



For Immediate Release: June 2010

**For Media Inquiries:
Charity Taylor Antal, AFA Executive Director
480.220.1766 charity@azfid.org**

**The Arizona Fiduciaries Association Combats Professional Misconduct,
Advances Ethical Standards of Practice for Fiduciaries**

The Arizona Fiduciaries Association (AFA) closely scrutinizes allegations of misconduct or legal charges filed against members of the fiduciary profession. While the AFA does not serve as a regulatory or disciplinary body, it promotes the vital mission of preparing and advancing the fiduciary profession to serve Arizona's most vulnerable citizens who require compassionate care and protection.

"There is not, nor has there ever been hesitation on the part of the AFA's leadership to enforce a zero tolerance stance against fiduciary misconduct," said AFA's executive director, Charity Taylor-Antal. One of the key ways the organization works to support professional adherence to the highest level of ethical and care standards are through the continuing education conferences, workshops and trainings throughout the year.

Antal cautions that the fiduciary profession is often the target of false allegations lodged by disgruntled parties seeking to leverage their own financial gain. "The reported cases of financial exploitation propagated against Arizona's seniors are staggering; one needs only to look at the complaints filed with the Arizona Attorney General's office to realize that the exploitation of our seniors is at crisis proportions," said Antal.

The fiduciary profession is under the strict regulatory authority of the Arizona Supreme Court. "With the boom of the senior population throughout Arizona and the United States, it is imperative that our current and future practitioners are qualified, certified and adhere to a strict code of ethics," said Robert Fleming, AFA President, and a practicing elder law attorney in Tucson who has authored several books offering protective advice to seniors about financial and psychosocial matters on aging.

As the state's senior population continues to expand, so do the complications associated with providing care. Many seniors lack a family member to assist with their care, or sometimes the complexity of familial relationships leaves a senior without the support to manage health and financial affairs, making them easy targets for a gold-digging family member or a predatory acquaintance intent on stealing a senior's life savings.

“The safety and welfare of our at-risk citizens is the reason we work in a service field where success is dependent upon our own integrity, good judgment and expert skills. As licensed fiduciaries, we must be bonded and are held legally and personally accountable by the court. We shoulder not just the personal burdens of our wards, but the scrutiny of the law and a great deal of personal liability if we make a mistake,” said Lisa Price, a private fiduciary in Yuma County and a member of the AFA’s Board of Directors.

For more information about the Arizona Fiduciaries Association, please visit our website at www.azfid.org.

#