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# Frazer Ryan Goldberg & Arnold LLP

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Super Lawyers



## Charles L. "Chick" Arnold

CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN ESTATE AND TRUST LAW

[carnold@frgalaw.com](mailto:carnold@frgalaw.com)

For more than 30 years, Chick Arnold has been a forceful advocate for the rights of the elderly and mentally ill, prompting one Arizona leader to remark, "Chick is to the mentally ill of Arizona what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was to African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement."

His 1981 class action lawsuit on behalf of Maricopa County's seriously mentally ill population alleged that the State of Arizona failed to fund a comprehensive mental health system as required by state law. In 1989, the Arizona Supreme Court affirmed, in *Arnold v. Sarn*, that the State had indeed violated its statutory duty. Ongoing compliance with the lawsuit, which was settled in January 2014, has resulted in additional annual State funding in the hundreds of millions of dollars for the benefit of seriously mentally ill Arizonans.

A Certified Specialist in Estate and Trust Law (Arizona Board of Legal Specialization), Chick chairs the Maricopa County Superior Courts' Task Force on Mental Health Services and is a past chair of the State Bar of Arizona's Elder Law and Mental Health Section. He authored the State Bar's "Arizona Resource Guide for Families of Persons With Serious Mental Illness" (2001) and co-authored the "Arizona Probate Code Manual" (1999). He is a board member of the Mental Health Association of Maricopa County, PLAN of Arizona, Inc., and Mentally Ill Kids in Distress.

In 2013, Chick received the Judge Learned Hand Community Service Award in recognition of his "sustained contributions to the advancement of equality and democratic principles." Chick is an AV Preeminent rated attorney, signifying Martindale-Hubbell's highest ratings for legal ability and ethical standards. He is an 11-time Super Lawyers honoree and a 2014 inductee in the Maricopa County Bar Association Hall of Fame.

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### PRACTICE AREAS

Mental Health Law  
Elder Law  
Probate and Trust Administration  
Guardianship and Conservatorship  
Estate and Tax Planning  
Long-Term Care Planning  
Special Needs Planning

### CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Specialist in Estate and Trust Law, Arizona Board of Legal Specialization  
Certified Fiduciary, Arizona Supreme Court

### HONORS AND AWARDS

Mental Health America of Arizona Hall of Fame, 2017  
"People Service Action Champion," PSA Behavioral Health Agency, 2017  
Arizona Fiduciary Hall of Fame, 2015  
Maricopa County Bar Association Hall of Fame, 2014  
*The Best Lawyers in America*®: Lawyer of the Year (Phoenix), Litigation - Trusts & Estates, 2012  
*The Best Lawyers in America* (Elder Law, Trusts & Estates, Trust & Estate Litigation), 2008-2018  
Super Lawyers, 2007-present  
AV Preeminent® Rating, Martindale-Hubbell  
RISE Lifetime Achievement Award, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care, 2015

University of Arizona Law College Association Award for Extraordinary Service to Society, 2014  
Judge Learned Hand Community Service Award, American Jewish Committee, 2013

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association: Fellow

State Bar of Arizona: Elder Law and Mental Health Section (Past Chair); Probate and Trust Section; Estate and Trust Advisory Council; Committee on Mental Health Services (Former Member)

Maricopa County Bar Association

Task Force on Mental Health Services, Maricopa County Superior Courts: Chairman, 2001-Present

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, 1996-

Arizona Fiduciary Association, 1980-

Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education: Fellow, 1988-

Fiduciary Advisory Committee, Arizona Supreme Court, 1999-2000

#### EDUCATION

J.D., with honors, University of Arizona, 1970

B.S., with honors, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1967

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Mental Health Association of Maricopa County: Board of Directors, 1981-

PLAN of Arizona: Board of Directors, 1994-

Mentally Ill Kids in Distress: Board of Directors, 1998-

Council for Jews with Special Needs, 1992-1995

Governor's Special Task Force on the Seriously Mentally Ill, 1989-1990

Task Force for Diversion from Prosecution of the Chronically Mentally Ill, 1986-1989

Children's Council for Behavioral Health, 1988-1989

Arizona Association of Retarded Citizens: Guardianship Committee, 1984-1988