



Paul J. McGoldrick  
Arizona State Committee Chair  
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Re: GOVERNOR DUCEY'S COMMENTS ON JUDGE WAKE

The Arizona State Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) – whose members comprise the best of the trial bar in Arizona – strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings. In keeping with this mission, we write to voice our concerns about Governor Doug Ducey's recent comments regarding United States District Court Judge Neil Wake. Governor Ducey apparently took issue with Judge Wake's ruling on the challenge to the school funding system promoted by the Governor. ("Judge Wake...thinks he's God..." *Arizona Republic*, October 3, 2019)

Governor Ducey has every right to disagree with Judge Wake's decision. The Governor, however, should not move beyond respectful disagreement into baseless character attacks on a respected federal judge.

Judge Wake has served with distinction since being nominated to the federal bench in 2003 by President George W. Bush.

Governor Ducey's comments casting aspersions on Judge Wake threaten judicial independence and have no place in political discourse.

Very truly yours,

*Peter Akmajian - Regent*  
*Paul McGoldrick - State Committee Chair*

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