



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Retired Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Provides Training to Costa Rican Judges and Prosecutors

PHOENIX – Over two dozen Costa Rican judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and “judicial police”, received an intensive education in the use of DNA and forensic science evidence for court testimony, thanks to a US Department of State training program that sent one of Arizona’s foremost forensic science and law experts to lead the training. Retired Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Ron Reinstein, who is currently a consultant for the Arizona Supreme Court, trained the Costa Rican delegation over four and a half days in late October.

Judge Ron Reinstein is nationally-recognized for his expertise in the area of forensic science and the law and well known for his experience in teaching legal and judicial professionals. A team of nationally-renowned forensic experts also participated with Judge Reinstein.

The training is the first program resulting from a May 2013 partnership between the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts (Arizona AOC), to help promote the rule of law overseas.

“It was very rewarding to have a group of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and forensic scientists in the same room, learning together in an area most are unfamiliar with, and have them interested, enthusiastic, and engaged for an entire week,” said Judge Reinstein.

The training included topics such as using DNA to prosecute sexual assault and cold cases, familial DNA searches, eyewitness identification issues, and even Arizona’s own Ray Krone case, a man wrongfully convicted and freed through DNA evidence.

“The participants understood how limited their DNA database is and how expansion of the database could work to solve cases quicker, thus freeing the innocent and convicting the guilty in a much more expeditious manner than current practice,” said Judge Reinstein about the training.

Judge Reinstein is currently the chair of the Arizona Supreme Court Commission on Victims in the Courts and the Arizona Attorney General’s Forensic Science Advisory Committee, as well as chair of the Arizona Supreme Court Capital Oversight Committee and consultant to many national organizations in the areas of law and forensic science.

Arizona AOC is one of the 60 state and local criminal justice agencies across the United States that work with INL on its foreign assistance programs.

Contact INL-PAPD@state.gov for more information.

For information about the court system throughout Arizona, visit www.azcourts.gov.

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