

Topical articles from the Arizona Superior Court in Pima County *Minute Entry*, 2016 Winter Issue

♦ This article highlights Pima County’s proposal submission for Phase II of the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety & Justice Challenge.

## MacArthur Safety & Justice Challenge

Pima County submitted its proposal for Phase II of the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety & Justice Challenge on January 6th, 2016. The proposal is the culmination of six months of extensive collaborative meetings and planning activities among criminal justice and community partners, including the Pima County Attorney’s office, Pima County Sheriff’s Department, and the University of Arizona, to name just a few.

The goal is to decrease the jail population by 20% over the next three years and reduce racial and ethnic disparities by making bold and innovative changes throughout the justice system. Three primary strategies were developed, which include:

- 1) Implementation of court system innovations and treatment alternatives which will extend evidence-based risk screening to all defendants in Pima County; addition of a mental health/substance abuse screening prior to Initial Appearance; and expansion of pretrial services supervision capacity.
- 2) Reduction of incidences of failures to appear in court by executing reminder systems; offering more accessibility to the court through periodic

weekend warrant court solutions; and collaborating with tribal justice partners.

- 3) Using home detention/electronic monitoring for individuals sentenced to the jail for felonies, but work released during the day.

Additionally, strategies designed to support and evaluate the success of the interventions have been developed. Community advisory groups, formed during the planning stage, will continue to be active in the implementation phase, providing a way to assure that the perspectives of the individuals, families and organizations impacted by incarceration are included in criminal justice reform.



Pima County was one of only 20 jurisdictions nationwide selected to be a planning participant (Phase I) of the Safety & Justice Challenge.

Ten of these 20 sites will be selected for Phase II. If Pima County is not selected as a Phase II site, technical assistance will still be provided by the Foundation to aid in enacting reform. Additionally, Pima County will continue to participate in the Challenge Network, which will allow us to learn from and share with the other 19 sites and their diverse experiences and knowledge.

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♦ This article features Timothy Schnacke’s presentation at the Arizona Pretrial Justice Seminar.

## Pretrial Services Hosts National Experts

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the court’s Pretrial Services division hosted an Arizona Pretrial Justice Seminar. Nearly 50 leaders from statewide pretrial agencies and divisions convened at The Lodge on the Desert, along with court administrators, judges, representatives from public defense services, probation chiefs and the AOC staff.

Arizona was fortunate to host two field experts in Pretrial Justice, Timothy R. Schnacke and Spurgeon Kennedy. Mr. Schnacke is the Executive Director of the Center for Legal and Evidence-Based Practices, a



Tim Schnacke presents at a brownbag event for judges

Colorado non-profit. He has worked as a consultant to the Bail Subcommittee of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, and

served as a pretrial faculty member for the National Institute of Corrections, training new pretrial executives. Tim has also written National Institute of Corrections (NIC) publications, “Fundamentals of Bail” and “Money as a Criminal Justice Stakeholder,” which cover the foundational aspects of legal and evidence-based pretrial practices.

Mr. Kennedy is the Director of the Office of Strategic Development of the Washington D.C. Pretrial Services Agency and is the Vice-President of the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies. Spurgeon, or “Kenny,” as he is known in the pretrial field, is also a pretrial faculty member for the NIC, and he has worked for many years on defining the elements of a high functioning pretrial agency. In addition to their work with Arizona stakeholders, they offered pretrial justice and bail training to Pima County’s Pretrial Services Division, local judges and Adult Probation staff.