

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR FOR COUNTY
ATTORNEY'S BAD CHECK PROGRAM**

(Tucson, Arizona) – **For the fifth year in a row, the Bad Check Program of the Pima County Attorney's Office has been named "the number one bad check program in the country" by BounceBack, Inc.**

Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney, launched the Bad Check Program in 1996 with only a handful of merchants. During its first three months of operation, the Program recovered approximately \$20,000 for the merchants.

Since inception of the Program, more than 7,700 merchants/individuals have participated in the Program. Also, since inception, more than \$16 million (in restitution and fees) has been collected from bad check writers, with more than \$10 million returned to local merchants/individuals. The Program is free of charge to anyone in Pima County who receives a bad check. Bad check writers are subject to fines of up to \$2,500, punishment of up to six months in jail, and they must make full restitution for their crimes.

BounceBack, Inc., headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, provides software and outsourcing services for District Attorneys and County Attorneys nationwide. In a letter to the Pima County Attorney's Office, Patrick Frost, Vice President of Operations, BounceBack, said "**Once again, the Pima County Bad Check Program remains the premier check enforcement program in the country! . . . We continue to use your program as the example for Bad Check Programs nationwide.**"

LaWall said "I am extremely pleased with the staying power of the Bad Check Program, which is purely a result of the persistent efforts of Ken Janes, Chief of Detectives, and David McDonald, Bad Check Program Director, and their staff. The work they do to support local merchants is truly remarkable."

The Bad Check Program is free to local businesses and individuals. For more information, call 740-4100 or visit www.pcao.pima.gov.

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