



End of Fiscal Year 2011 Report from County Attorney David Rozema

Office Hours in Page and on Navajo Nation

This is my third year of conducting monthly office hours in Page. This has been a great experience as I meet with citizens to hear their concerns and share information. Also, I continue to conduct regular office hours with Supervisor Mandy Metzger at various locations on the Navajo Nation. We both believe that this type of outreach is important to the more rural communities in our county.

Service Activities Continue to Western Navajo

I continue to stay very active on the Navajo and Hopi Nations. Our office partners with the Western Navajo-Hopi Meth Task Force to remove graffiti from locations throughout the Navajo and Hopi Nations. Graffiti damages the heart and spirit of the community. By painting over the graffiti, we send an uplifting message to citizens that we all care about each other and where we live. Our community liaisons help maintain these efforts by removing new graffiti when it appears in their respective communities.

We enjoy doing various forms of prevention work with youth. For example, in June, my wife Linda and I participated in the Kids Safety Day in Bodaway/Gap. We handed out helium balloons with the messages, "Meth ei dooda" and "Tsi' na' iilai t'áageed dahinohná", to encourage the kids to Live Drug Free. It was a great event and a fun day.

Our office partnered with the Western Navajo-Hopi Meth Task Force and Supervisor Lena Fowler to sponsor a special Recognition Dinner on September 22nd at Greyhills Academy High School. The event included keynote speaker Lyle Claw, President of Changing Lives Around the World. The purpose of the event was to recognize service providers who serve the communities of Tuba City and surrounding areas.

Page-Fredonia DUI/Drug Court

After many years of hard work and outstanding collaboration between our office, Page Justice of the Peace Donald Roberts, Fredonia Justice of the Peace Mark Baron, Adult Probation, and many others, the Page-Fredonia DUI/Drug Court is now in place. This diversion program allows qualified criminal defendants (no violent crimes, no drug dealers, etc) from Page, Fredonia, LeChee, Kaibeto and surrounding areas with drug or alcohol addictions an opportunity to avoid felony convictions through a rigorous rehabilitation program supervised by the court, adult probation, treatment providers and our office. Our first set of graduates has already successfully completed the 6-12 month long program!

Prosecutor Awards

Two of our felony prosecutors received statewide recognition this summer. Jonathan Mosher, Senior Trial Attorney for the office, was awarded Prosecutor of the Year for Rural Counties by the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council. This significant award results from Jonathan successfully trying several major cases during the past year. Deputy County Attorney Marianne Sullivan received the Prosecutor of the Year award from the Arizona Narcotics Officers Association for her efforts in prosecuting cases against neighborhood drug dealers.

Criminal Cases Trending Down Slightly

Our criminal caseload continues to trend downward overall, following a national trend. Nobody knows for sure why this is happening. I believe it results primarily from two things: 1) More effective intervention and treatment, especially for cases involving first-time offenders with substance abuse and/or mental health issues; and 2) Stiffer prison sentences for dangerous repeat offenders. Unfortunately, along with a general downward trend, we are also seeing spikes in certain types of cases, e.g. child abuse and neglect; domestic violence; murders. We conducted three jury trials this past year on first degree murder charges alone.

Ricky Bible Execution

Richard "Ricky" Bible abducted, raped and murdered nine-year old Jennifer Wilson in the summer of 1988. He was convicted at trial and received the death penalty in 1990. The sentence was imposed on June 30th of this year. I had the honor and privilege of representing the victims and the People during the last-minute spree of appeals and appearing at the Clemency Board hearing as well. I also attended Bible's execution along with the Wilson family and many of the law enforcement professionals who worked so hard on this case.

Office Turnover is Down

I am pleased to report that office turnover is way down from previous years. This results from four factors: 1) Our Four-Corners Recruitment and Retention Program is paying dividends by bringing people into the office that have a genuine heart for public service and prosecution; as a result, they are staying longer; 2) We have focused on building office morale through formation of an office events committee and other ideas; as a result, office morale is improved; 3) Caseloads are down a bit and are manageable for the first time in a long time; as a result, staff and attorneys are enjoying the work more than before; and 4) The prolonged recession and economic conditions tend to cause many employees (in all occupations) to stay in their current jobs rather than risk a change of employment.

Collaboration is Important

We continue to place a priority on collaborative efforts with other agencies/partners in the criminal justice system and elsewhere, as this results in greater efficiencies and delivery of services. Some examples include the Coordinated Community Response Team To Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Family Advocacy Council, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Juvenile Diversion Programs in Flagstaff and Page, Williams Alliance, Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth, Advisory Council on Aging, Western Navajo-Hopi Meth Task Force, and many others. We have been working with the NAU Criminal Justice Department (Professors Robert Schehr and Michael Costelloe) for the past couple years on a collaborative file review project that will provide us with valuable information regarding plea bargaining processes and how effective they are in seeking justice. This is a very groundbreaking and exciting project.

Greater Emphasis on Mental Health Cases and Treatment

Through our involvement with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and others, more emphasis is being given to criminal cases involving those who are afflicted with mental health or competency issues. These are tough issues. Currently, our office and others are implementing procedures that will allow for more treatment at the Guidance Center for jail inmates who need mental health services.

ATTEND- Truancy Prevention Program

ATTEND is our truancy prevention/intervention program for elementary school students and their families. We overhauled the program last summer (2010) and saw great results during the 2010-11 school year, and we are using it again this year. Truancy is well known as a precursor for delinquency and criminal conduct later in life. Through ATTEND, we saw that many of the students were able to get back on track with better attendance in their schools. Thank you FUSD and Juvenile Court for your partnership and help with this important program! (If you would like to see the ATTEND statistics for last year, please contact me and we would be happy to provide them to you.)

“Live Drug Free” Poster Contest for 6th graders

This month, we are launching our Third Annual “Live Drug Free” Poster Contest for county-wide 6th graders. We invite all 6th graders to create colorful posters using the theme “Live Drug Free”. The contest is a lot of fun and we get some incredible artwork from the students while emphasizing the Live Drug Free theme at this vulnerable age. Last year, over 600 students participated in the contest! A selection committee picks the winners and lots of great prizes are awarded.



Grand Prize Winner

Lydia Manone

Montessori Schools of Flagstaff



Second Prize Winner

Daniel Gibson

The Peak School



Third Prize Winner

Danisha Nez

Tuba City Boarding School

Criminal Justice Records Improvement Project (CJRIP)

We obtained a grant for this exciting new technology which will allow us to exchange tons of information electronically, rather than through the old method of paper copies and fax machines. Implementation has already begun and we look forward to saving a lot of money and literally thousands of pages of paper every week!

Civil Team Manages Many Significant Responsibilities

Our civil team continues to provide top-notch, cost-effective legal services to the Board of Supervisors, County Manager, County Departments and special districts, including representing the county in numerous types of litigation. This past year has been a busy one on the civil front, where our attorneys and staff have been involved in over 2500 matters. These legal services saved the county approximately \$1,000,000 in fees, as well as many hundreds of thousands of dollars through successful litigation defense.

Citizen Prosecutor Academies

This past year we conducted our first-ever Citizen Prosecutor Academies (two in Flagstaff and one in Page). These one-day events provide citizens with the opportunity to “come into the office” and learn more about how we serve the public. Special guest speakers (e.g. Medical Examiner, Crime Lab) make presentations on interesting topics and these free events are a lot of fun. We look forward to conducting our next Academies in Williams/Grand Canyon, Tuba City and Flagstaff. Visit our web site for more information- www.coconino.az.gov/countyattorney.

It is my great honor and privilege to serve as your County Attorney. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David W. Rozema'.

David Rozema
County Attorney