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COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community Legal Services' (Arizona) Board of Directors (Board) is pleased to announce Deputy Director and public service attorney Sharon E. Sergent as its new Executive Director. The Board made the appointment after a competitive national search. Sergent assumes the role as Executive Director as Community Legal Services (CLS) celebrates its 70th anniversary.

Sergent began her legal career in public service as a Deputy Public Defender in Cook County, IL. Her first leadership role was at CLS as a Managing Attorney and she brings more than 30 years of legal experience and leadership to this position. She has held several key positions in state government, including Division Chief Counsel of the Child and Family Protection Division at the Arizona Attorney General's Office and Deputy Director of Programs at the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to serving the community, particularly persons with low incomes and those who have been marginalized. In her role as Executive Director, Sergent will build on CLS' 70-year history advocating, litigating, and educating on behalf of Arizonans.



"The Board is excited to welcome Sharon Sergent to the role of Executive Director," said Yvette Kinsey, Board President. "We are confident that Sharon's innovative and strategic leadership experience will support CLS' ongoing commitment to providing impactful service in our community and propel CLS as well as its' staff to meet future challenges," said Kinsey.

Sergent succeeds Lillian O. Johnson, who is retiring after leading CLS for 40 years. Johnson has been a champion for legal services to individuals and families with low incomes on the state and national level. Johnson will continue as Executive Director through September 2022 to ensure a smooth transition.

Community Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm committed to increasing fairness in the civil justice system by advocating, litigating, and educating on behalf of Arizona's most underserved communities. <https://clsaz.org/>

CLS is dedicated to providing legal assistance, advice or representation, self-help materials, and legal education so people can know their rights. We focus on helping survivors of domestic violence; assisting victims of consumer fraud and abuse, protecting tenants from unlawful/unfair practices by landlords, foreclosures, legal problems affecting agricultural workers, wage claims and other employment matters, and federal and state programs affecting peoples' health and economic stability. For Every \$1 invested in Community Legal Services, \$6.68 is returned into our community, ensuring families facing eviction receive representation, domestic violence victims are safe, and veterans have access to the benefits they so deserve.

All funds received are used in a manner that consistent with the Legal Services Corporation Act (42USC 2996 et. seq.) and regulations (45CFR 1600 et. seq.).