2009 to 2011. With DHS, he managed the legal review of issues concerning the department's numerous sub-components and agencies on behalf of the department's leadership. In 2011, he moved to the Department of Justice, where he served as Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

The **Mercaldo Law Firm** was established in Tucson in 1979 to represent people who have suffered catastrophic injuries and the surviving families of victims of wrongful death.

Mushkatel & Becker PLLC, Sun City, recently announced its new name of **Mushkatel, Robbins & Becker PLLC** and welcomed **Susan M. Robbins** and **Laura L. Still** as new attorneys, who will focus their practice on estate planning, trust administration, guardianships, conservatorships and other elder law-related practices. These efforts will compliment **Mushkatel & Becker's** existing practice areas focus on family law, estate planning, probate litigation, civil litigation, personal injury, guardianships and conservatorships.

Lawyer **Jonathan Conant**, experienced in the foreclosure mediation industry, now oversees

the State of Oregon's **Foreclosure Avoidance Mediation Program** for non-judicial foreclosures.

He maintains a multi-state mediation practice in Arizona and Florida. He is based in Prescott, Ariz., at the Conant Mediation Center: (877) 352-6320, www.jdconant.com.

HONORS AND AWARDS

In recognition of her contributions to legal education and her professional achievements, **Hon. Penny L. Willrich** (ret.), Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Law Professor at Phoenix School of Law, was selected by the **Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International** to receive The John J. McAulay Legal Educator Award.

The award is presented to fraternity members whose contributions to legal education are based on a lifetime of dedication to the principles and ideals of integrity, compassion, courage and professional service.

The nomination of Arizona Supreme Court Justice **Andrew Hurwitz** to the United States Court of Appeals for the **Ninth Circuit** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 12, 2012.



Attorney **Jeffrey D. Gardner** was named co-chair of the Class Actions & Derivative Suits Committee of the **American Bar Association**.

He is a securities litigation attorney at Sacks Tierney PA in Scottsdale. His one-year term as co-chair began August 2.

Lincoln, Gustafson & Cercos partner **Teresa Beck** was selected to serve on the board of the **National Conference of Women's Bar Associations**, representing approximately 35,000 women lawyers. The NCWBA provides a national forum for exchanging ideas and information vital to organizational growth and success in the profession.

Beck also just finished a three-year term on the Board of Lawyers Club of San Diego, where she co-chaired the Balance Committee, and founded and co-chaired the Professional Advancement Committee. She handles civil litigation in California and Arizona.

Alexander (Alex) Jamison, a former public member of the State Bar Board of Governors, was selected to receive the **Black Board of Directors Project** Dr. Lincoln J. Ragsdale, Sr. Outstanding Director Award at the organization's VIP Reception/Volunteer Fair on November 1 in Phoenix.

Jamison is President and CEO of MORE, a consulting firm dedicated to creating effective and safe workspaces. Prior to starting his company, he was a regional vice president with American Express.



Peter C. Guild, Senior Member of The Cavanagh Law Firm, assumed the position of Board Chair for the **Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix Foundation** on September 1. He has served as Trustee for the Foundation for more than 20 years.

Tom Alongi, Community Legal Services, was given the Ocotillo Award by the **Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence**. The honor celebrates a person or group who has identified an issue facing domestic violence victims and has championed legislative or budgetary change to benefit victims. The award, along with five others, was given at the Thrive Gala and Awards Dinner on September 19 at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel.



Jones, Skelton & Hochuli PLC announced that **Michael Ludwig** was appointed President of the Board of Directors for the **Arizona Association of Defense Counsel**. His term begins immediately and will continue for one year.

He previously served as President-Elect and Membership Chair for AADC. Ludwig joined the law firm in 1996 and concentrates his practice in construction law, personal injury defense, insurance coverage litigation and professional liability defense.

Marisol Diaz, Director of Admissions and Student Groups at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, was named a recipient of the sixth annual **40 Hispanic Leaders Under 40 Awards** for her strong commitment to diversity in education.

The awardees were selected from more than 60 nominations for their impact on the community and excellence in leadership. They represent corporate, health care, government, non-profit and arts and culture sectors across Arizona.

Jean-Jacques Cabou was elected to the Board of Directors of the **National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers**.

He is a partner in Perkins Coie LLP's Investigations and White Collar Defense Group, and he has dedicated much of his career to criminal law and continuing legal education.



C. Bradley Vynalek, a partner in the Phoenix office of Quarles & Brady LLP, was elected president of the **University of Arizona's Law College Association**. He has held various officer positions with the association and will serve a two-year term as president.

He is a partner in the firm's Commercial Litigation Group in Arizona.



Isaac Rothschild of Mesch, Clark & Rothschild PC was elected president of the William D. Browning Chapter of the **Federal Bar Association**. He has been active with the Association for nearly five years and previously served as secretary.

Other board members include Vice President Rebecca O'Brian of Rusing Lopez & Lizardi, Secretary Laura Conover with the Federal Public Defender's Office, and Treasurer Greg Schneider with the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Linda Cooper was elected to the board of the **Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts**. She is the regional government relations director for Aetna, a health benefits company, with responsibility for legislative issues in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. She is also on the board of the Greater Phoenix Urban League.



Susan Brichler Trujillo was selected as a Fellow in the Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy, a component of the **Arizona Center for Civic Leadership**. This year, 26 Arizonans were selected as the fourth Academy class.

Trujillo is an associate in the health law practice of Quarles & Brady LLP, Phoenix.



Megan K. Scanlon joined the Phoenix office of Quarles & Brady LLP as an associate in the Health Law Group.



Rebecca Masterson was named Vice President of the Board of Directors for the **Ronan Thompson Foundation**, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to finding a cure for neuroblastoma, a form of childhood cancer.

She is an attorney at Jones, Skelton & Hochuli PLC, where she practices in the areas of aviation, municipal liability and general civil litigation, including tort defense.

Attorney **George L. Paul** was reappointed to serve as Co-chair for the **E-Discovery and Digital Evidence Committee of the American Bar Association's** Section of Science and Technology Law; Vice-chair of its International and Domestic Policy Advisory Committee; and member of the Editorial Board of the Section's magazine. His leadership roles are for the 2012-2013 bar year.

Paul is a business litigator and partner in the Litigation Practice Group at Lewis and Roca LLP.



Edward A. Salanga was elected president of the **City of Chandler Industrial Development Authority**.

He is a partner in the Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group in the Phoenix office of Quarles & Brady LLP, where he also co-chairs the Real Estate and Construction Litigation Subgroup.

Judy Stinson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Clinical Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, was named the winner of the **2012 Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing**.

The award, given by the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute, is presented annually to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to improve the field of legal writing by demonstrating an ability to nurture and motivate students to excellence; a willingness to help other legal writing educators improve their teaching skills or their legal writing programs; and an ability to create and integrate new ideas for teaching and motivating legal writing educators and students.

Anchorage attorney **James K. Wilkens** of the law firm Bliss Wilkens and Clayton was selected as a **Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America**. The firm has offices in Anchorage, Alaska, and in Tucson.

The LCA is a trial lawyer honorary society composed of less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers. Fellowship in the LCA is by invitation only. Fellows are selected based upon excellence and accomplishment in litigation, both at the trial and appellate levels, and superior ethical reputation.

RECENTLY DECEASED

- Cal Baskerville, Mesa
- David R. Bosse, Phoenix
- Michael L. Brodsky, Paradise Valley, Ariz.
- Karen R. Keesling, Sun City, Ariz.
- Peter R. Ruiz, Jr., Phoenix
- James N Skeens, Glendale, Ariz.
- Steve T Skivington, Las Vegas, Nev.
- Joseph T. Sneed IV, Cameron, Texas
- Gerald Sweeney, Tucson

PEOPLE ITEM SUBMISSIONS

Send items for the People column to arizona.attorney@azbar.org.

Items run free of charge, but because we receive many submissions, we cannot guarantee when an item will run. If you also send a photo with the item, we try to use it, depending on that month's space and the photo quality (high-resolution required).