

Doing More With Less

MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
2009 ANNUAL REPORT



The State of Arizona and particularly Maricopa County are in a serious struggle this year to cope with tremendous reductions in revenue from every traditional source. At the same time, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is mandated to "conduct, on behalf of the state, all prosecutions for public offenses" – and last year that amounted to more than 40,000 cases. The resources needed to efficiently and effectively ensure that justice is appropriately served in all these cases are tremendous. So it becomes difficult to decide how we can meet our statutory obligations at the lowest cost possible and still maintain the highest standards for defendant accountability.

Although crime rates, both in Maricopa County and nationwide have continued to drop, this hasn't necessarily resulted in a caseload slowdown for the 300 dedicated Deputy County Attorneys in this office. Incapacitation as a basic crime prevention technique is clearly working and crime reduction through increased incarceration has worked appropriately ... it remains our strongest response for repeat and violent offenders.

Despite these economic challenges, the office has implemented successful initiatives that will reduce costs, not only for us, but for the entire Maricopa County criminal justice system this year. By working collaboratively with our justice partners to implement streamlined and cost-effective processes like eliminating initial pre-trial conference courts and out-of-state travel, we can meet our public safety obligations while still operating within our means.

MCAO Selected Adult Filings FY2009	
Offense Type	Defendants
<i>Agg. Assault</i>	2,970
<i>Arson</i>	40
<i>Burglary</i>	2,347
<i>Child Molestation</i>	343
<i>DUI</i>	2,867
<i>Drug Related</i>	15,851
<i>Homicide</i>	274
<i>Robbery</i>	1,313
<i>Sexual Assault</i>	112
<i>Theft</i>	1,112
<i>Vehicular Theft</i>	1,114
TOTAL	28,343

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tres Rios	1
Illegal Immigration.....	2
Elder Abuse Cases	3
Serial Shooters	5
Death Penalty.....	6
Budget Strategies	7
Policy Changes.....	8
Legislative Action 2009	10
Community Efforts	11
Courthouse Dogs Program.....	13
Significant Cases	15
Executive Biographies.....	19
Contact Information	21

TRES RIOS

County Attorney Thomas and state and local law enforcement officials joined forces to prosecute polluters and take other measures to restore the endangered Tres Rios Area to ecological health. After consulting with state and local law enforcement leaders, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) prepared a written protocol to ensure investigation and prosecution of illegal dumping, trespassing and other crimes in the Tres Rios Refuge. Joining Thomas in signing this protocol were State Game and Fish Director Larry Voyles, Avondale Police Chief Kevin Kotsur, and Goodyear Police Chief Mark Brown.



A hidden jewel in the Valley that is a reminder of Arizona's past, Tres Rios is the confluence of the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria Rivers in the West Valley. This refuge is home to cottonwood, willow, salt cedar, seep willow and other plants that thrive in riparian areas. Animals such as the desert tortoise, hawks, osprey, peregrine falcons, beavers, bobcats and javelina make their homes in this area. Sadly, Tres Rios has become a dumping ground for transients, smugglers of drugs and humans and other criminal offenders.

They leave behind trash that has choked the riparian habitat, including tires, abandoned cars, and cattle carcasses. In addition, illegal fishing, poaching and weapons violations are commonplace. The protocol coordinates law enforcement efforts to clean up the area and sends a message that the County Attorney will prosecute poachers, polluters and vandals.

The plan includes stepped up patrols, investigating criminal activity in the area, specialized prosecution dealing with polluters, community cleanups and new signage alerting the public to the rules as well as how to report polluters. The first stage of this cleanup effort will be targeting the source of the problem: polluters, trespassers, illegal hunters and fishers and criminals who leave behind gang graffiti or steal trees. Prosecutors will aggressively pursue those who threaten law enforcement officers or other visitors to the area, which becomes dangerous after dark. The MCAO worked with Game and Fish, local police and community organizations for a cleanup effort in the spring.



ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

MCAO was the first prosecuting agency to file a civil action against an Arizona business under the Legal Arizona Workers Act (LAWA). The MCAO was a primary supporter of the LAWA, which went into effect on January 1, 2008. This law makes it possible for businesses to face a civil lawsuit to suspend or revoke business licenses if they knowingly employ an illegal immigrant after January 1, 2008. Additionally, the law makes it a crime for an illegal immigrant to use false documentation to obtain employment or for an employer to knowingly accept false identity from an illegal immigrant.

The first civil action was filed in November 2009, against the Scottsdale Art Factory. The civil action alleges the Scottsdale Art Factory's manager allegedly hired illegal labor deliberately by using a "subcontractor" which was in reality an employee who was not authorized to work in the United States. In February 2009, the MCAO accused eight employees at the Scottsdale Art Factory of using false documents to obtain employment. The civil action is still pending.

County Attorney Thomas stated, "This first employer-sanctions case is the capstone on our office's efforts to stop illegal immigration. The idea that state and local law enforcement can successfully and legally combat illegal immigration has moved from a provocative theory a few years ago to reality today."

A second civil action was filed in December 2009, against Waterworld, a Valley water park. The civil complaint focused on a specific incident at Waterworld involving the employment of a 36-year-old woman who was hired even though the false identity she was using placed her age at 62. A settlement was reached resulting in the suspension of Waterworld's business license for 10 days and placing the water park on three years' probation. As part of the settlement, Waterworld's affiliate business Golfland will also join an enhanced compliance program which will require Golfland to use the E-Verify system to verify the accuracy of all employee social security numbers and provide proof that all employees are legally employed.

Thomas stated, "This case marks the first time a business license has been suspended under the Legal Arizona Workers Act, and shows the law can be enforced fairly and effectively. We are especially pleased that the affiliate company of Waterworld will participate in E-verify as a result of this agreement."



Vicki Kratovil, Special Crimes Bureau Chief, has been with the MCAO for more than 22 years. The

Special Crimes Bureau works closely with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department to investigate and prosecute the use of false documentation to obtain employment.

ELDER ABUSE CASES

All residents of Maricopa County are affected by crime, whether directly or indirectly. Many criminals target their victims at random, but all too often they target the most vulnerable among us. Arizona's elderly population, along with other vulnerable adults, is specifically targeted by some of the most unscrupulous criminals. These offenders take advantage of this valued segment of society for a variety of reasons. Some of these adults have diminished capacity to protect themselves or their assets, some are in a unique position of trust and some may be less aware of specific tactics used by criminals. Tragically, domestic violence among this vulnerable population is more prevalent than many people might suspect.



Maryann McKessy, Fraud and Identity Theft Enforcement Bureau Chief, has been



prosecuting identity thieves for more than 6 years. "This Bureau and our prosecutors work hard to ensure that our older Arizonans live with dignity and independence, free from abuse and exploitation."

Elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. It can constitute physical, emotional or sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect and abandonment. Elders over the age of 50 represent 30% of the population in our nation; with nearly 700,000 residents in Arizona aged 65 years and older. In fact, Arizona's 60+ population is expected to triple in size from approximately 875,000 to slightly less than 3 million by 2050. (The Coming Age, a Research Report, May 2002)

Defendant Benjamin Baker obtained identifying information from his 78-year-old grandmother

when he prepared and filed her taxes for her. He used this information to apply for an American Express credit card and a PayPal credit account. As soon as the accounts were approved, Baker had cards issued to himself and also his domestic partner. Together the two charged over \$6,000 before the accounts were frozen because of



ELDER ABUSE CASES

lack of payment. The elderly victim was eventually contacted by law enforcement officers who were attempting to settle the debt. Baker had three prior felony convictions, all for fraud-related crimes and he had previously spent three years in the Indiana Department of Corrections. The victim's age and deteriorating health made it difficult for her to travel to Arizona for the trial. Despite this issue, Baker pled guilty and was sentenced to 2.25 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections.

In February 2009, Sylvia Cubit was charged with stealing checkbooks and credit cards, primarily from elderly patients, as she worked as a phlebotomist at a Valley hospital. When police searched her home, they found many of the stolen items, as well as various items she had purchased (a plasma TV, a video game system and Visa gift cards) using the victim's credit cards. Cubit pled guilty and was sentenced to 39 months in the Arizona Department of Corrections and will be on supervised probation for four years upon her release.



Defendant Sharien Charmack preyed on elderly victims by impersonating a nurse. She would approach unaccompanied elderly males in grocery store parking lots and convince them of her nursing capabilities. Charmack would then accompany the victims to their homes and pretend to check on the medications in the house. Then she would steal medicine, cash and credit cards. Charmack eventually pled guilty to three counts of criminal impersonation, one count of forgery and one count of burglary in the second degree. These counts were successfully spread over multiple cases and different offenses. Charmack received an aggravated term of 4.75 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections and a concurrent 2.5 years for forgery in addition to three years of supervised probation following her release. The Judge cited several aggravating factors in the sentencing decision: emotional harm to multiple victims, all the victims were over 65 years old, the presence of an occasional accomplice and “lying in wait” in parking lots looking for victims.

SERIAL SHOOTERS

Two serial shooters terrorized the Valley during 2005 and 2006. Defendants Dale Hausner and Sam Dieteman were arrested for randomly shooting at people and animals, in some cases killing them and in other cases leaving them severely wounded. County Attorney Thomas received successful verdicts in these cases. On March 13, 2009, a jury convicted Hausner on 80 of 87 charges in connection with the investigation. Six of the verdicts were for murder



charges and on March 27, 2009, the jury decided in favor of the death penalty for Hausner. In addition to a jury giving Hausner six death sentences, the Judge also sentenced him to two consecutive life sentences plus 364.75 years in prison for an additional 74 non-capital offenses.

The guilt phase of Hausner's trial lasted almost six months and jurors heard from more than 100 witnesses for the prosecution.

Co-defendant Sam Dieteman pled guilty to two of the murders attributed to the serial shooters' investigation. Dietman, who testified against Hausner, was sentenced by the jury to life in prison. Veteran prosecutors Vince Imbordino and Laura Reckart prosecuted the case. Thomas stated, "This conviction and sentencing are the result of the tireless work done by Phoenix Police, the law enforcement task force assembled to investigate the crimes and our prosecution team. These sentences guarantee that Dale Hausner and Sam Dieteman will never again pose a threat to the people of Maricopa County."



In addition to prosecuting the serial shooters, Deputy County Attorneys Vince Imbordino and Laura Reckart received the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation Trial Advocacy and the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council Large Jurisdiction Prosecutor of the Year awards for their work on the serial shooters case. Laura has been a prosecutor at the MCAO for 13 years and Vince has been a prosecutor at the MCAO for 20 years.

DEATH PENALTY

The MCAO participates as a member of the Arizona Supreme Court Capital Case Oversight Committee. The Supreme Court established the Capital Case Task Force to address capital cases awaiting trial in Maricopa County. The Committee consists of members of the Maricopa County Superior Court, the MCAO, the Public Defender's Office, the Attorney General's Office and the Arizona Legislature. The Committee studies and recommends measures to facilitate capital case reduction efforts, makes recommendations for adequate

Timothy Siegel, Victim Services Division Advocate, received recognition for his volunteer work on behalf of the Parents of Murdered Children and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) victim impact panels.



notice to the Supreme Court to assist the Court in making the necessary modifications to its staffing levels and judicial assignments to ensure the timely processing of appeals and develop recommendations for any formal policies deemed necessary.

Currently there are 93 capital cases awaiting trial; this is a decrease from the 135 cases awaiting trial at this time last year. The decrease is owing to a number of factors including cooperation and partnerships between the Committee members, an increase in capital cases carried by each judge and the Superior Court focus on prompt resolution of capital cases.

The Superior Court's drive to resolve capital cases created a significant increase in workload for MCAO prosecutors, investigators and support staff. The dedicated MCAO staff was up to the challenge and conviction rates were not affected by the increased workload.



BUDGET STRATEGIES

In 2009, the MCAO implemented a series of money-saving management practices. From a hiring freeze to using less paper, the MCAO has come up with practical and effective ways to trim its budget in light of current budgetary constraints. The office's budget was cut by 15% for the fiscal year which began on July 1. To deal with the fiscal situation and improve overall efficiencies in the office, the MCAO put in place reforms both large and small. By far, the most significant savings have come from the difficult process of downsizing office staff. The MCAO has accomplished this through proper planning and management practices as well as attrition rather than layoffs. So far more than 105 positions have been eliminated, or more than 10 percent of the total positions in the County Attorney's Office, despite a county population that has risen almost 11 percent since Andrew Thomas took office in 2005.



The County Attorney's Office has adopted other practices to achieve savings.

- Reducing paper and toner costs by storing more information electronically.
- Eliminating the use of bonded paper.
- Restricting the use of color printers.
- Reusing office supplies such as binders and folders instead of throwing them away.
- Eliminating pre-printed case folders.
- Reducing travel expenses for witnesses through trial scheduling and contractual agreements with commonly used air carriers and hotels. With unneeded hearings eliminated, witnesses will not have to make as many trips to court. It's also cost-effective to negotiate with frequently used air carriers and hotels and bargain for lower bulk rates.
- Beginning to plan for a paperless office.

POLICY CHANGES

Reducing costs does not happen in a vacuum. The MCAO has sent some proposals to the county budget office, the judiciary and other partners in the justice system to eliminate redundant or unnecessary court hearings and streamline other aspects of the criminal-justice system. They include:

- The Fast-Track Plea Initiative will utilize more experienced prosecutors at the Regional Court Centers to more quickly resolve cases while ensuring proper punishment.
- The Probation Hearing Initiative will combine hearings dealing with defendants accused of violating probation who face new criminal charges. The goal is to end duplicate hearings resulting in \$150,000 in savings for the courts, prosecutors and public defenders.
- The Compliance Monitoring Initiative for low-risk probationers will put offenders convicted of drug possession and other non-violent crimes in a system that reduces the need for probation officers to personally supervise these defendants. These defendants will still be monitored to make sure they fulfill their drug testing and restitution requirements. This proposal will save the county an estimated \$3.5 million.



Catherine Martin, Administration Bureau Chief, is worried that additional budget woes will cut into the “heart and soul of government service. Doing more with less has caused the MCAO to get more innovative and give good value, along with outstanding service, which is what we do best.”

Thomas stated, “As families across the Valley learn to make do with less during these tough times, so must those of us who work in law enforcement. Since taking office I have returned more than \$3.4 million in savings to the general fund. We were lean before the recent budget cuts, and now we’re even leaner. Because of the dedicated work of our prosecutors and staff, we still enjoy a 92.% conviction rate for felony cases and a declining crime rate in the Valley.”

POLICY CHANGES

PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING

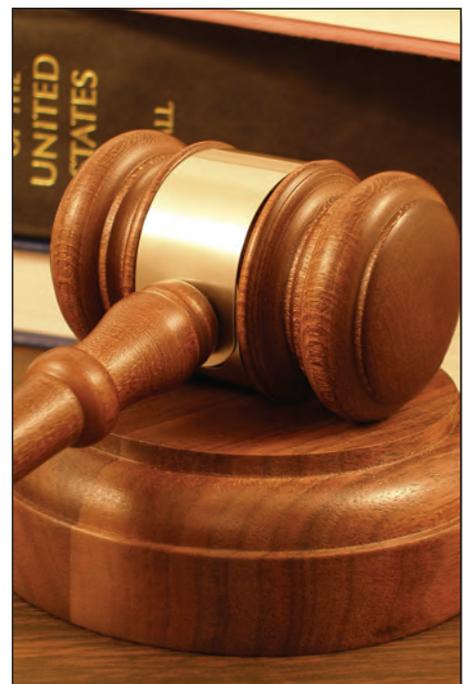
As the MCAO prepared for the flu season in 2009, new office policies and procedures were created relating to the potential effects of H1N1 flu on our employees and our work environment. Informational posters and handouts were distributed to each area of the office, including elevator lobbies, parking garages and public reception areas. These contained helpful tips and information on preventing colds and flu. In addition, individual bottles of instant hand sanitizer were distributed to each area of the office and an informative internal website was created for employees.

Employees running a fever were encouraged to stay home until they were fever-free for at least 24 hours. This is important for the health of employees and everyone in the office. Some reports were predicting businesses could potentially lose up to 50% of their workforce at one time because of the severity of this year's flu strain. Alternative workplace scenarios had to be created in order to best serve the public and keep up with the current workload. Telecommuting, flex schedules and a 3-tiered chain of command were to fall into place if key members of our staff were unable to work because of the flu. How an agency deals with a potential flu epidemic like this one shouldn't result in a loss of confidence by the public in the MCAO.

COURT CONSOLIDATION – SOUTHEAST DIVISION MOVES DOWNTOWN

In mid-2009, Maricopa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Barbara Mundell announced her decision to move five criminal courts from Mesa to downtown Phoenix. Judge Mundell cited tough economic times and the need to maximize limited resources as primary reasons for moving criminal and homicide trials downtown. This announcement forced the MCAO to find office space for the prosecutors and pertinent staff relocating from Mesa.

Staff and community members worried that moving these divisions downtown will lead to the loss of additional, important county services in the southeast Valley. The move also disappointed East Valley police, jurors, witnesses and victims who now have to travel to downtown Phoenix. The move, while challenging, will be completed by the end of 2010.



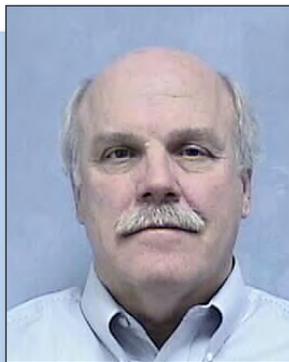
LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2009

While the 2009 legislative session was primarily focused on the state budget shortfall, several significant pieces of criminal justice legislation were passed and signed into law.

The MCAO led the charge to abolish costly and unnecessary delays in the civil commitment process. Senate Bill (SB) 1152 makes numerous procedural changes to Title 36 relating to hearings on a petition for court ordered treatment, which include:

- allowing the State to request a three-day continuance of the hearing on the petition;
- allowing the parties to enter into stipulations in lieu of presenting witnesses;
- and permitting a patient to not attend the hearing or allow the attorney for the patient to waive the patient's presence.

This legislation also amends the marital privilege to allow the testimony of a spouse in mental health hearings and clarifies that the time actually spent in treatment is the only time considered towards the time limit for restoration to competency.



Prosecutor Bill Moore was recognized by the Office of the Inspector General Department of Veteran's Affairs in recognition of his "diligence and tenacity in the successful prosecution of criminal cases impacting the Department of Veteran's Affairs and his partnership in advancing the mission of the Office of the Inspector General."

The MCAO supported SB 1254 ("Heather's Law") which expanded the exceptions to the anti-marital fact privilege statute by allowing a spouse to be examined as a witness to a serious felony offense if the spouse has voluntarily provided information to law enforcement during the investigation of the offense.

SB 1059 established the new felony offense, Organized Retail Theft. In 2006, over \$580 million in merchandise was stolen from retailers in Arizona. This legislation, which was the result of the Organized Retail Theft Task Force, aims to enhance penalties for theft rings and professional thieves who steal with the intent to resell the merchandise.

SB 1253 expands the definition of first-degree murder to include drive-by shooting as an underlying felony offense.

COMMUNITY EFFORTS

COMMUNITY ACTION BUREAU EVENTS

The Community Action Bureau organized numerous community events through the Speakers Bureau and the Drug Free AZ program. These events included the Women's Expo, Require the Prior Block Party, NASCAR, Veteran's Day Parade, Glendale Glitters, Domestic Violence Walk, Shred-a-Thons, Pets on Probation and the MCAO sponsored Crime Summits. In all, 149 employees along with 23 of their family members volunteered over 800 hours of personal time to the community this year.



The MCAO employees who volunteered for the Speaker's Bureau gave 137 presentations to various community groups and schools on dozens of public safety topics such as bullying, child safety, identity theft prevention, truancy, crimes against the elderly and domestic violence.

RED RIBBON WEEK

The Red Ribbon celebration is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States. This event began in 1988 in honor of Enrique S. Camarena, an undercover DEA agent who was kidnapped, tortured and murdered in 1985 by drug traffickers. Each October, schools across the United States celebrate Red Ribbon Week by wearing red and pledging to stay drug free.

The MCAO assists school administrators in teaching students about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. In October 2009, members of the MCAO Community Action Bureau conducted 30 presentations to 3,605 parents, students, and teachers on the importance of staying drug free.

CRIME ANALYSTS CONFERENCE

The 19th annual International Association of Crime Analysts - Arizona Association of Crime Analysts joint training conference was held in Arizona in October, and the MCAO was actively involved. Three hundred attendees from eight different countries convened in Arizona for four days to sharpen analytical skills, learn new crime forecasting techniques and discuss crime trends and crime



COMMUNITY EFFORTS

prevention techniques with colleagues. Mark Faull, Special Counsel at the MCAO, acknowledged the importance of cultivating these types of criminal justice partnerships, “to help identify and analyze patterns and trends in our community. Information on these patterns helps the MCAO deploy resources in a more effective manner and assists our office in better identifying and prosecuting defendants. We are proud to participate in this educational training conference!”



ASSET FORFEITURE CONFERENCE

Nearly 150 people attended the 4th Annual Asset Forfeiture Conference in Phoenix this year. This event was sponsored by the MCAO and law enforcement agencies across the state were once again invited to attend this free event. Agencies learn details about the forfeiture experience through the overview of important forfeiture cases and how seizures and related procedures can impact case outcome. In addition, ethical considerations were discussed, effective seizure warrants and racketeering expenditures and how to obtain the maximum benefit from racketeering funds. Deputy County Attorneys from the MCAO specializing in asset forfeiture presented important case and legislative information to attendees and

provided specifics on how to capture and successfully prosecute those involved with asset forfeiture cases.



COURTHOUSE DOGS PROGRAM

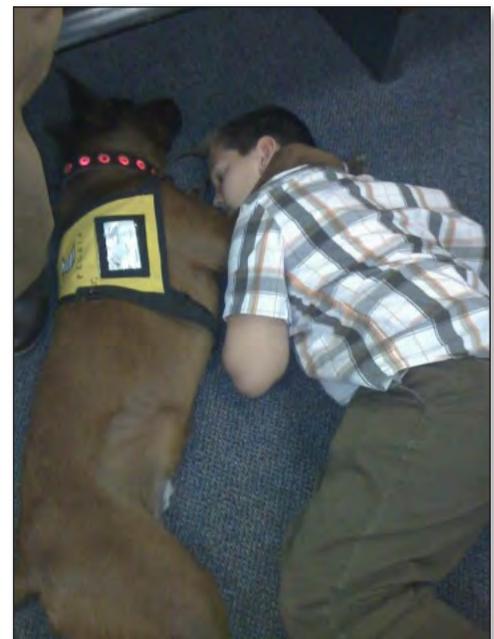
The Victim Services Division at the MCAO hired two new special advocates this year who are doing a “dog-gone” good job! Sam and Moose are two canines who have been trained to work with crime victims and witnesses who have been traumatized. Sam and Moose attend court with victims and witnesses, often children, to provide support, comfort and companionship in sometimes scary and often times difficult situations.



Sam, a Golden Retriever, and Moose, a Thai Ridgeback, share some common history. Both young dogs were rescued from local animal shelters and have completed extensive training that includes obedience skills and the ability to accompany victims to court, while remaining calm and quiet. The dogs have passed aggression tests and have also been trained to concentrate on their work despite occasional challenges from lights, sirens and noises that often occur at a crime scene or within criminal justice settings.

Although the MCAO program is still in its infancy we already have success stories to report. One story involves an 8-year-old victim who had suffered very traumatic events in her short life. She went to trial but had a difficult time entering the courtroom to face the offender. A mistrial resulted and a second trial date was set, making it necessary for the victim to once again prepare for testifying. Prior to the second trial, the victim was introduced to Sam and the response was very positive. Sam accompanied the victim into the courtroom and with Sam by her side, she was able to get up on the stand and clearly and concisely answer all the questions from both the prosecutor and the defense attorney. She even pointed out the offender in the courtroom and was able to maintain eye contact with him. The defendant was eventually convicted and received a 52-year sentence in the Arizona Department of Corrections.

As this program grows, additional dogs will be trained to help victims and witnesses pass through metal detectors without fear, navigate through courtrooms, become familiar with officers in uniforms and defendants in shackles and handcuffs, how to sit quietly on the witness



COURTHOUSE DOGS PROGRAM



stand and participate in debriefings after the case concludes.

The MCAO is encouraged by the early successes in this program. Jurisdictions from around the country have contacted the MCAO for information on how to start a similar program in their town; how to properly train handlers and dogs and how to receive financial backing to supplement the costs related to raising and training the dogs.



SIGNIFICANT CASES

CRAIGSLIST SALES STOPPED

Randolph Guzman listed on craigslist, two Trane air conditioning units and furnaces for sale for \$2,000. Undercover officers contacted Guzman, discussed the units and eventually offered to purchase them. Guzman asked for a down payment and told the officers they would have to remove the units. The undercover officers met Guzman at the home and were told that the house was in foreclosure and he was just trying to recoup his losses. In addition to the air conditioning units, Guzman agreed to sell the kitchen cabinets, two ceiling fans and one light fixture for an additional \$500. After signing a purchase agreement, officers arrested him. The mortgage company had already started foreclosure proceedings and a trustee's sale was scheduled. Guzman claimed that he did not know his actions were wrong, but soon after he admitted to everything. Guzman was sentenced to one count of defrauding a secured creditor and he received 18 months of supervised probation.



CRAIGSLIST CROOK ORDERED TO PAY \$5,000

Mark Sydnor created a craigslist entry indicating he was conducting an estate sale. Undercover officers contacted Sydnor and he admitted the house was in foreclosure and owned by his friend. Sydnor told officers he had received an offer of \$8,000 for the items in the house and the officers offered \$9,000.



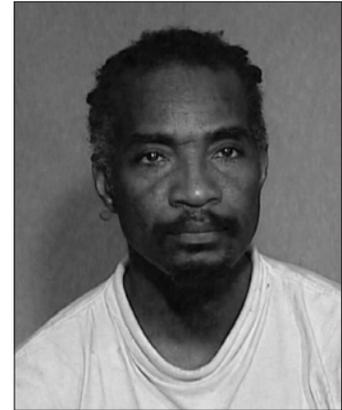
The officers then met Sydnor at the Scottsdale home and he told them that everything was for sale, including kitchen cabinets, countertops and plumbing fixtures. He also told officers that banks should pay people to leave their houses in order to prevent them from tearing up the homes. Sydnor identified himself as a "consignment owner" and that the real owners of the home were going to pay him 25% of whatever he sold. However, the mortgage company had already initiated foreclosure proceedings and a trustee's sale was scheduled. Sydnor eventually pled guilty and was sentenced on one count of defrauding a secured creditor.

He received 12 months of probation and was ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

WAYNE CALVIN SIMMONS – SENTENCED TO 379 YEARS FOR MOLESTATION

Wayne Calvin Simmons was convicted of 19 counts of sexual conduct with a child and molestation and sentenced to 379 years in prison for molesting five young girls beginning in 1989 through the mid 1990's and again during 2006 and 2007. The victims were between 6 and 10 years old at the time of the crimes. The victims were related to two different girlfriends Simmons had lived with and included sisters and two cousins. The allegations came to light when the victims came forward and police began interviewing them in May of 2007. The prosecutor was Yigael Cohen.



SCHOOL BUS MOLESTATION

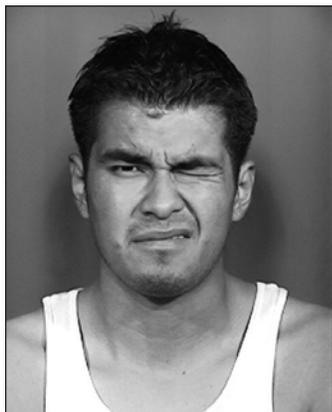
Former school bus driver for the Queen Creek Unified School District, John J. Byrne, 65, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for molesting a student on the bus. The female student reported that beginning in the 7th grade and for three consecutive years, Byrne would pick her up early and engage in sexual acts with her while they were alone on the bus. The prosecutor was John Beatty.



COUPLE SENTENCED IN TORTURE AND BURNING OF 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL

12-year-old Trenay was beaten and scorched with hot water before being tortured by her father and his wife. Jeffery Duchane and Reiko Troupe were charged with multiple counts of child abuse and one count of pre-meditated murder in the death of Trenay. Her younger sister witnessed her step-mother beat Trenay until she was close to death and then hid in the shower until police arrived. Duchane returned to the home and found Trenay alive, but non-responsive, lying on the bedroom floor. Duchane did not contact police or call for medical attention, instead he ate dinner and went to bed. Trenay later died. Duchane and Troupe pled guilty to first-degree murder and child abuse and each received a life sentence with no possibility of parole. Duchane was also sentenced to seven additional years on top of the life sentence. The prosecutor was Suzanne Cohen.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

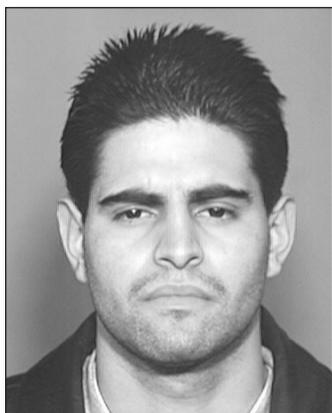


MURDER DEFENDANT CAUGHT ON THE ARIZONA-MEXICO BORDER

Ivan Hernandez-Olvera gunned down his ex-girlfriend, Felicia Alarcon, and left her body in the street before fleeing to Mexico. Hernandez-Olvera was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The couple was arguing and when they stepped out of a car, he shot her. A witness riding by on a bicycle saw the shooting and reported it to police. Hernandez-Olvera fled the scene, but was captured in Nogales. The prosecutor was Ted Duffy.

KIDNAPPING FAKED TO HIDE MURDER

Heather Nicole Miller murdered her fiancé's 3-year-old son, Isaiah and lied to the police, telling them that the child had been kidnapped. A search launched for the boy and his body was eventually found in a shallow grave near a canal in Mesa. Investigators found Isaiah covered in red marks and bruises and he had died of blunt head trauma. Miller eventually admitted that she had grabbed Isaiah's arm and pushed him down and then when she discovered he was dead, she buried his body so she wouldn't get in trouble. Prosecutors Belle Whitney and Frankie Grimsman secured a guilty conviction and Miller was sentenced to a sentence of life with the possibility of parole after 35 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections. She was also sentenced to a 17-year consecutive sentence on the second charge of child abuse.



PHOENIX ATTORNEY KILLED IN DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

Christopher Michael Alonso shot an innocent bystander to death during a road rage incident in Glendale. He fired at another vehicle and a stray bullet came through the windshield of Phoenix defense attorney Justin Blair, killing him. Alonso fled to Mexico to avoid prosecution, but he was eventually captured and returned to the U.S. Prosecutor Susie Charbel secured a guilty verdict and Alonso was sentenced to life in prison plus an additional 54 ½ years in the Arizona Department of Corrections for first-degree murder, five counts of attempted first-degree murder and a drive-by shooting. Alonso's first sentencing trial was declared a mistrial after some of the jurors were found to have looked up information on the Internet using a cell phone.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

SEX OFFENDER LINKED THROUGH DNA

Perry Scott Brenkman, 54-years-old, a registered sex offender who molested again, was sentenced to 27 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections and lifetime probation for molesting a 12-year-old girl. He broke into the girls' home through an unlocked door and molested the girl in her bedroom, threatening to kill her if she told anyone. She reported what happened and DNA evidence led police to Brenkman. He had previously served 24 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections on multiple counts of rape. Prosecutor Rachel Phipps-Yonas secured this lengthy sentence.



KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM

Defendant Jordon Lopez-Camacho and five co-defendants participated in the kidnapping for ransom of two women and two young children from their home in Phoenix. The kidnapers initially demanded \$500,000 from their family in exchange for their release, threatening to behead the young girls when the family did not meet the demands for ransom. Phoenix police were able to locate the home where the victims were being held and arrest all six suspects. Prosecutor Michael Anderson obtained convictions against all six defendants. Lopez-Camacho, who acted as the gunman at the drop house where the victims were held, was convicted of four counts of kidnapping; one count of theft by extortion and one count of misconduct involving weapons and sentenced to 29.5 years in prison.

BEHEADING THREATENED IF RANSOM WASN'T PAID

Defendant Noe Mendoza-Tapia kidnapped the victim at gun point from the parking lot of a Phoenix grocery store and took him to a home where he was held for ransom. The kidnapers demanded various large amounts of money from the victim's girlfriend, threatening to behead the victim and leave his head on her front porch if she did not pay the ransom. Police began following the phone conversations and helped the victim's girlfriend set up an exchange, during which the defendant and two others were arrested after they were observed "staking out" the park where the exchange was to take place and were found to be in possession of handguns. The defendant led the police back to the house where the victim was being held. Prosecutor Michael Anderson secured a conviction on the kidnapping, theft by extortion and misconduct involving weapons charges and Mendoza-Tapia was sentenced to 27 years in prison.



EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHIES



ANDREW P. THOMAS COUNTY ATTORNEY

Elected Maricopa County Attorney in November 2004 and re-elected in November 2008, Andrew Thomas, a former prosecutor and published author, is a leading authority on the criminal justice system. He served the citizens of Maricopa County until April 2010 when he resigned to pursue another elected office.

Born in Long Beach, California in 1966, Andrew grew up mostly in the Ozarks of southern Missouri. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Missouri in 1988 and his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1991.

After graduating from law school, Andrew moved to the Valley of the Sun to work for a large law firm, where he practiced civil litigation. In 1994, he left private practice to serve as an Assistant Attorney General for Arizona. Subsequently, Andrew served as Deputy Counsel and Criminal Justice Policy Advisor to the Governor of Arizona. In this capacity he helped draft and campaigned for the Stop Juvenile Crime Initiative, which was approved by the voters in 1996.

After serving in the Governor's Office, Andrew became the Chief Attorney at the Arizona Department of Corrections, where he helped lead a successful crackdown on prison gangs.

Joining the MCAO as a Deputy County Attorney in 2003, he prosecuted numerous cases both in the Pretrial and Juvenile Divisions. In 2004, Andrew ran successfully for Maricopa County Attorney and he took office in January 2005.

As County Attorney, Andrew Thomas has championed the rights of crime victims, adopted tough policies related to violent crime, child exploitation, identity theft and repeat offenders. The successful prosecution of human smugglers and illegal immigrants who conspire to enter the United States has set a standard for local law enforcement in combating the epidemic of illegal immigration. He helped draft and led the fight for Proposition 100, which ended the right to bail for illegal immigrants accused of serious felonies, and Proposition 301, which toughened sanctions for abuse of methamphetamines. In 2006, the voters of Arizona approved both measures by a wide margin. After his decisive re-election win in 2008, Andrew pledged to step up efforts to aggressively prosecute environmental and financial fraud cases, in addition to crimes against the elderly.

Married to Ann Estrada Thomas, Andrew and his wife have four children.

EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHIES

PHILIP J. MACDONNELL CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

Following his graduation from Harvard Law School in 1974, where he was senior editor of the Harvard Law Review, Phil clerked for Judge Ozell Trask of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He subsequently joined the Arizona Attorney General's Office, serving in the administration of former Attorneys General Bruce Babbitt, Jack LaSota and Bob Corbin. As chief of the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Division, Phil prosecuted high-profile cases and supervised numerous complex grand jury investigations. In 1981, Phil left to become Assistant United States Attorney for Arizona.



Governor Bruce Babbitt later appointed Phil to serve as Superintendent of the Department of Liquor Licenses and Control. There he oversaw the enforcement of the state's liquor statutes. In 1987, Phil became a partner with the law firm of Jennings Strouss. He has served as Chief Deputy County Attorney since 2005.

SALLY WELLS CHIEF ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Appointed by Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas in 2005, Sally is the Chief Assistant County Attorney and is the highest ranking female attorney in the history of the office. As Chief Assistant, Sally is responsible for the day-to-day operations for most divisions of the office, including more than 300 attorneys and more than 600 paralegals, investigators, advocates and support staff.



A graduate of the University of Virginia and Arizona State University School of Law, Sally has been a felony prosecutor in Maricopa County since 1986. She has served in numerous trial and management positions at the office prosecuting vehicular, narcotic, repeat offender and white collar crimes.

Prior to her appointment as Chief Assistant, Sally supervised attorneys first as a Juvenile Division Bureau Chief and later as the Pretrial Division Chief. She served as Chief Assistant County Attorney from 2005 until her retirement in 2010.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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301 W. Jefferson Street • Phoenix, AZ 85003	
Southeast Facility (Main Number)	(602) 506-2600
222 E. Javelina, Suite 2400 • Mesa, AZ 85210	
Juvenile Division Eastside Office (Main Number)	(480) 962-8002
540 W. Iron Avenue, Suite 110 • Mesa, AZ 85210	
Juvenile Division Westside Office (Main Number)	(602) 372-4000
3131 W. Durango • Phoenix, AZ 85009	
Wells Fargo Facility (Main Number)	(602) 372-7350
100 W. Washington, 21st Floor • Phoenix, AZ 85003	
Civil Division	(602) 506-8541
222 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1100 • Phoenix, AZ 85004	

SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

Kids in Court Program	(602) 506-8522
Media Relations	(602) 506-3411
Speaker's Bureau	(602) 506-5754
Drug Free AZ	(602) 506-7630
Adoptions	(480) 962-8002
Community Action Bureau	(602) 506-3411
Victim Services Division	(602) 506-8522
Victim Compensation Bureau	(602) 506-4955

HOTLINES

Graffiti	(602) 262-7327
Hate Crimes	(602) 506-5000
Illegal Dumping	(602) 506-6616
Slumlord	(602) 372-7586

MISSION STATEMENT

The Maricopa County Attorney is dedicated to the vigorous prosecution of those who commit crimes within the county. As the chief advocate for the State and the citizens of the community in criminal matters, the County Attorney seeks to provide the highest quality service and to maintain the integrity of the criminal justice system. Criminals must be held accountable, while assuring that the statutory rights and emotional needs of the victims and witnesses are properly addressed. Additionally, the County Attorney seeks to implement, promote and participate in programs that reduce crime and enhance the quality of community life. The County Attorney also contributes to excellence in local government by providing complete legal services to the county, its Officers and political subdivisions.

