Arizona



Charles Bassett
Director
Western Zone

Term of Office:
At the Will of the Governor
Appointed: January 12, 2026
Confirmed: June 12, 2026

Charles Bassett was appointed as Arizona's Director of the Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI) by Gov. Katie Hobbs effective Jan. 12, 2026. He was confirmed by the Arizona State Senate on June 12, 2026.

A veteran public policy attorney with more than 30 years of experience, Director Bassett brings a wealth of expertise in insurance law and health care policy to the department. Director Bassett joins DIFI following a long tenure at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ), where he served as vice president of government relations and public policy since 2004. In that role, he led all facets of government relations, managed BCBSAZ's state and federal legislative affairs, and served as a key advisor to executive leadership and the board of directors on complex regulatory issues.

Prior to his leadership at BCBSAZ, Director Bassett served as an associate attorney at Low & Childers, P.C., where he focused on insurance regulatory law. He also held legal roles in the Arizona House of Representatives, including rules attorney and legal counsel to the Rules and Ethics Committees.

Community involvement has been central to Director Bassett's career. Most recently, he served on the Arizona Chamber of Commerce Health Care and Public Affairs Committee and was a member of the Arizona Society of Healthcare Attorneys. He has also been involved with the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Citizens for the Arts, and the Fiesta Bowl Committee.

Director Bassett earned a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ) and has been a member of the State Bar of Arizona since 1991.

Main

Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions
100 North 15th Avenue
Suite 261
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2630
United States

Email Address
insurance.consumers@difi.az.gov

Phone Numbers
Main: (602) 364-3100

Fax Numbers

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday
Website: https://difi.az.gov
Make Checks Payable to: Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions

Contact Persons

Annual Statement Filings
Cary Cook (602) 364-3986
Chief Financial Compliance Officer, Financial Affairs Division

Captive Insurer Licensing and Financial Reports
Victoria Fimea (602) 364-0267
Division Chief - Captive Insurance victoria.fimea@difi.az.gov

Consumer Complaints and Inquires
Noelani Rosato (602) 364-2499
Supervisor, Market Regulation & Consumer Services Division

Department Counsel
Attorney General (602) 542-3702
Office

Deposits
Cary Cook (602) 364-3986
Chief Financial Compliance Officer, Financial Affairs Division

Examinations - Financial
Vacant

Examinations - Market Conduct
Maria Ailor (602) 364-4922
Assistant Director, Market Regulation and Consumer Services Division maria.ailor@difi.az.gov

Examinations - Producer (Pre-license)
Aqueelah Currie — (602) 364-4457
Insurance Licensing Supervisor, Consumer Protection Division — aqueelah.currie@difi.az.gov

Fees/Assessments
Mary Jordan — (602) 364-2459
Supervisor, Business Services Section, Administrative Services Division

Financial Analysis
Dave Lathrop — (602) 364-3996
Chief Financial Analyst — dave.lathrop@difi.az.gov

Fraud Unit
Paul Hill — (602) 364-2140
Assistant Director, Fraud Investigations Division

Guaranty Funds
Lori Nestor — (602) 364-3863
Executive Director, Guaranty Fund Office

Health Care Appeals
Audrey Franklin — (602) 364-2179
Supervisor, Health Care Appeals Office

Health Insurance
Sterling Gavette — 602-364-3458
Health Insurance Compliance Administrator — Sterling.Gavette@difi.az.gov

Insurer Licensing, Mergers/Acquisitions, Redomestications Withdrawals
Cary Cook — (602) 364-3986
Chief Financial Compliance Officer, Financial Affairs Division

InsurTech
Gioconda Espinosa
Assistant Director, Product Filing & Compliance — gio.espinosa@difi.az.gov

Investigations, Enforcement
Deian Ousounov — (602) 364-2499
Assistant Director, Innovation, Enforcement, and Regulatory Policy Division

Ombudsman; Constituent Affairs
Catherine O'Neil (602) 364-2485
Consumer Affairs Administrator

Policy, Form, Rate and Advertising Filings
Gioconda Espinosa
Assistant Director, Product Filing & Compliance gio.espinosa@difi.az.gov

Premium Taxes
Loretta Moncibaez (602) 364-3246
Lead Auditor, Insurance Tax Section, Administrative Services Division

Producer Licensing
Aqueelah Currie (602) 364-4457
Insurance Licensing Supervisor, Consumer Protection Division aqueelah.currie@difi.az.gov

Property & Casualty
Tom Zuppan 602-364-2171
Property and Casualty Supervisor tom.zuppan@difi.az.gov

Public and Media Affairs
James McGuffin (602) 771-0178
Assistant Director/PIO james.mcguffin@difi.az.gov

Receivership
Liane Kido (602) 364-2143
Deputy Receiver

Statistical Reporting
Gioconda Espinosa
Assistant Director, Product Filing & Compliance gio.espinosa@difi.az.gov

Technology and Information Systems
Vacant