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Hon. James E. McDougall (Ret.)

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Jim McDougall is a former judge in Maricopa County Superior Court, retiring from the bench in 2000 after 26 years of distinguished service as a judge and commissioner, including six years as the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court. In 2011 he was inducted into the Maricopa County Bar Association Hall of Fame and was named the State Bar of Arizona "Member of the Year."

Jim's Elder Law and Mental Health Law practice focuses on serving the elderly, the developmentally disabled and the mentally ill. In conjunction with that area of the law, he:

- helps families seeking to obtain a guardianship or conservatorship over a relative who is incapacitated or disabled due to old age, a physical condition, a mental or developmental disorder, or a chronic drug or alcohol addiction;
- represents individuals for whom a guardianship or conservatorship is sought;
- counsels clients on how to navigate the complex processes and proceedings involved in the voluntary or involuntary treatment of the mentally ill, or the eligibility of and services for the developmentally disabled.

Since retiring from the bench, Jim has devoted much of his time to helping people resolve their disputes outside the courtroom through mediation, arbitration and other alternatives to litigation. In addition to practicing law, he continues to serve as a mediator, arbitrator and special master.

Jim has served in a variety of appointed and volunteer positions related to families and mental health, including the Maricopa County Association of Family Mediators, Association for Conflict Resolution, Governor's Task Force on Children's Mental Health, Family Preservation Advisory Committee, Madison School District Chemical Abuse Prevention Committee, Governor's Task Force on Seriously Mentally Ill, Arizona State Hospital Advisory Board, Arizona Council of Centers for Children and Adolescent's Task Force on Juvenile Mental Health Commitment, and Arizona Task Force on Marriage and the Family.

PRACTICE AREAS

Elder Law
Mental Health Law
Guardianship and Conservatorship
Alternative Dispute Resolution

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Judge, Maricopa County Superior Court, 1981-2000 (Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court, 1989-1995)
Commissioner, Maricopa County Superior Court, 1974-1980

HONORS AND AWARDS

Arizona's Finest Lawyers, 2014
Member of the Year, State Bar of Arizona, 2011
Maricopa County Bar Association Hall of Fame, 2011

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association
State Bar of Arizona: Past Chair, Elder Law, Mental Health & Special Needs Planning Section; Past Chair, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section; Past Chair, Family Law Committee (1977-1978); Past Chair, Probate and Mental Health Committee (1985)
Maricopa County Bar Association: Past President; Past Chair, Family Law Committee
Maricopa County Alternative Dispute Resolution Association: Past Board Member
Maricopa County Association of Family Mediators: Past Treasurer

COURT ADMISSIONS

Arizona, 1969

U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, 1969

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Arizona, 1969

B.A., University of Arizona 1966

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Friends of Public Radio Arizona: Incorporator

Brophy Dad's Club, Brophy College Preparatory: Treasurer and Board Member

BIRTHPLACE

Phoenix, Arizona