



COCONINO COUNTY ARIZONA

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

We serve the public by advocating for justice.

Web Site: www.coconino.az.gov/countyattorney

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End of Fiscal Year 2010 Report from County Attorney David Rozema

Warm summer greetings to everyone! To say the last twelve months have been eventful would be a major understatement! Here's a brief report on some of the major office developments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

Prevention Efforts with Juveniles

As the old saying goes, a penny of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We are maintaining our commitment to collaborate on prevention efforts throughout the county, especially those involving our youth.

After numerous planning meetings with Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) administrators and principals over the past six months, we are excited to implement a remodeled ATTEND Program in FUSD elementary schools this fall. ATTEND is designed as a prevention and intervention program for truancy, which is well known as a precursor for delinquency and criminal conduct later in life. We've done a major overhaul to the program and the new changes will provide for quicker intervention and better communication between the schools and our office. Thank you FUSD and the Juvenile Court for your partnership and commitment to this important project!

Several months ago, again in collaboration with FUSD and the Juvenile Court, as well as Flagstaff Police Department, the Public and Legal Defender's Offices and others, we implemented a new diversion program designed to provide better assessment of high school students who are using marijuana or alcohol. This program provides an alternative to formal criminal charges when appropriate (no drug dealers, of course) and places an emphasis on utilization of testing and assessment devices available to the Juvenile Court so that underlying problems can be addressed with the hope that we will see a reduction in recidivism by these students. So far, the new program seems to be working well.

In October, we'll be launching our Second Annual "Live Drug Free" Poster Contest for county-wide 6th graders. We started this last year and it was a blast. We invite all 6th graders to create posters using the theme "Live Drug

Free”. A selection committee picks the winners and some nice prizes are awarded to the winning classes, including money to those teachers for art supplies, tee shirts with the winning posters depicted on them and a fully-paid field trip. Last year’s winning class was from Puente De Hozho and they chose the Phoenix Art Museum for their field trip. Many thanks to the Flagstaff Metro Board and Citizens Against Substance Abuse for their sponsorship!

Community Work on Western Navajo and Hopi

I continue to stay very active on the Navajo and Hopi Nations. Most recently, our Western Navajo-Hopi Meth Task Force has been aggressively removing graffiti in several communities. We’ve done some great work this summer in Tuba City, Moenkopi Village, Bodaway Gap, Cedar Ridge, Kaibeto, Leupp, and Tolani Lake, with more to follow.

Grffiti is vandalism and it damages the heart of the community. We often have local kids doing this work with us and you can see that it gives their spirits a big lift! Some before and after photos are included below.

Caseloads and Staffing

Although there has been a slight overall trend towards a reduction in criminal cases, we have also seen spikes in certain types of cases related to the recession (e.g. domestic violence, substance abuse). Our felony caseloads are flat at approximately 300 cases per year per prosecutor (we charge 100 new felony cases every month), while our misdemeanor caseloads have increased slightly. Our civil attorneys handle over 4000 civil matters each year.

We continue our Solution-based Prosecution approach to the criminal cases by supporting alternatives to prison when they are appropriate and by taking a hard-line on career criminals and dangerous offenders. A recent study of the Arizona inmate population found that 95% of that population consisted of repeat and/or dangerous offenders...the type of individuals we do not want roaming around in our communities. During the past year, we assisted in the creation of a new Drug Court in Page. And we participated in the first Restoration of Rights workshop that took place a couple months ago in Flagstaff.

Due to budget conditions, we maintained numerous vacancies over the past year- both attorney and support staff alike. Fortunately, we are now able to begin re-filling some of those positions. People work in this office because they believe in public service and what we do. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful public servants in our office! And we’ve made some great new hires over the past year that have strengthened the team.

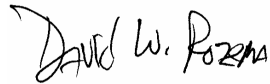
We recently completed an extensive Policy and Procedures Manual that will foster professionalism and consistency in the office.

Office Hours Outside of Flagstaff

Last year, I reported that I was conducting open office hours in Page every month. I am still doing that and find it to be very useful (second Wednesday morning of every month at Page City Hall). In addition, Supervisor Mandy Metzger and I have been conducting monthly office hours at various locations on the Navajo Nation. These office hours make us accessible to those who live outside of Flagstaff and we gain helpful insight into the concerns of residents in rural areas on the county. Supervisor Metzger and I will continue doing this throughout the next year.

Coconino County is an incredible place to live. It is my great honor and privilege to serve as your County Attorney. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns, questions or ideas.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Rozema". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Rozema
Coconino County Attorney

