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## **ADEQ Deputy Director Cunningham Honored as Environmental Leader of the Year in Public Policy**

PHOENIX (Sept. 29, 2009) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Deputy Director Patrick Cunningham was honored Tuesday as Environmental Leader of the Year in Public Policy by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Cunningham received a plaque during a noontime luncheon at the Wyndham Phoenix downtown hotel. The award goes to individuals who positively impact the state and the lives of Arizonans.

“Patrick is one of the smartest, hardest-working public servants in America,” ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said. “He has encyclopedic knowledge of Arizona state government and has done an outstanding job managing operations at ADEQ and looking out for the best interests of the state’s citizens and environmental resources.”

Cunningham served as Acting Director of ADEQ from January 2009 until June 2009 after serving six years during a previous stint as deputy director of the agency.

Prior to coming to ADEQ, Cunningham worked for 12 years in the Arizona Attorney General's Office, where he served as chief counsel for the Environmental Enforcement Section and the Criminal Division, directed legislative affairs, and served as a special litigation counsel and chief counsel of the Civil Rights Litigation Section.

Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Cunningham served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force in Arizona and as a captain in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Cunningham is from Kingman, Arizona, and received his bachelor's degree in 1976 from the University of Michigan where he graduated cum laude. He earned his law degree from Arizona State University in 1979.

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