



# American College of Trial Lawyers

## ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT OPPOSING ATTACKS ON JUDGES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (September 28, 2021) 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 Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Katherine Cooper.

Governor Ducey has taken issue with Judge Cooper’s ruling which struck down Arizona’s ban on face mask mandates by school districts. (“Today’s decision is the result of a rogue judge interfering with the authority and processes of another branch of government”).

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

Judge Cooper has served our citizens with distinction. Governor Ducey’s characterization of Judge Cooper as a “rogue judge” threatens judicial independence, undermines the integrity of the judiciary, and has no place in political discourse.

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### **About the [American College of Trial Lawyers](#)**

The American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of preeminent members of the trial bar from the United States and Canada and is recognized as the leading trial lawyer’s organization in both countries. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism, and collegiality. The College is dedicated to maintaining and seeking to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College 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. For more information about the College, visit its website at [www.actl.com](http://www.actl.com).

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