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PRESS RELEASE

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PIMA COUNTY PROSECUTORS HONORED

Tucson, Arizona – Two top prosecutors in the Pima County Attorney's Office were honored last week by a statewide group for their unwavering commitment to the pursuit of justice and support for crime victims.

Deputy County Attorneys Kellie Johnson and Frances Maffetone were recognized by the *Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council* at its annual *2011 Summer Training Conference* in Tucson.

"Kellie Johnson and Fran Maffetone work tirelessly each and every day to make our community a safer place," said Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall. "It is a great honor for them and our office to have their peers at APAAC acknowledge their hard work and service to the citizens of Pima County."

Johnson, Chief Trial Counsel and supervisor of the Homicide Unit and the Violent Offenses Unit, was named 2011 Felony Prosecutor of the Year. She was honored for her outstanding work in the savage home invasion that resulted in the brutal murder of a nine-year old girl and her father in May 2009.

Because of Johnson's meticulous efforts in three separate trials, justice was served when Shawna Forde, the mastermind behind the home invasion, and two accomplices, Jason Bush and Albert Gaxiola, were each convicted of first degree murder.

Maffetone, a prosecutor in the Special Victims Unit, received APAAC's 2011 David R. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award. She was honored for her commitment to providing exceptional service and support on behalf of victims of crime.

"Kellie Johnson and Fran Maffetone each exemplify the high ideals of the Pima County Attorney's Office," LaWall said. "They represent the public's interest with integrity, fairness, tenacity, creativity and professionalism."

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