



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARIZONA SUPREME COURT STAFF ATTORNEY EARNS 2015 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

PHOENIX – Patience Huntwork, Staff Attorney for the Arizona Supreme Court was honored by the Horace Rumpole Inn of Court with their 2015 Citizen of the Year Award, recognizing her efforts to help establish the Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court as well as her many other community activities.

Through Patience’s leadership and commitment, the Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court (MCRHC) held its first docket in 2006 and today the MCRHC celebrates its successful 10-year anniversary.

In 2012, homeless court became recognized across the nation, resulting in Arizona Senate Bill 1152, authorizing homeless courts in every county of Arizona, largely due to Patience’s model and effort. Under that legislation, the new Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court was organized, encompassing all 48 limited jurisdiction courts in Maricopa County. Since the expanded county-wide homeless court held its first docket in January, 2013, the Court has resolved over 1,100 cases for over 500 defendants who completed over 172,000 hours of Community Restitution and satisfied over \$715,000 worth of court obligations. From only seven approved community provider programs, there are now more than 60 provider referral programs working with the homeless court.

In the nomination form, Patience is described as *selfless, passionate, tireless and fearless in the defense of the right, the fair, and the humane.*

Chief Justice Scott Bales called her award a “well-deserved honor and admirable example of community engagement.”

Patience is a graduate of Yale Law School, a wife and mother of two accomplished children, and a proud grandmother of two.

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More about Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court: MCRHC's goal is to resolve outstanding minor misdemeanor, victimless offenses and warrants for homeless individuals who demonstrate commitment to end their homelessness. MCRHC combines punishment with treatment and services in rigorous supervised rehabilitation programs which typically exceed the sentencing requirements of similarly convicted defendants adjudicated in the normal court process.

To see a list of providers and success stories please visit:

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/HomelessCourt/index.asp>