

Samuel A. Thumma

Judge (2012-present); Chief Judge (2017-2019) and Vice Chief Judge (2015-2017), Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One. Judge, Arizona Superior Court (2007-2012) (Criminal and Juvenile rotations). Nationally, Sam is chair of the American Bar Association's Judicial Division Appellate Judges Conference and serves as the Judicial Division's Liaison to the Section of Litigation. Sam is a Uniform Law Commissioner, where he chairs and has served on various Study, Drafting and other Committees. He is an Advisor to the American Law Institute's RESTATEMENT OF THE LAW (THIRD) OF TORTS: REMEDIES and serves on the Joint Technology Committee, appointed by the National Center for State Courts. In Arizona, Sam has chaired various Committees, Commissions and Task Forces for the Arizona Supreme Court and the State Bar of Arizona. Currently, he chairs the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice; co-chairs the COVID-19 Continuity of Court Operations During Public Health Emergency Workgroup (the Plan B Workgroup) and is co-editor of the ARIZONA APPELLATE HANDBOOK. He was named the 2021 Judge of the Year by Arizona Supreme Court.

Sam has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University Colleges of Law; is a frequent speaker, having presented at more than 400 seminars internationally, nationally and in Arizona; and co-taught evidence to all new Arizona judges for many years. He is a frequent author, having published 13 law review articles and more than 50 other law-related articles. Previously, Sam was a partner at Perkins Coie Brown & Bain, P.A., in Phoenix, and an associate at Arnold & Porter in Washington, D.C. He served as a law clerk for Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Stanley G. Feldman and Judge David R. Hansen, United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. Sam received a Master of Laws from Duke University School of Law in 2020; graduated Order of the Coif from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1988, where he was a Note & Comment Editor on the IOWA LAW REVIEW, and graduated from Iowa State University in 1984, where he was a Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholar and a member of Cardinal Key.