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## **Coconino County Planning and Zoning Commissioner Recognized as Distinguished Citizen Planner**

The Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Planning Association (APA-AZ) held a virtual awards ceremony on September 5. The Association's awards recognize notable planning pursuits that exemplify planning principles and foster positive impacts on Arizona and its communities. As part of the ceremony, Coconino County Planning and Zoning Commissioner John F. Ruggles was recognized as the "Distinguished Citizen Planner" following nomination by the Coconino County Community Development Department.

The Distinguished Contributor to Arizona Planning category recognizes an individual advancing or promoting the cause of planning in the public arena in nine categories, including outstanding service, commitment, effectiveness, leadership, innovation, significance, and long-term results.

In their nomination letter, Coconino County Community Development described Commissioner Ruggles as "a role model for appointed commissioners and residents alike. His commitment to research and his extensive knowledge of planning theory and history have led county planners to rely on him to recall and recount details about planning law cases. His ability to clearly explain complicated ideas make him a respected and sought-after resource by planners, elected officials, and residents. He is a tireless volunteer who regularly commits to serving on projects beyond regular commissioner duties."

"It's important to celebrate the value and impact of planning," noted APA-AZ Chapter President Jerry Stabley. "Sharing insights into these impactful plans and the capabilities of professional and citizen planners can help other Arizona communities pursue their collective future vision and goals."

Coconino County congratulates Commissioner Ruggles on this achievement. The virtual awards ceremony may be viewed by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYK94aMHYEA>.

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