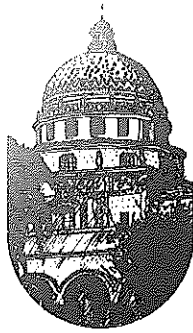


**Laura Conover**  
Pima County Attorney

---



(520) 724-5700  
pcao.pima.gov  
32 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 2100  
Tucson, AZ 85701

---

Civil Division

November 15, 2023

The Honorable Kris Mayes  
Arizona Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
2005 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2926

Re: Request for Legal Opinion

Dear Attorney General Mayes:

In Ariz. Att’y Gen. Op. I87-100, the Attorney General determined that while the Attorney General represents the judicial department of the State of Arizona, and more specifically, the Arizona Superior Court and its Judges, the County Attorney represents Justice Courts, Justices of the Peace and Constables. The Pima County Consolidated Justice Court (“PCCJC”) is a unique creation of the Arizona Supreme Court and has historically been represented by the Pima County Attorney’s Office. *See* AO 1974-01.

In AO 2013-70, the Supreme Court delineated a very specific governance and administrative structure for the PCCJC. However, the Supreme Court determined that this structure was not working and decided to vest most of that authority with the Presiding Judge of Superior Court and the Court of Administrator of Superior Court. *See* AO 2020-189. Under the current AO, the Justice Court Administrator reports directly to the Court Administrator of Superior Court and is denominated as a deputy superior court administrator. The determination of who exactly the client is at this point is unclear. Certainly, attorney-client privileged legal advice that is provided to client representatives must be shared with direct supervisors. Recently, a request for legal advice was received by our office from the PCCJC Superior Court liaison who reports directly to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court, with the Presiding Judge of Superior Court copied on the correspondence, and requested advice regarding the duties and authority of the Presiding Judge of Superior Court. Obviously, this implicates not only attorney-client privileged legal advice, but also ER 4.2 with the potential of communication with and providing legal advice to another represented party.

///

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-193(A)(7), I respectfully request an opinion interpreting the impact of AO 2020-189 on the roles and responsibilities of the County Attorney and the Attorney General in regard to the PCCJC.

Sincerely,



Daniel Jurkowitz  
Assistant Chief Civil Deputy