



Barbara LaWall
Pima County Attorney

Pima County Attorney's Office
32 N. Stone Avenue
Suite 1400
Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone (520) 740-5600
Fax (520) 740-5585

www.pcao.pima.gov

PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact:
Isabel Burruel Smutzer
Communications Coordinator
(520) 740-5622

Email: isabel.burruel-smutzer@pcao.pima.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2012

**25 ARRESTED IN COUNTY ATTORNEY'S BAD CHECK
SWEEP**

(Tucson, Arizona) Detectives with the Pima County Attorney's Office arrested 25 people on Thursday as part of a countywide crackdown on bad-check writers.

In total, the 25 people arrested had written over \$11,000 in bad checks to local merchants and individuals.

"The arrests are part of the Office's ongoing efforts to ensure that bad-check writers are found and held accountable," said David McDonald, Director of the Bad Check Program. "Our goal is to make sure restitution is paid to the businesses and residents who have been victimized."

More than 8,800 individuals and businesses participate in the Bad Check Program, which Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall launched in 1996. The program is a free resource that helps individuals or merchants recover losses incurred from accepting bad checks.

As part of the program, the Office first sends a notice informing writers of bad checks that a warrant has been issued for their arrest and explaining their options. Those arrested Thursday had received such a notice within the past month but failed to pay full restitution or turn themselves in.

"The crime of issuing a bad check can have a devastating impact on businesses and individuals in our community," said LaWall. "To combat this problem, the Bad Check Program has handled more than 127,000 bad checks and returned more than \$13 million to local businesses and individuals since its inception 16 years ago."

For eight consecutive years, Pima County's Bad Check Program has been ranked first nationally among programs of its kind.



To contact the Bad Check Program, call (520) 740-4100 or visit
<http://www.pcao.pima.gov/badcheck.aspx>.

###

Barbara LaWall
Pima County Attorney

Pima County Attorney's Office
32 N. Stone Avenue
Suite 1400
Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone (520) 740-5600
Fax (520) 740-5585

www.pcao.pima.gov