

PRESS RELEASE

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**PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
RECEIVES TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS**

(Tucson, Arizona) – The Pima County Attorney's Office is pleased to announce that Barbara LaWall, County Attorney, and the *Greenwell/Owens Criminal Enterprise Strategic Prosecution Group* are recipients of awards from the Law Enforcement Coordinating Council (LECC) of the United States Attorney's Office. The Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee was established in 1987 by the Department of Justice to foster a comprehensive cooperative atmosphere among law enforcement agencies in the state of Arizona and to aid these agencies in the delivery of the most effective law enforcement services to individuals in the state of Arizona.

Barbara LaWall received the Ethical Leadership Award for exemplifying the highest ideals of the criminal justice profession. She is recognized for consistently demonstrating exceptionally high standards, for being instrumental in significantly improving the ethical culture in the Pima County Attorney's Office, and for adhering to professional values and ethical standards.

LaWall said: "I am pleased to receive this award. But, I am especially pleased to be associated with the dedicated, hard-working, and accomplished individuals of the Pima County Attorney's Office who are being honored by the LECC. The work they do for the citizens of Pima County is phenomenal and reflects a commitment to excellence."

The *Greenwell/Owens Criminal Enterprise Strategic Prosecution Group* received the Excellence in Cooperative Law Enforcement Award. This award recognizes a multi-agency group that best exemplifies the goals of the LECC, whose mission is to cultivate a cooperative atmosphere among law enforcement agencies in Arizona. The *Greenwell/Owens Group* consists of prosecutors and support staff from the Pima County Attorney's Office, including Deputy County Attorney Richard Wintory; Deputy County Attorney Chris Ward; Legal Assistant Tari Parish; Legal Support Frank Robles; and Legal Support Elisa Yslava. In addition,

investigators from the Tucson Police Department and the Pima County Sheriff's Department are part of the *Greenwell/Owens Group*.

The efforts of the *Greenwell/Owens Group* resulted in arrests and indictments of 39 defendants for crimes committed from 2003 to 2005, for drug trafficking, property crimes, fraud, weapons crimes, and violent and dangerous crimes such as witness intimidation, kidnapping, and solicitation to commit murder. By 2008, felony convictions had been obtained against nearly every defendant and two defendants received 25-life sentences. By working together, members of the *Greenwell/Owens Group* developed and carried out a new strategy to expose drug traffickers and their criminal associates to far greater and well-deserved criminal penalties.

The awards were presented July 16, 2008 at the 28th Annual Law Enforcement Pow Wow Award Ceremony in Flagstaff, Arizona.

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