



Statement
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maricopa County Superior Court Rules to Award Nearly \$1 Million in Legal Fees to be Paid by the Arizona Attorney General after the Dismissal of Lawsuit

Statement from ABOR Chair Larry E. Penley

“The board remains justifiably disappointed that this suit was ever brought. Valuable tax-payer dollars and public resources have been wasted at the expense of the Attorney General’s choice to pursue litigation rather than consultation. However, once the suit was filed, the board had no choice but to defend itself vigorously with experienced and highly qualified counsel.

“The stakes were high. In his suit, the Attorney General sought to undo a transaction that will provide the ASU community access to a much-needed conference center and hotel facility, and will generate well over \$100 million in rental payments to the university as well as provide additional positive economic impact to the City of Tempe and the State of Arizona.

“This waste of tax-payer dollars and resources for unnecessary litigation brings into question whether the Attorney General is on the side of the taxpayer, as he claims.

“We are gratified that the Superior Court has not only dismissed the Attorney General's suit as a matter of law, but has now also recognized the board's right to recover the attorneys' fees it was forced to expend when it was sued by its own counsel. Reimbursing the board for those fees will allow it to serve better the students, universities and State of Arizona.”