

Refreshments were provided, and nearly 100 people attended this outdoor event in Cottonwood — excellent attendance considering that Cottonwood is a fairly small community. Chief Probation Officer John Morris, Senior Probation Officer Paul Ventura offered opening remarks, and Judge Michael Bluff gave a heartfelt speech. Then each officer spoke about their probationer's progress and brought the individual up to receive a congratulatory certificate.

A committee of nine probation officers, legal secretaries, and support staff planned and organized the first annual event.

#### Goal 5: Improving Communications and Community Participation

##### *Community Advisory Boards, Mohave County Probation*

Mohave County decentralized its Community Advisory Boards (CABs) to represent the county's three main population centers. Each CAB was given funding to help with pro-social activities for youth.

- ◆ Kingman's CAB granted funds for an educational and inspirational camp for girls in grades 3-7; a Junior Police Academy through Kingman PD; and Kingman High School's Lego Robotics Club.
- ◆ Bullhead City's CAB purchased a Gaga ball pit (similar to dodge ball but played with a soft foam ball in an octagonal pit) and contracted with a construction firm to build it at Mohave Valley Junior High.
- ◆ Lake Havasu City's CAB sent two officers to obtain NOVA certification. NOVA's mission is "Nurturing youth to seek out positive Opportunities, internalize good Values, and to accept Accountability for their choices in life."

These programs will pay lasting dividends for the youth of Mohave County by involving community partners to engage youth in positive social, sports, and educational activities within their local areas.

Learn more about this year's nominees. Many inspiring, innovative programs and projects are featured at [www.azcourts.gov/awards](http://www.azcourts.gov/awards).

**Special thanks to the Judicial Branch Strategic Agenda Awards Committee members who carefully evaluated each award entry before selecting these winners. This is a subcommittee of the Arizona Judicial Council. Committee members include:**

- ◆ *Chairman Michael Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court, Maricopa County*
- ◆ *Presiding Judge Charles Gurtler, Superior Court in Mohave County*
- ◆ *Chief Judge Samuel Thumma, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One*
- ◆ *Presiding Justice of the Peace Dorothy Little, Payson Regional Courts*
- ◆ *Presiding Judge Antonio Riojas, Jr., Tucson Municipal Court*
- ◆ *Ken Bennett, Public Member, Arizona Judicial Council*
- ◆ *Lea Marquez-Peterson, Public Member, Arizona Judicial Council*



## 2017 Strategic Agenda Awards

Presented  
Thursday, October 12, 2017

High Country Conference Center  
201 West Butler Avenue  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Strategic Agenda  
Awards Luncheon  
2017**

**Welcome**

*Chief Justice Scott  
Bales*

**Appreciation to  
Awards Committee  
Members**

*Chief Justice Scott  
Bales*

**Strategic Agenda  
Awards**

**Presented by  
Michael Jeanes,  
Committee  
Chairman, and  
Chief Judge Samuel  
Thumma**

**Goal 1: Promoting Access to Justice**

*Night Warrant Resolution Court, Pima County Justice Courts*

Launched in October 2016, this program expands access to justice for people with other work or personal obligations during normal court operating hours. Night Warrant Resolution Court is part of Pima County's Consolidated Justice Court's plan to execute recommendations from the *Justice for All* report. Judge Keith Bee presides over monthly sessions during which the court is open until 7:00 pm.

Individuals can resolve outstanding warrants or other pending matters, and customer service window clerks are available during evening hours. They assist with payment plans, extensions, and other common civil traffic issues. A civil traffic hearing officer is also available for more complex matters.

Night court is possible with the assistance of the Pima County Attorney's Office and the Office of Court Appointed Counsel. They attend these events and offer legal counsel or plea offers on certain cases.

The Pima County Consolidated Justice Courts also offer periodic Saturday Warrant Resolution Court sessions. Here are the results of the combined night and weekend sessions:

- ◆ 2,533 customers served at window,
- ◆ 1,447 hearings held,
- ◆ 714 driver's license defaults lifted, and
- ◆ 667 warrants quashed.

**Goal 2: Protecting Children, Families, and Communities**

*Dependency Alternative Program, Superior Court in Pima County*

In response to a surge in dependency cases in recent years, Pima County created a program to prevent dependency actions when an alternative legal arrangement can provide safety and stability for the children and family. It protects children while safely diverting cases from dependency, which conserves time, money, and resources.

A collaborative committee including DCS, attorneys, the AG's Office, mediators, court-appointed counsel, clerk's office staff, and judges worked together to establish diversion protocols.

This collaboration led to accelerated access by parents or families to legal alternatives such as Title 14 minor guardianships, *in loco parentis* orders, and establishment or modification of parenting time

orders. Doing so allows the court to dismiss private dependencies before the preliminary protective hearing.

Families have an opportunity to make informed decisions, have input on what is in the best interest of their child, and to communicate and reach consensus on the child's safety needs.

- ◆ In FY 2016, 55% of all petitions filed by self-represented litigants were referred through the Dependency Alternative Program (DAP).
- ◆ A DAP case lasts an average of seven days from referral versus a dependency case that lasts an average of 682 days if dismissed post-adjudication and 141 days if dismissed pre-adjudication.
- ◆ 163 children have avoided entering DCS custody and the ensuing lengthy legal process.

The second goal is to keep these families out of the dependency system for at least one year. For FY 2016, 97.4% of DAP children remained out of the dependency system.

**Goal 3: Improving Court Processes to Better Serve the Public**

*Compliance Assistance Program, Phoenix Municipal Court*

In 2015, the US Department of Justice released a report on the Ferguson Police Department that became a catalyst for courts to examine their collection and enforcement actions. The Phoenix Municipal Court responded by developing a program that helps residents with qualifying cases to make affordable payments, reduce outstanding collection fees, and potentially restore their driving privileges.

The Compliance Assistance Program (CAP) allows people with delinquent balances on civil traffic and parking charges to make a down payment and begin monthly installments based on their specific financial situation — without having to see a judge. After entering a payment program, Arizona MVD is notified that the person is in compliance with their unpaid civil traffic fines and fees. The resident can then contact MVD to pursue reinstatement of driving privileges.

An ASU study revealed increased mobility to care for family, increased job opportunities as a result of license reinstatement, and estimated an overall increase in GDP of \$149.6 million.

**Goal 4: Enhancing Professionalism within Arizona's Courts**

*Celebration of Success, Yavapai County Probation*

In an effort to recognize excellence in community supervision, Yavapai County's Adult Probation Department launched a Celebration of Success. Each probation officer nominated a client who had done exceptionally well on probation. Officers gave the client a "golden ticket" to the celebration event, which honored the work they did together to facilitate a change in the client's life. Community stakeholders, judges, elected officials, AOC staff, law enforcement, and treatment providers were invited to participate.