

NUVEEN ARIZONA DIVIDEND ADVANTAGE MUNICIPAL FUND 3

Form N-Q

July 30, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM N-Q

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT
COMPANY

Investment Company Act file number 811-21157

Nuveen Arizona Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund 3
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Kevin J. McCarthy
Vice President and Secretary
333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 312-917-7700

Date of fiscal year end: 2/28

Date of reporting period: 5/31/12

Form N-Q is to be used by management investment companies, other than small business investment companies registered on Form N-5 (§§ 239.24 and 274.5 of this chapter), to file reports with the Commission, not later than 60 days after the close of the first and third fiscal quarters, pursuant to rule 30b1-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30b1-5). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-Q in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-Q, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-Q unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Item 1. Schedule of Investments

Portfolio of Investments (Unaudited)
 Nuveen Arizona Dividend Advantage
 Municipal Fund 3 (NXE)
 May 31, 2012

Principal Amount (000)	Description (1)	Optional Call Provisions (2)	Ratings (3)	Value
\$ 460	Consumer Staples – 1.0% (0.7% of Total Investments) Puerto Rico, The Children’s Trust Fund, Tobacco Settlement Asset-Backed Refunding Bonds, Series 2002, 5.375%, 5/15/33	8/12 at 100.00	BBB+	\$ 459,126
690	Education and Civic Organizations – 14.6% (10.5% of Total Investments) Arizona Higher Education Loan Authority, Student Loan Revenue Bonds, Series 2007B, Auction	9/12 at 100.00	A	506,302
1,250	Rate Securities, 0.665%, 11/01/41 (Alternative Minimum Tax) (4) Arizona State University, System Revenue Bonds, Series 2005, 5.000%, 7/01/20 – AMBAC Insured	7/15 at 100.00	Aa3	1,395,163
520	Glendale Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Revenue Bonds, Midwestern University, Refunding Series 2007, 5.000%, 5/15/31	5/22 at 100.00	A–	566,587
900	Glendale Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Revenue Bonds, Midwestern University, Refunding Series 2010, 5.125%, 5/15/40	5/20 at 100.00	A+	947,394
430	Northern Arizona University, System Revenue Bonds, Series 2012, 5.000%, 6/01/41	6/21 at 100.00	A+	465,105
200	Phoenix Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Education Facility Revenue Bonds, Brighter Choice Foundation Charter Middle Schools Project, Series 2012, 7.500%, 7/01/42	7/22 at 100.00	BB+	204,806
155	Phoenix Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Education Revenue Bonds, Great Hearts Academies – Veritas Project, Series 2012, 6.300%, 7/01/42	7/21 at 100.00	BBB	163,040
200		7/20 at 100.00	N/R	204,100

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	Phoenix Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Education Revenue Bonds, Painted Rock Academy Charter School Project, Series 2012A, 7.500%, 7/01/42			
560	Pima County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Charter School Revenue Bonds, Noah	12/14 at 100.00	BBB-	568,120
	Webster Basic Schools Inc., Series 2004, 6.000%, 12/15/24			
200	Pima County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Education Revenue Bonds, Carden	1/22 at 100.00	BBB-	211,310
	Traditional Schools Project, Series 2012, 7.500%, 1/01/42			
235	Pima County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Education Revenue Bonds, Paradise	6/19 at 100.00	BBB-	236,332
	Education Center Project, Series 2010, 6.000%, 6/01/40			
315	Pima County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Educational Revenue Bonds, Paradise	6/16 at 100.00	BBB-	315,554
	Education Center Charter School, Series 2006, 6.000%, 6/01/36			
415	Pima County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Educational Revenue Bonds, Valley	7/18 at 100.00	Baa3	425,421
	Academy Charter School Project, Series 2008, 6.500%, 7/01/38			
565	Tucson Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Charter School Revenue Bonds, Arizona	9/14 at 100.00	BB+	541,468
	Agribusiness and Equine Center Charter School, Series 2004A, 6.125%, 9/01/34			
6,635	Total Education and Civic Organizations Health Care – 28.1% (20.2% of Total Investments)			6,750,702
1,015	Arizona Health Facilities Authority, Hospital Revenue Bonds, Banner Health Systems, Series 2007A, 5.000%, 1/01/25	1/17 at 100.00	AA-	1,130,598
620	Arizona Health Facilities Authority, Hospital Revenue Bonds, Banner Health Systems, Series 2007B, 1.124%, 1/02/37	1/17 at 100.00	AA-	451,441
2,390	Arizona Health Facilities Authority, Hospital Revenue Bonds, Banner Health Systems, Series 2008D, 5.500%, 1/01/38	1/18 at 100.00	AA-	2,590,709
625		4/14 at 100.00	A	655,219

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	Arizona Health Facilities Authority, Revenue Bonds, Blood Systems Inc., Series 2004, 5.000%, 4/01/20			
475	Glendale Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Revenue Bonds, John C. Lincoln Health Network, Series 2005B, 5.000%, 12/01/37	12/15 at 100.00	BBB+	477,798
785	Glendale Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Revenue Bonds, John C. Lincoln Health Network, Series 2007, 5.000%, 12/01/42	12/17 at 100.00	BBB+	792,701
1,825	Maricopa County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Health Facility Revenue Bonds, Catholic Healthcare West, Series 2004A, 5.375%, 7/01/23	7/14 at 100.00	A+	1,927,967
1,985	Maricopa County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Health Facility Revenue Bonds, Catholic Healthcare West, Series 2007A, 5.250%, 7/01/32	7/17 at 100.00	A+	2,135,364
	Show Low Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Hospital Revenue Bonds, Navapache Regional Medical Center, Series 2005:			
375	5.000%, 12/01/25 – RAAI Insured	12/15 at 100.00	BBB+	378,941
315	5.000%, 12/01/30 – RAAI Insured	12/15 at 100.00	BBB+	316,355
1,000	University Medical Center Corporation, Tucson, Arizona, Hospital Revenue Bonds, Series 2011, 6.000%, 7/01/39	7/21 at 100.00	BBB+	1,123,080
1,000	Yavapai County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Hospital Revenue Bonds, Yavapai Regional Medical Center, Series 2003A, 6.000%, 8/01/33	8/13 at 100.00	BBB+	1,015,590
12,410	Total Health Care Long-Term Care – 0.4% (0.3% of Total Investments)			12,995,763
205	Tempe Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Revenue Bonds, Friendship Village of Tempe Project, Refunding Series 2012A, 6.000%, 12/01/32	12/21 at 100.00	N/R	214,049
	Tax Obligation/General – 10.7% (7.7% of Total Investments)			
365	Pima County Continental Elementary School District 39, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds,	7/21 at 100.00	AA–	450,673

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500	Series 2011A, 2.000%, 7/01/30 – AGM Insured Pima County Unified School District 08 Flowing Wells, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds,	7/21 at 100.00	A+	563,065
750	Series 2011B, 5.375%, 7/01/29 Pima County Unified School District 6, Marana, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, School Improvement Project 2010 Series 2011A, 5.000%, 7/01/25	7/21 at 100.00	A+	844,328
1,000	Pinal County Unified School District 1, Florence, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2008C, 5.250%, 7/01/28	7/18 at 100.00	A	1,108,690
1,705 4,320	Scottsdale, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Preserve Acquisition Series 1999, 5.000%, 7/01/34 Total Tax Obligation/General Tax Obligation/Limited – 44.2% (31.7% of Total Investments)	7/21 at 100.00	AAA	1,995,754 4,962,510
660	Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority, Senior Revenue Refunding Bonds, Multipurpose Stadium Facility Project, Series 2012A, 5.000%, 7/01/36 (W/DD, Settling 6/05/12)	7/22 at 100.00	A1	718,588
1,000	Arizona State Transportation Board, Highway Revenue Bonds, Subordinate Refunding Series 2011A, 5.000%, 7/01/36	7/21 at 100.00	AA+	1,128,690
133	Centerra Community Facilities District, Goodyear, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2005, 5.500%, 7/15/29	7/15 at 100.00	N/R	122,200
2,000	DC Ranch Community Facilities District, Scottsdale, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2002, 5.000%, 7/15/27 – AMBAC Insured	7/13 at 100.00	A1	2,032,520
246	Estrella Mountain Ranch Community Facilities District, Arizona, Special Assessment Bonds, Montecito Assessment District, Series 2007: 5.700%, 7/01/27	1/17 at 100.00	N/R	237,075
153	5.800%, 7/01/32	1/17 at 100.00	N/R	144,010
217	Estrella Mountain Ranch Community Facilities District, Goodyear, Arizona, Special Assessment Lien Bonds, Series 2001A, 7.875%, 7/01/25	7/12 at 100.00	N/R	217,373
510	Government of Guam, Business Privilege Tax Bonds, Series 2011A, 5.000%, 1/01/31	1/22 at 100.00	A	561,122
525	Greater Arizona Development Authority, Infrastructure Revenue Bonds, Series 2006A,	8/16 at 100.00	A1	586,845

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	5.000%, 8/01/23 – NPPG Insured Marana, Arizona, Tangerine Farms Road Improvement District Revenue Bonds, Series			
917	2006, 4.600%, 1/01/26 Marley Park Community Facilities District, City of Surprise, Arizona, Limited Tax	7/16 at 100.00	A2	945,775
290	General Obligation Bonds, Series 2008 (Bank Qualified), 6.100%, 7/15/32	7/17 at 100.00	N/R	282,765
490	Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District 1, Florence, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2008A, 7.400%, 7/15/33	7/18 at 100.00	N/R	530,293
2,175	Mohave County, Arizona, Certificates of Participation, Series 2004, 5.250%, 7/01/19 – AMBAC Insured	7/14 at 100.00	N/R	2,271,722
300	Page, Arizona, Pledged Revenue Bonds, Refunding Series 2011, 5.000%, 7/01/26	7/21 at 100.00	AA–	343,794
640	Palm Valley Community Facility District 3, Goodyear, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006, 5.300%, 7/15/31	7/16 at 100.00	N/R	570,694
425	Palm Valley Community Facility District 3, Goodyear, Arizona, Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2007, 5.800%, 7/15/32	7/17 at 100.00	N/R	399,993
160	Parkway Community Facilities District 1, Prescott Valley, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006, 5.350%, 7/15/31	7/16 at 100.00	N/R	143,557
170	Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, Arizona, Special Facility Revenue Bonds, Mesa Project, Series 2012, 5.000%, 7/01/38 (Alternative Minimum Tax)	7/22 at 100.00	AA+	174,670
1,250	Pinal County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Correctional Facilities Contract Revenue Bonds, Florence West Prison LLC, Series 2002A, 5.000%, 10/01/18 – ACA Insured	10/12 at 100.00	BBB–	1,254,388
250	Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation, Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, First Subordinate Series 2010A, 5.375%, 8/01/39	2/20 at 100.00	A+	267,800
1,650	Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation, Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, First Subordinate Series 2010C, 0.000%, 8/01/38	No Opt. Call	A+	371,976
1,130		7/15 at 100.00	A+	1,192,297

	San Luis Civic Improvement Corporation, Arizona, Municipal Facilities Excise Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2005, 5.000%, 7/01/25 – SYNCORA GTY Insured			
2,000	Scottsdale Municipal Property Corporation, Arizona, Excise Tax Revenue Bonds, Water & Sewer Improvements Project, Series 2010, 5.000%, 7/01/36	7/20 at 100.00	AAA	2,249,260
665	Tartesso West Community Facility District, Buckeye, Arizona, Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2007, 5.900%, 7/15/32	7/17 at 100.00	N/R	633,386
750	Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority, Matching Fund Loan Notes Revenue Bonds, Senior Lien Series 2010A, 5.000%, 10/01/29	10/20 at 100.00	BBB+	794,213
1,250	Vistancia Community Facilities District, Peoria, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2005, 5.750%, 7/15/24	7/15 at 100.00	A1	1,331,875
637	Watson Road Community Facilities District, Arizona, Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2005, 6.000%, 7/01/30	7/16 at 100.00	N/R	591,244
425	Westpark Community Facilities District, Buckeye, Arizona, General Obligation Tax Increment Bonds Series 2006, 5.250%, 7/15/31	7/16 at 100.00	N/R	376,631
21,018	Total Tax Obligation/Limited Transportation – 5.6% (4.0% of Total Investments)			20,474,756
300	Phoenix Civic Improvement Corporation, Arizona, Senior Lien Airport Revenue Bonds, Series 2002B: 5.750%, 7/01/16 – FGIC Insured (Alternative Minimum Tax)	7/12 at 100.00	AA–	301,062
2,300	5.250%, 7/01/21 – FGIC Insured (Alternative Minimum Tax)	7/12 at 100.00	AA–	2,304,508
2,600	Total Transportation U.S. Guaranteed – 7.7% (5.5% of Total Investments) (5)			2,605,570
1,575	Maricopa County Union High School District 210, Phoenix, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004A, 5.000%, 7/01/20 (Pre-refunded 7/01/14) – AGM Insured	7/14 at 100.00	AA (5)	1,724,294
270	Maricopa County, Arizona, Hospital Revenue Bonds, Sun Health Corporation, Series 2005, 5.000%,	4/15 at 100.00	N/R (5)	303,526

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	4/01/16 (Pre-refunded 4/01/15)			
	Oro Valley Municipal Property Corporation, Arizona, Senior Lien Water Revenue Bonds, Series	7/13 at 100.00	AA (5)	425,732
405	2003, 5.000%, 7/01/23 (Pre-refunded 7/01/13) – NCFG Insured			
	Phoenix Civic Improvement Corporation, Arizona, Junior Lien Water System Revenue Bonds, Series	7/12 at 100.00	AAA	1,104,367
1,100	2002, 5.000%, 7/01/18 (Pre-refunded 7/01/12) – FGIC Insured			
3,350	Total U.S. Guaranteed Utilities – 18.4% (13.2% of Total Investments)			3,557,919
	Apache County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Pollution Control Revenue Bonds,	3/22 at 100.00	BBB–	639,138
625	Tucson Electric Power Company, Series 20102A, 4.500%, 3/01/30			
	Maricopa County Pollution Control Corporation, Arizona, Pollution Control Revenue Refunding	6/20 at 100.00	A1	1,318,944
1,200	Bonds, Southern California Edison Company, Series 2000A, 5.000%, 6/01/35			
	Maricopa County Pollution Control Corporation, Arizona, Revenue Bonds,	11/12 at 100.00	BBB	1,256,100
1,250	Arizona Public Service Company – Palo Verde Project, Series 2002A, 5.050%, 5/01/29 – AMBAC Insured			
	Pima County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Revenue Bonds, Tucson Electric Power	1/15 at 100.00	BBB–	707,347
665	Company, Refunding Series 2008, 5.750%, 9/01/29			
	Pinal County Electrical District 3, Arizona, Electric System Revenue Bonds, Refunding Series	7/21 at 100.00	A	547,390
500	2011, 5.250%, 7/01/36			
	Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, Power Revenue Bonds, Series 2005RR, 5.000%, 7/01/26 –	7/15 at 100.00	BBB+	1,750,769
1,660	SYNCORA GTY Insured			
	Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Arizona, Electric System Revenue Bonds, Tender Option Bond Trust 09-9W, 17.850%, 1/01/38 (IF) (6)	1/18 at 100.00	Aa1	1,097,338
775	Salt Verde Financial Corporation, Arizona, Senior Gas Revenue Bonds, Citigroup Energy Inc	No Opt. Call	A–	1,192,156
1,165	Prepay Contract Obligations, Series 2007, 5.000%, 12/01/37			
7,840	Total Utilities			8,509,182

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	Water and Sewer – 8.6% (6.2% of Total Investments)			
	Glendale, Arizona, Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds, Refunding Series 2012, 5.000%,			
500	7/01/28	7/22 at 100.00	AA	584,310
	Goodyear, Arizona, Water and Sewer Revenue Obligations, Series 2010, 5.625%, 7/01/39			
955		7/20 at 100.00	A+	1,042,975
	Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewerage Authority, Revenue Bonds, Senior Lien Series 2008A,			
750		7/18 at 100.00	Baa2	801,240
	6.000%, 7/01/38			
	Surprise Municipal Property Corporation, Arizona, Wastewater System Revenue Bonds, Series 2007:			
425	4.700%, 4/01/22	4/14 at 100.00	A–	432,467
490	4.900%, 4/01/32	4/17 at 100.00	A–	498,036
	Yuma County Industrial Development Authority, Arizona, Exempt Revenue Bonds, Far West Water & Sewer Inc. Refunding, Series 2007A, 6.375%, 12/01/37 (Alternative Minimum Tax)			
615		12/17 at 100.00	N/R	606,162
3,735	Total Water and Sewer			3,965,190
\$ 62,573	Total Investments (cost \$60,662,412) – 139.3%			64,494,767
	MuniFund Term Preferred Shares, at Liquidation Value – (45.0)% (7)			(20,846,000)
	Other Assets Less Liabilities – 5.7%			2,650,235
	Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares – 100%			\$ 46,299,002

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that the Fund would receive upon selling an investment or transferring a liability in an orderly transaction to an independent buyer in the principal or most advantageous market for the investment. A three-tier hierarchy is used to maximize the use of observable market data and minimize the use of unobservable inputs and to establish classification of fair value measurements for disclosure purposes. Observable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Observable inputs are based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs are based on the best information available in the circumstances. The three-tier hierarchy of inputs is summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2 – Other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

Level 3 – Significant unobservable inputs (including management's assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodologies used for valuing securities are not an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The following is a summary of the Fund's fair value measurements as of May 31, 2012:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Long-Term Investments:				
Municipal Bonds	\$—	\$63,988,465	\$506,302	\$64,494,767

The following is a reconciliation of the Fund's Level 3 investments held at the beginning and end of the measurement period:

	Level 3 Municipal Bonds
Balance at the beginning of period	\$540,851
Gains (losses):	
Net realized gains (losses)	—
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(34,549)
Purchases at cost	—
Sales at proceeds	—
Net discounts (premiums)	—
Transfers in to	—
Transfers out of	—
Balance at the end of period	\$506,302

During the period ended May 31, 2012, the Fund recognized no transfers to or from Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3.

Income Tax Information

The following information is presented on an income tax basis. Differences between amounts for financial statement and federal income tax purposes are primarily due to timing differences in recognizing taxable market discount, timing differences in recognizing certain gains and losses on investment transactions and the treatment of investments in inverse floating rate securities reflected as financing transactions, if any. To the extent that differences arise that are permanent in nature, such amounts are reclassified within the capital accounts on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities presented in the annual report, based on their federal tax basis treatment; temporary differences do not require reclassification. Temporary and permanent differences do not impact the net asset value of the Fund.

At May 31, 2012, the cost of investments was \$60,611,076.

Gross unrealized appreciation and gross unrealized depreciation of investments at May 31, 2012, were as follows:

Gross unrealized:	
Appreciation	\$4,374,014
Depreciation	(490,323)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	\$3,883,691

- (1) All percentages shown in the Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets applicable to Common shares unless otherwise noted.
 - (2) Optional Call Provisions: Dates (month and year) and prices of the earliest optional call or redemption. There may be other call provisions at varying prices at later dates. Certain mortgage-backed securities may be subject to periodic principal paydowns.
 - (3) Ratings: Using the highest of Standard & Poor's Group ("Standard & Poor's"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or Fitch, Inc. ("Fitch") rating. Ratings below BBB by Standard & Poor's, Baa by Moody's or BBB by Fitch are considered to be below investment grade. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by any of these national rating agencies.
 - (4) Investment valued at fair value using methods determined in good faith by, or at the discretion of, the Board of Trustees. For fair value measurement disclosure purposes, investment categorized as Level 3.
 - (5) Backed by an escrow or trust containing sufficient U.S. Government or U.S. Government agency securities, which ensure the timely payment of principal and interest. Certain bonds backed by U.S. Government or agency securities are regarded as having an implied rating equal to the rating of such securities.
 - (6) Investment, or portion of investment, has been pledged to collateralize the net payment obligations for investments in inverse floating rate transactions.
 - (7) MuniFund Term Preferred Shares, at Liquidation Value as a percentage of Total Investments is 32.3%.
N/R Not rated.
- WI/DD Purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis.
(IF) Inverse floating rate investment.

Item 2. Controls and Procedures.

- a. The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of the controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rule 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).

- b. There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d)) that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 3. Exhibits.

File as exhibits as part of this Form a separate certification for each principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the registrant as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-2(a)), exactly as set forth below: See EX-99 CERT attached hereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) Nuveen Arizona Dividend Advantage Municipal Fund 3

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Kevin J. McCarthy
Kevin J. McCarthy
Vice President and Secretary

Date: July 30, 2012

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Gifford R. Zimmerman
Gifford R. Zimmerman
Chief Administrative Officer (principal executive officer)

Date: July 30, 2012

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Stephen D. Foy
Stephen D. Foy
Vice President and Controller (principal financial officer)

Date: July 30, 2012