

Office of the Pinal County Attorney



Accomplishments for FY 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011)

The Pinal County Attorney's Office (PCAO) successfully navigated another year of budgetary challenges. We continue to excel doing more with less.

Criminal Division

The Criminal Division prosecutes all felonies committed in Pinal County and misdemeanors in Justice Courts. We prosecuted murder, assault, drug sales, burglary, theft, kidnapping, rape and armed robbery. Our prosecutors charged 17 percent more adult felonies in the Pinal County Superior Court from the prior year and 25 percent more felonies since 2008. The significant increases were in violent crimes by 32 percent; drug crimes by 43 percent; auto theft by 28 percent; and crimes of domestic violence by 38 percent. In this past fiscal year, we received **3,051** cases for potential felony prosecution and charged **2,386** cases; **820** were indicted by the grand jury and **1,566** were referred to the Early Disposition Court (EDC) our newest tool. This court was a great success. EDC resolved almost half of the 1,566 cases filled eliminating hundreds of cases from our backlog.

The Family Advocacy Center (FAC) assists with the investigation of physical and sexual child abuse. We conducted 142 forensic interviews in cases involving allegations of sex and physical abuse crimes against children.

Community Services

Victims of felonies and many domestic violence misdemeanors in Pinal County are served by the Community Services Division of our office. This Division is responsible for victim notification, victim advocacy, victim compensation, adult diversion and the Bad Check Program.

We notified victims of **44,071** specific court and legal proceedings during the past fiscal year. In addition, PCAO **victim advocates** provided 26,957 individual services to victims of crime.

The **Victim Compensation** board reviewed **95** new claimant applications and awarded a total of **\$106,883** in direct payments or reimbursements for lost income or for expenses of medical, mental health and funeral costs to victims.

Adult diversion accepted **162** new cases in the past fiscal year and collected a total of **\$11,937.80** in restitution for victims. Diversion requires that the offender make full restitution to victims and admit guilt. If the defendant completes the diversion successfully then the case may be dismissed. If not, the case is returned to the Criminal Division for prosecution.

Bad Check collections received **791** complaints against bad check writers and collected **\$104,908.89** in restitution for victims of bad check writers.

Child Support

The Pinal County Attorney's Office Child Support Division collected a record **\$22,612,340** for Pinal County families. This was a **4.6%** increase over the previous fiscal year. We are the most successful child support service in the state, having fulfilled all federal and state requirements. Most other counties rely on the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Attorney General to collect child support. PCAO and four other counties believe it is more effective to do it locally.

We served over **11,000** single parents and grandparents raising their grandchildren. We hold parents who have been ordered to pay child support accountable for raising their children. Child support payments minimize welfare to single parent families. This fiscal year we established **731** new child and medical support orders and established paternity for **585** children.

Civil Division

PCAO provides legal advice to all elected county officials, county departments, commissions, committees, school governing boards, and other special taxing districts, such as fire districts. We also represent the county in civil litigation cases including financial claims and lawsuits.

We file criminal forfeiture cases for assets used in criminal activity on behalf of all Pinal County municipal police departments, the Sheriff's Office and the Arizona Department of Public Safety. In this fiscal year we concluded **270** forfeiture cases.

We represent the County Assessor's office in all property tax appeal matters filed in tax court. We also represent the Treasurer in bankruptcy proceedings when the county has an interest.

This year we also filed **188** mental health cases in court to ensure the safety of the community and the protection of the civil rights of individuals with mental health problems.

PCAO provided legal services to **17** school districts and 3 schools operated by the Pinal County School Superintendent.

Community Outreach

PCAO works with community groups and provides support for crime prevention efforts throughout the county. We participated in over **39** events and provided informational material including, but not limited to, identity theft, substance abuse, car theft/prevention, legal issues of senior citizens, child abuse and domestic violence. In addition, representatives from the office

attended **119** community meetings for anti-substance abuse councils, TRIAD (serving seniors), social service networks and DV coalitions.

PCAO contributed over **\$133,000** in RICO (Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization) funds to **49** different community organizations and programs to support the youth and community programs which provide alternatives to drugs and gang involvement.

Seventy six volunteers donated **1,358.50** volunteer hours to the Pinal County Attorney's Office Senior Resource Center and TRIADs.

PCAO continues to promote **Prescription Drug Turn-Ins** with multiple law enforcement sponsors. As a result, over **172.87** pounds of prescription drugs were collected for destruction.

Administrative Division

All the Divisions of the Pinal County Attorney's Office are supported by the Administrative Division. This Division is responsible for the financial administration of the office, computer support and training, supplies, equipment, payroll, human resources, maintenance of records from criminal and civil cases and grants administration.