

*Sara J. Agne*  
*Judge of the Superior Court*  
*Maricopa County*  
*18380 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 120, Suite J*  
*Phoenix, Arizona 85032*  
(physical address effective 10/12/2020)

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

September 24, 2020

Dear President Herrod and the Center for Arizona Policy:

Thank you for the 2020 Survey Questions for Judicial Candidates I received in the mail earlier this month. I appreciate this opportunity to respond for CAP's *AZ Voter Guide*.

I submit my response in letter form in accordance with my responsibilities under the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 81, Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court, to discharge my adjudicative duties faithfully and impartially—without regard to my personal views—and to avoid any danger that a reasonable person might perceive any act as undermining my independence or impartiality.

In my view, all the provisions of the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct apply with equal force and import, but perhaps one of the most enlightening provisions for voters about the standards to which Arizona judges are held is:

“A judge shall uphold and apply the law, and shall perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially.”

Canon 2.2, Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 81, Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Further, the Comments to that Canon include:


“1. To ensure impartiality and fairness to all parties, a judge must be objective and open-minded.”

And, “2. Although each judge comes to the bench with a unique background and personal philosophy, a judge must interpret and apply the law without regard to whether the judge approves or disapproves of the law in question.”

The foregoing form the foundation for the duties I carry out as a trial court judge in Arizona. In all matters—whether they allow for judicial discretion or mandate a non-discretionary judicial action—I believe it is necessary for a trial court judge to faithfully adhere to that foundation. A judge on any assignment should evince patience and courteous deliberation, resulting in reasoned decisions in accord with the rule of law and the facts at hand.

The Center may obtain additional information regarding my judicial performance from the Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review, which uses public survey input from witnesses, parties, lawyers, and staff to rate judges' performance. The Commission's standards include "whether judges can apply the law fairly, treat people with respect and manage a courtroom." (<https://www.azcourts.gov/jpr>) The Commission unanimously voted that I meet its judicial performance standards, and its detailed report of my performance is available at [azjudges.info](http://azjudges.info), which redirects to the above link as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Agne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" and the last name "Agne" clearly distinguishable.

Sara J. Agne  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Maricopa County

\*Please note the physical address on the letterhead above will be effective shortly this year, after a rotation. Until 10/12/2020, my chambers address remains 3131 W. Durango Street, Suite 2285, Phoenix, Arizona 85009. Thank you.