



SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
IN MARICOPA COUNTY

From the Chambers of
Howard D Sukenic
Judge

South Court Tower
125 W. Madison, Suite 13108
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Phone: 602-506-8214

Ms. Cathi Herrod, Esq.
Sent Via Email

Dear Ms. Herrod,

Thank you for your inquiry. My response is consistent with that I gave four years ago. Educating voters is important work, and I respect your efforts to provide the voters with important information about judges' approaches to the law. As a sitting judge (and concededly a cautious one), however, I am reluctant to answer the survey questions because I do not want to inadvertently signal how I may rule in a particular case. However, I can refer you to what is already in the public record about my approach to judging when I was an applicant for the position seven years ago. On August 25, 2015, as part of the application process, upon request, I submitted a letter to staff members of the Governor's Office who were involved in the vetting process. I will repeat the first paragraph as follows:

Thank you for the opportunity to describe my judicial philosophy. My overall philosophy is one of impartiality and fairness to the litigants and respect for the law. It is imperative that a trial court judge look at each case as unique to the litigants and therefore important. A judge must respect that each party is seeking their measure of justice and an opportunity to be heard. Thereafter, a judge must be willing to take the facts as presented, make credibility determinations, and apply the law as it exists to those facts to reach a proper result.

In addition, my concluding paragraph ends with a statement of my firm belief that, as a judge, my job would be to interpret and follow the law as it exists and not create new laws.

Sincerely,

HOWARD D. SUKENIC