

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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September 11, 2017

State Adult Probation Services Director Earns National Leadership Award

PHOENIX – Arizona Adult Probation Services Director Kathy Waters last week received the prestigious George Keiser Award for Exceptional Leadership from the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE). Ms. Waters has more than 33 years of criminal justice experience. In 2001, she became Division Director of Adult Probation Services for the Arizona Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Courts. Ms. Waters is a leader and mentor for probation executives across the nation through peer collaborations, speaking engagements, and training programs.

Specific achievements that helped Ms. Waters earn this award include:

- Developed Arizona Code of Judicial Administration code sections implementing evidence-based practices for the supervision of adult offenders.
- Successfully implemented evidence-based practices for adult offenders in all 15 counties.
- Acquired and managed the technical assistance of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation PSA (Pretrial Assessment) for five pilot sites in the state, which eventually led to the statewide technical assistance for the remaining counties.
- Developed and in the process of implementing evidence-based pretrial statewide.
- Chairing an officer safety committee, which led to the development and adoption of the statewide Officer Safety Program for adult and juvenile probation officers.
- Successfully rolled out the Adult Probation Enterprise Tracking System (APETS) to all of Arizona's 15 counties.

The award is named for the former director of the Iowa Department of Corrections who later served as Chief of the Prisons and Community Corrections Divisions at the National Institute of Corrections in Washington, DC.

In a letter to Ms. Waters acknowledging this achievement, Mr. Keiser wrote: *“I know you don’t want to hear just how significant your contributions have been over the years, or about the number of lives you have touched. But you have come a long way from that Oklahoma County where I first met you. While concepts like EBP [evidence-based practices] can be designed and promoted by organizations like NIC [National Institute of Corrections], it requires practitioners like yourself to implement and refine their application if they are to become industry standard.”*

Ms. Waters served as an instructor in Criminal Justice at Northeastern State University from 1983 until 1988. Currently, she serves as a consultant to the National Institute of Corrections and an auditor with the American Correctional Association. She is a past president of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). In 2009, Ms. Waters was the recipient of the APPA Walter Dunbar Award for service and contributions to the organization and field. She has been an active member of the American Correctional Association since 1988. She is a charter member of the Association of Women Executives in Corrections, a Past President and currently serves as the Chair of the National Voice Committee for AWEC. In 2015, she received the Supreme Court’s Strategic Agenda Award for her efforts in implementing evidence-based pretrial services in Arizona. A year later, the Arizona Supreme Court recognized her professional contributions with the 2016 Administration of Justice Award.

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