

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Commission on Victims in the Courts Honored by Attorney General

PHOENIX – Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich celebrated National Crime Victims’ Rights Week by recognizing individuals and groups of individuals who have advanced the rights of crime victims. The Arizona Supreme Court’s Commission on Victims in the Courts (COVIC) received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award for Public Policy. COVIC was nominated for the award by Retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor.

COVIC was formed in 2006 under Chief Justice McGregor’s leadership. The Commission is made up of broad cross-section of people engaged with victims and the courts. Members include prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, probation officials, a forensic nurse, victims, victim advocates, law enforcement, and public members.

COVIC has “proposed and seen successfully adopted changes to court rules involving victim identification privacy and the appropriate representation of children in dependency action,” Justice McGregor wrote in her nomination. Some specific achievements of COVIC include:

- COVIC website with links to a variety of state and national victim assistance resources
- Supported Supreme Court's plan to encourage electronic notification to crime victims
 - Website provides link to register for Superior Court Case Notification System
 - Recommended Appellate Court Notification System that provides parties advance notice of the release date for an opinion
- Enhanced new judge orientation with victim rights training for all new general- and limited-jurisdiction judges
- Provides victim rights training at three judicial staff education conferences annually

- Makes other recommendations that preserve victims' constitutional rights and promotes the administration of justice

For a more detailed list of activities and achievements by COVIC, visit the [Victims' Rights Week](#) website.

Several partner agencies and offices collaborated on the event honoring the award recipients. They included: The Office of Governor Douglas Ducey; the Arizona Attorney General's Office; the Maricopa County Attorney's Office; the Arizona Department of Corrections, and the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.

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