

# NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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October 24, 2016

## **Improvements to Juvenile Justice Earns Award from Children's Action Alliance**

PHOENIX – The Juvenile Justice Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court received the *Jacque Steiner Public Leadership Award* from the Children's Action Alliance at an event on October 21. The Supreme Court, through the Superior Courts across the state have enacted a series of important reforms affecting the way the courts handle juveniles who find themselves in legal trouble.

Modern science, statistical evidence, and behavioral studies show that the best place to take care of a delinquent or incorrigible child is within their community, not behind bars. A statewide initiative called the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative seeks to provide community support services to juveniles as an alternative to detention for youth who do not present a risk to public safety.

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative provides targeted and equitable treatment from the courts to help improve outcomes for children and families. The goal is to protect public safety while keeping youth in the least restrictive environment.

“Every member of our state's juvenile justice system earned this award by working tirelessly to improve the services provided to families in Arizona,” said Joe Kelroy, the Supreme Court's Director of Juvenile Justice Services. “They are the true champions of this work and we are sincerely grateful to accept Jacque Steiner Public Leadership Award on their behalf.”

Each year the Children's Action Alliance honors outstanding leaders for children and families with three distinguished awards: the *Champion for Children*, the *Horace Steele Child Advocacy Award*, and the *Jacque Steiner Public Leadership Award for Children*.

The *Jacque Steiner Public Leadership Award for Children*, in memory of the late Senator and Arizona women's hall of fame inductee Jacque Steiner, is presented “to a public official who, through tenacious and courageous leadership, improves the lives and life chances of Arizona's children,” according to the Children's Action Alliance website.