



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Advances Judicial Education

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court received a \$38,530 grant from the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety that will be used to enhance training for judges on traffic laws, case management and DUI. The grant also makes it possible to send judicial trainers to expand their skills and knowledge about traffic matters by attending a national judicial education conference.

The judicial training will reach justice courts and city court judges who collectively adjudicate 1.5 million traffic charges annually – including more than 62,000 DUI charges. More than 100 hearing officers and judges will receive instruction in areas of DUI trial flow, distracted driving, civil & criminal traffic issues, criminal disposition reporting, forensic evidence in DUI cases, time standards & calendar management, evidence & objections, and commercial driver licenses.

Goal four of the Arizona judicial branch strategic agenda *Advancing Justice Together: Courts & Communities* is *Enhancing Professionalism within Arizona's Courts*. This goal states "The judicial branch must continue the professional development of new and veteran judges to ensure they adhere to the highest standards of competence, conduct, integrity, professionalism, and accountability." Grant-funded educational sessions will yield additional ongoing benefits as staff and judges in Arizona courts process DUI and traffic cases more efficiently and effectively.

Arizona is the 6th largest state in the U.S. by geographical size and has more than 29,000 miles of roadways. Many of Arizona's roads reach rural and distant areas of the state, which fall into the jurisdiction of Arizona's local courts. Funding from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety allow many judges from rural courts or those outside the Phoenix area to attend this valuable training.

For more information about Arizona's judicial branch, visit www.azcourts.gov.