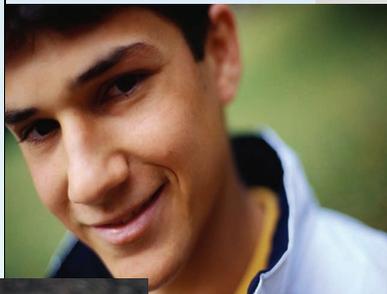


# BLUEPRINT

FOR THE  
FUTURE



## PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

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PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER  
2006 HIGHLIGHTS

More children *left* foster care (1528) than entered it (1342).

Dependent youth growing up in foster care *declined* from 33% to 10% between 1996 and 2006.

Successful mediation saved the cost of 58 days in trial.

564 children were adopted.

Violent crime referrals *decreased* 13%.

Average daily detention population *decreased* from 136 to 127 with no increase in crime.

Crime victims received \$177,110 in restitution.



Delinquent youth completed 60,818 hours of community restitution work, with a value of \$410,522.

85.9% of delinquent youth *successfully* completed probation.

PCJCC celebrated its tenth anniversary as a Model Dependency Court with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

PCJCC is the first Model Delinquency Court in the nation designated by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

PCJCC is one of 40 Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative sites designated by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

PCJCC is one of 20 Disproportionate Minority Contact sites designated by the W. Haywood Burns Institute.



# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

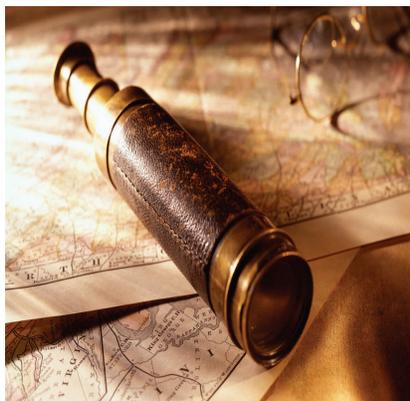
## MISSION STATEMENT



The Pima County Juvenile Court is charged under the Federal and State Constitutions, laws, and rules of the court with jurisdiction over all children under the age of 18 years who are referred for reasons of mental health, incorrigibility, delinquency and for all families involved in dependencies, severances and adoptions. The mission of the Pima County Juvenile Court is to promote the interest and safety of the

community, promote the rehabilitation of children and families, facilitate the protection of children who are abused and neglected, and facilitate the provision of services to children and families involved with the court all in accordance with the due process of law. The Juvenile Court will work actively with and provide leadership to the community, public and private agencies to promote justice, education, and the prevention of delinquency and abuse.

## VISION



### AN ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO

- COMMUNITY PROTECTION
- RESTORING VICTIMS
- SUCCESSFUL YOUTH & FAMILIES



PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER  
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE



Patricia Escher  
 Presiding Judge

**Building on a Strong Foundation**

With outstanding efforts by our dedicated staff and management, and the unfailing support of our community partners, the Pima County Juvenile Court has completed another successful year strengthening our community by improving outcomes for youth and families involved in the juvenile court system. Over the past decade, Pima County Juvenile Court has been a model of excellence, recognized nationally for our groundbreaking work to reform and improve both dependency and delinquency proceedings. 2006 was no different, as our judges and staff tackled numerous issues in cooperation with our stakeholders in education, behavioral health, child protection and criminal justice.

**Sharing the Responsibility**

Youth and families who come before the juvenile court have many needs, most of which cannot and should not be met by the juvenile court. A major focus of our collaborative efforts over the past few years has been to reduce the number of youth who become involved in dependency and delinquency proceedings primarily as a way to obtain needed services, while at the same time ensuring that those services are provided by other community stakeholders. Those efforts are beginning to show success. As opposed to 2005, which saw an 11% *increase* in the number of dependency petitions filed, 2006 showed a 12.7% *decrease* in filings. While it's too soon to be certain of the causes, we believe this dramatic decrease is due largely to efforts by Child Protective Services and behavioral health providers to work more collaboratively with families to provide in-home services to enable a child to remain safely in the home or with relatives, rather than be placed in foster care.

Years of system reform have begun to pay off in other ways. The number of youth *leaving* foster care now exceeds the number entering in Pima County. And, in 85% of cases closed in 2006, the child was either returned to his parent, adopted or placed in a permanent guardianship. Only 10% of youth grew up in foster care - as opposed to approximately 33% in 1996.

Similar efforts are under way in the delinquency arena. A significant number of youth are arrested as a result of family violence incidents. In most cases, both the youth and family are better served by strategic behavioral health interventions than by criminal charges. A major goal of our Model Delinquency Court project is to cooperate with law enforcement and community-based providers to develop a reception center where youth may be taken to begin more appropriate family interventions, rather than being placed in our detention facility.

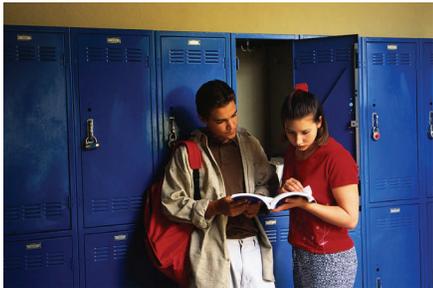
We have begun a major initiative with our two largest school districts to share information about the youth we have in common. Our goal is to develop and emphasize alternatives to suspension and expulsion from school, avoiding criminal prosecution when consistent with public safety, and ensuring that these high-needs youth stay in school and succeed there. We have expanded our volunteer educational consultants program, which provides much-needed information and support to both case managers and probation officers.

We are also working with the County Superintendent of Schools to review and redesign education services in detention. Consistent with our goals of reducing the average length of stay and preparing youth for a successful return to the community, we will focus on assessment to ensure that we understand the youth's educational needs and planning to ensure that the youth moves immediately into an appropriate educational setting.

# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## Improved Case Processing and Case Management

We have also seen a number of internal improvements this year. Probation staff enthusiastically accepted the responsibility for completing an internal self-assessment and developing a strategic plan to begin the implementation of the Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines, a best-practice model for delinquency proceedings. We continue to monitor detention decisions and continue to reduce the unnecessary use of detention. Probation has developed a comprehensive graduated response system to ensure that probation violations are met with the right combination of sanctions and interventions. In collaboration with the county attorney and public defender, we are shortening case processing times and eliminating unnecessary court hearings.

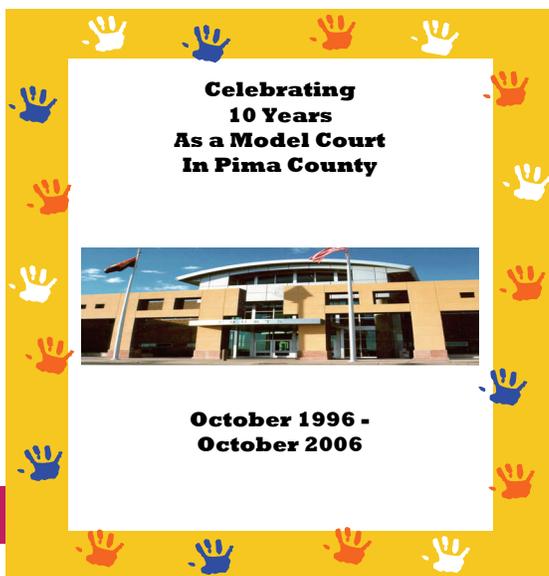


None of our successes would be possible without the combined talent and commitment of our 530+ employees. After a comprehensive market study and the adoption of a new salary administration plan, I am pleased to report that we have begun the process of ensuring that all of our employees are compensated fairly and competitively, now and in the future.

Our mission is to protect the community, hold delinquent youth accountable for their actions and to build competent youth in strong families. The first two goals are best met in the long term by working with the community to achieve the third goal. These are but a few of the many projects we have undertaken and changes we have made to improve the way we serve our community. Our work as a Model Dependency Court, Model Delinquency Court and DMC/JDAI site is nationally recognized. This year, we were especially proud to be acknowledged for our efforts to eliminate disproportionate minority contact by the Tucson chapter of the NAACP. I encourage you to learn more about our work by visiting our website: [www.pcjcc.pima.gov](http://www.pcjcc.pima.gov).

In 2006, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Model Dependency Court project. Our successes over the past decade result from our recognition that ongoing collaboration is the key to sustaining and building on system improvements. As I did for the participants in our anniversary celebration, so I also extend to you an invitation to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2016. We will continue to build on a strong foundation.

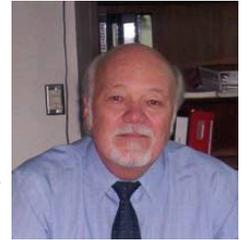
*Patricia Escher*



# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

The Pima County Juvenile Court enjoyed a successful 2006, both in terms of continuation of our key initiatives as well as successful day to day operations. Sometimes there is a tendency to involve ourselves in innovative, major new endeavors that may cause us to overlook the extraordinary work by our collective staff group that keeps the Juvenile Court running smoothly every day. It is a full time job for everyone to efficiently and effectively manage our programs and services so the children and families we serve have their needs met. When you add the responsibilities of key initiatives such as Model Dependency Court, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI), and the Model Delinquency Court, it is no wonder that sometimes we all feel like there are far too few hours in the day! Nonetheless, our service levels remain excellent, and we are realizing significant progress in implementing our initiatives.



Rik Schmidt  
Director

Effective leadership is critical to our work, and I am pleased that in 2006 we added several key members to the Court. We appointed our new Detention Director in August 2006, and we look forward to the continued improvement of our already excellent services for detained children. Our DMC and JDAI initiatives continue to unfold, with an average daily population of 127 detained youths in 2006. This continues the downward trend of the past several years. However, we must look deeper into the process so that our disproportionate numbers in detention can also reflect a satisfactory percentage decline, beyond the reduction in raw numbers of detained youth of color. This remains a principle focus for 2007.

We also hired our first Juvenile Court Clinical Director. The Clinical Director will ensure equity and quality of services across all the service divisions of the court, from probation to detention to dependency. A challenge for 2007 will be to fully integrate the clinical director's work into the varied daily operations of Juvenile Court.

In addition, we hired a Senior Research Analyst to help develop effective outcome measures in various programs and ensure we employ evidence-based best practices. To that end, our Analyst will be actively engaged in the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) process that the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has committed its time and resources to.

During 2006 we have continued to develop appropriate resources to support and sustain reductions in detention population. We have opened one day/evening reporting center and plan to move forward with two more in 2007. Earlier in the year, we hired a Domestic Violence (DV) Coordinator to help address issues related to a substantial portion of our detained population. We are very close to opening a reception center for youth arrested for certain domestic violence allegations. The intent is to refer appropriate youth for immediate, short-term removal from their homes and to initiate necessary crisis intervention services for the youth and family. This effort is the result of tremendous cooperation between the Juvenile Court, eight law enforcement agencies, the county attorney's office, the behavioral health networks, and community-based organizations. Our hope is to begin with an initial site and then replicate the service in other parts of the county.

## PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

Pima County is growing, as is the rest of Arizona. We have just reached the one million population mark, with approximately 133,000 children between ages eight and eighteen. However, as our juvenile population has increased, our detention count has been substantially reduced, and the delinquency rate for nearly all offense classifications has been reduced or remains flat. This reinforces that our initiatives are moving forward without increased risk to public safety, which is one of the cornerstones of the DMC/JDAI effort. This is also a measure of success in the day to day work of everyone at the Court Center.

The dependency side of Juvenile Court also was very successful in 2006. We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Model Court, and the commitment by all of our collaborative partners remains strong. Also, we had a 12.7% decrease in dependency petitions, which ended an unfortunate growth pattern over the last seven years. We are cautiously optimistic but will watch the numbers closely in 2007.

Our staff is extraordinary, always willing to implement new concepts while maintaining our core services. Their hard work with all of our initiatives and their devotion to the daily tasks at hand are what makes juvenile court successful in achieving our mission. Despite a recent market adjustment, however, appropriate compensation for our excellent staff remains a challenge. We are committed to continued market analysis and discussions with our funding sources to make additional adjustments.

I remain proud to be the Director of the Pima County Juvenile Court Center, and I invite you to review this 2006 version of our Blueprint for the Future.

*Rik Schmidt*



# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Pima County Juvenile Court is fortunate to have an outstanding group of judges and commissioners who are all dedicated to the vision and mission of the Court and to the service of the children and families of this community.



Presiding Judge—Patricia Escher  
Associate Presiding Judge—Terry Chandler  
Associate Presiding Judge—Michael O. Miller



Judge Ted Borek  
Judge Jane Eikleberry  
Judge Virginia Kelly  
Judge Paul E. Tang

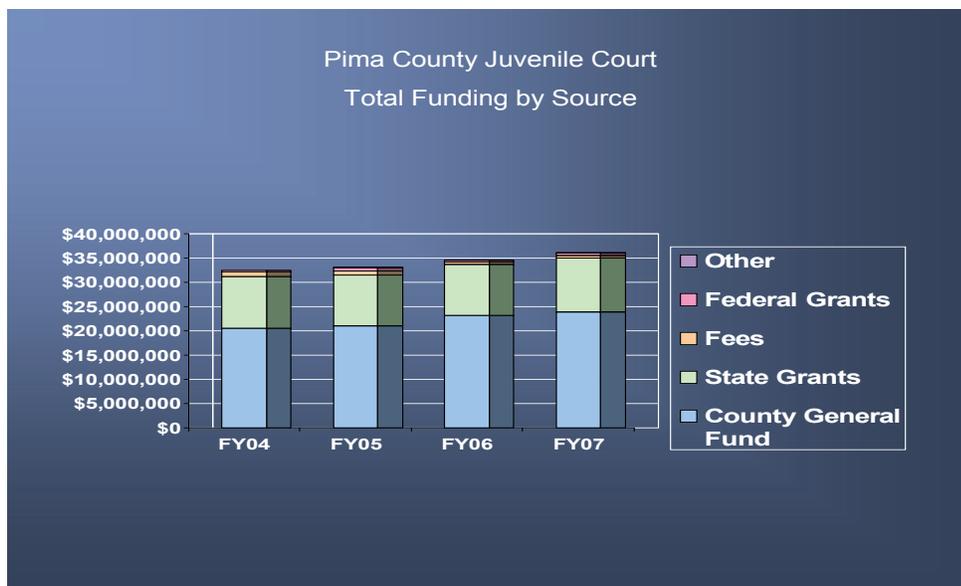


Commissioner Javier Chon-Lopez  
Commissioner Suzanna S. Cuneo  
Commissioner Ted Knuck  
Commissioner Danielle Liwski  
Commissioner Elizabeth Peasley-Fimbres  
Commissioner Kathleen Quiqley  
Commissioner Stephen M. Rubin  
Commissioner Joan Wagener

# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Court receives funding from a variety of sources including Pima County, the State of Arizona, federal grants and special revenue funds, and a private foundation. Total revenue increased from \$34.6 million in Fiscal Year 2005/06 to \$36.2 million in Fiscal Year 2006/07. The Pima County general fund remains the largest single source and provides most of the funding for the Administration, Detention, and Judicial divisions. The chart below shows total funding by source for the last four years.



The majority of the state funding comes through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and supports a variety of probation functions including intensive probation, standard probation, diversion, family counseling and treatment for court involved youth. The AOC also provides funding for two programs in the Children & Family Services Division; the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and the Court Improvement Project.

### Financial highlights for 2006 include:

- New \$1.2 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to fund Family Drug Court for an additional three years.
- Successful implementation of the County mandated Synergen system.
- Design and implementation of a new database to track labor costs.

The Court, with the leadership of the management team and the diligent efforts of all its employees, remains committed to making both efficient and effective use of its financial resources to provide quality services to the children and families of Pima County.



# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

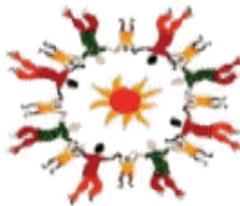
## PROBATION DIVISION

The probation division consists of 148 probation officers, 18 supervisors and coordinators, 33 surveillance officers, 37 support staff, a court librarian and a court psychologist. We receive support through county, state and grant funding. Staff development is a priority for the division. Throughout the past year, we have continued to review and enhance our "Fundamental Skills Development Program" for our new Probation Officers. This program allows us to provide our officers with the philosophical foundation along with basic process and content areas that are essential. We have also added a Lead Field Training Officer position to ensure consistent, safe practices by officers working in the field. In addition to the Fundamental Skills Development training, our officers complete an 8 hour Safety Orientation within 30 days of hire, and also attend a two-week Certification Academy and a 40-hour Defensive Tactics Academy prior to completion of their first year of employment.

From January through December 2006, the division received 14,849 referrals for delinquent or incorrigible allegations. Each one of the 8,915 juveniles involved in these referrals was individually interviewed, and in all cases where there was an admission or an adjudication, consequences were assigned based on individual risk and need. For juveniles referred for relatively minor charges, the consequence might consist of 20 hours of community service work and participation in an educational program. Others with more severe referrals might be referred to treatment or educational programs, ordered to pay restitution or complete community service work. These juveniles could be placed on standard probation, Juveniles Intensive Probation, committed to the Department of Juvenile Corrections or transferred to the adult court system.



Through our court-wide DMC/JDAI initiatives, we continue to examine our practices; specifically all decision-making points within the delinquency process to ensure fair and appropriate actions are taken. We continue to collaborate with other community agencies and providers to develop appropriate services to meet the needs of the population we serve.



**DMC**  
**JDAI**

**Disproportionate Minority Contact**  
**Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative**



## PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

Performance measures from our closing reports for fiscal year 2005-2006 indicate the *excellent* service provided by our officers. During that time, juveniles under the supervision of Probation achieved the following:

- 90% of Diversion eligible juveniles paid the Diversion fee *exceeding* the expected 70% statewide outcome.
- 93.8% of Diversion eligible juveniles paid restitution as required, *exceeding* the expected 70% statewide outcome. This resulted in victims receiving \$35,271 restitution.
- Diversion eligible juveniles completed 32,994 hours of community restitution work. These hours convert to \$222,710 based on the current minimum wage.
- 72.8% of standard probationers completed community restitution work as ordered. This *exceeds* the expected 63% statewide outcome.
- 85.9% of standard probationers successfully completed standard probation *exceeding* the expected 79% statewide outcome.
- Pima JIPS and standard probationers completed 27,824 hours of community restitution work. These hours convert to \$187,812 based on the current minimum wage.
- Pima JIPS and standard probationers paid \$141,839 restitution to victims.
- Diversion eligible juveniles paid \$35,271 restitution to victims.

In 2006, PCJCC was identified as the first Juvenile Court in the country to be a Model Delinquency Court site. This designation allows us to benefit from the technical assistance and expertise provided by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). The NCJFCJ has outlined 16 key principles that are the foundation for a court of excellence. Ensuring that we meet these principles will guide us throughout 2007.



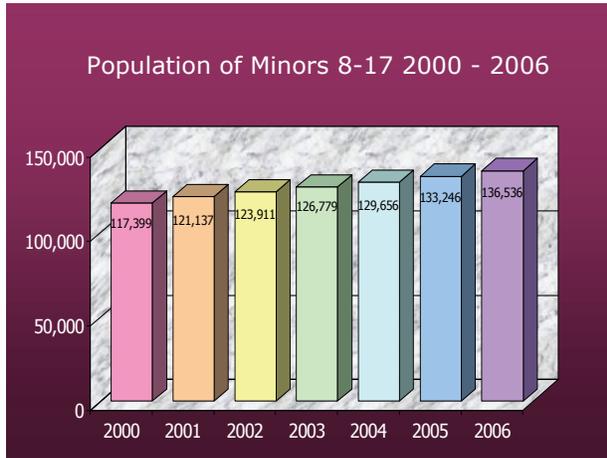
# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## DELINQUENCY HISTORY 2000-2006

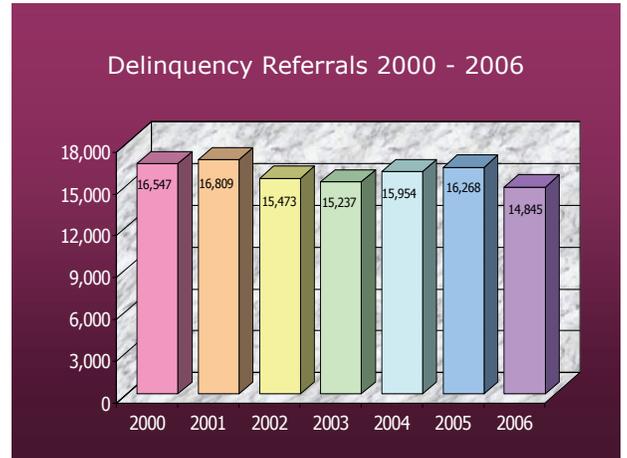
| SEVERITY CODES                               | 2000    | 2001    | 2002    | 2003    | 2004    | 2005    | 2006    | % chg<br>00-06 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Population ages<br>8-17                      | 117,399 | 121,137 | 123,911 | 126,779 | 129,656 | 133,246 | 136,536 | 16.3%          |
| Felony-Violent<br>Crimes Against<br>Persons  | 422     | 420     | 389     | 337     | 374     | 420     | 363     | -14.0%         |
| Felony Crimes<br>Against Property            | 913     | 1,017   | 800     | 851     | 847     | 840     | 931     | 2.0%           |
| Obstruction of<br>Justice                    | 2,117   | 2,252   | 2,037   | 1,831   | 1,890   | 1,765   | 1,643   | -22.4%         |
| Misdemeanor<br>Against Person                | 1,861   | 1,919   | 1,718   | 1,686   | 1,702   | 1,873   | 1,663   | -10.6%         |
| Drug Offenses                                | 1,948   | 2,006   | 1,924   | 1,995   | 2,050   | 2,105   | 1,927   | -1.1%          |
| Public Peace                                 | 3,659   | 3,743   | 3,423   | 3,497   | 3,574   | 3,718   | 3,313   | -9.5%          |
| Misdemeanor<br>Against Property              | 1,871   | 1,876   | 2,070   | 2,001   | 2,069   | 1,720   | 1,579   | -15.6%         |
| Status Offenses                              | 3,754   | 3,574   | 3,111   | 3,037   | 3,446   | 3,826   | 3,414   | -9.1%          |
| City Ordinance                               | 2       | 2       | 1       | 2       | 2       | 8       | 14      | ---            |
| <b>Total Complaints</b>                      | 16,547  | 16,809  | 15,473  | 15,237  | 15,954  | 16,268  | 14,845  | -10.3%         |
| <b>Number of Youth<br/>Represented</b>       | 9,509   | 9,686   | 9,278   | 9,366   | 9,670   | 9,620   | 8,910   | -6.3%          |
| <b>% Youth Population</b>                    | 8.1%    | 8.0%    | 7.5%    | 7.4%    | 7.5%    | 7.2%    | 6.5%    | ---            |
| <b>DETENTION<br/>REFERRALS</b>               |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                |
| <b>Brought to<br/>Detention</b>              | 5,321   | 5,615   | 5,155   | 4,881   | 5,037   | 4,988   | 4,712   | -11.4%         |
| <b>Detained</b>                              | 3,462   | 3,808   | 3,695   | 3,497   | 3,600   | 3,389   | 3,288   | -5.0%          |
| <b>% Detained</b>                            | 65.1%   | 67.8%   | 71.7%   | 71.6%   | 71.5%   | 67.9%   | 69.8%   | 7.2%           |
| <b>Average Daily<br/>Population (annual)</b> | 178     | 190     | 166     | 176     | 173     | 136     | 127     | -28.7%         |

# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER DELINQUENCY HISTORY 2000-2006

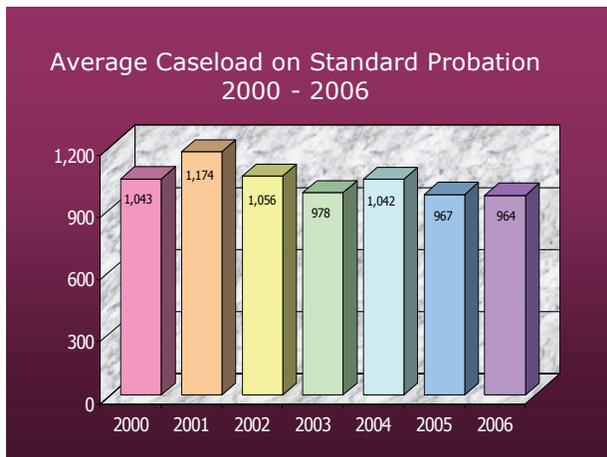
POPULATION OF MINORS 8-17 2000-2006



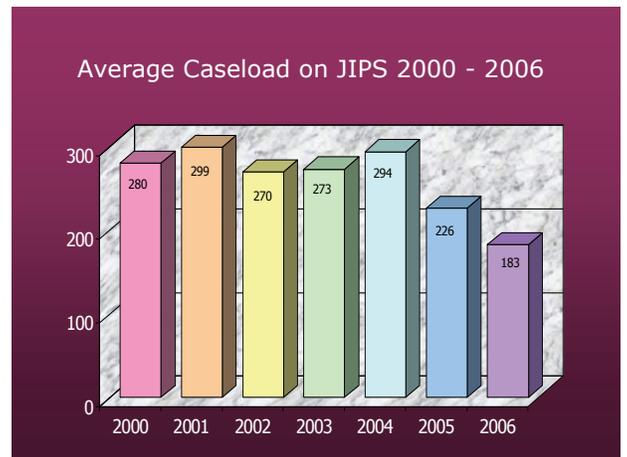
DELINQUENCY REFERRALS 2000-2006



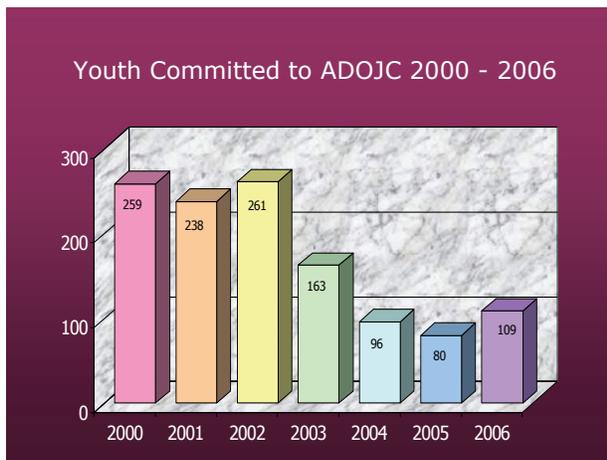
AVERAGE MONTHLY CASELOAD ON  
STANDARD PROBATION 2000-2006



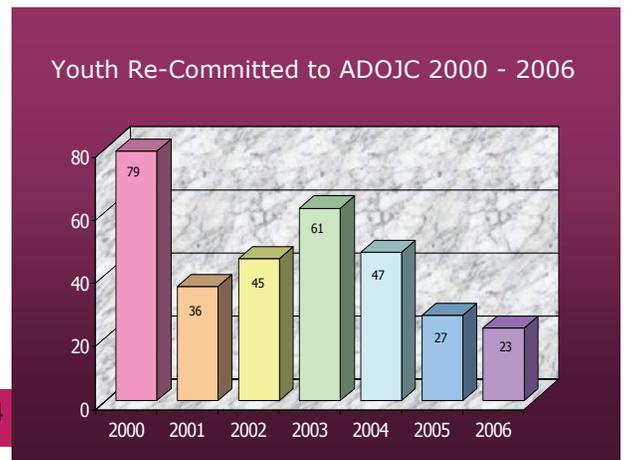
AVERAGE MONTHLY CASELOAD ON JIPS  
2000-2006



YOUTH COMMITTED TO ADJC 2000-2006



YOUTH RE-COMMITTED TO ADJC 2000-2006



# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## DETENTION DIVISION

In 2006 Detention Services completed the JDAI Self-Inspection, celebrated the one year anniversary of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base mentoring program, implemented the Interfaith Council partnership, and continued building skills in detention officers through "how to do" training sessions.

Implementation of the JDAI Self-Inspection action plan began in 2006. Educating staff about JDAI and DMC is pivotal to successful implementation and was a primary topic for staff training in 2006. Our Court's initiatives are presented to all newly hired staff and integrated into our regular training schedule for veteran officers.

Detention Services sponsored an Appreciation Event at Freedom Park in November to celebrate the one year anniversary of the DMAFB Mentoring Program. Mentors and mentees joined with detention personnel in playing games and barbecuing. Both mentors and mentees were applauded for their participation in this successful program by Program Coordinator Jennifer Torchia. Certificates of Appreciation were distributed to airmen at squadron meetings prior to the Appreciation Event. Judge Escher presented Certificates of Appreciation for six outstanding airmen mentors recognizing their commitment and investment in our youth during the DMAFB Wing Commanders Meeting.



The DMAFB Mentoring Program currently has 50 active mentors and 62 mentees, with a youth waiting list. Our mentors agree to work with their mentee for a period of six months. Many mentors have continued with youth longer than the six-month agreement or after their mentee has turned eighteen.

The Step-Up Program is running in all units. The goal for 2007 is to get all units on the same level of integration, while promoting uniformity and consistency between the living units. Continuing with "how to do" training sessions will insure further integration.

Over the past year, we developed an Interfaith Council, comprised of four religious groups. The goal of the council is to deliver services and individual spiritual counseling to meet the needs of our youth. Providing hope and encouragement in a positive way.

## Detention Goals for 2007

- Expand youth skill building program
- Continue improving conditions of confinement
- Expand community mentoring program
- Implement Treatment Readiness and Relapse Stabilization Living Unit

# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

This division of Pima County Juvenile Court is charged with the oversight of all dependency, adoption, severance, and guardianship cases. In 2006 - for the first time in 7 years - the Court saw a decrease in dependency petitions filed by Child Protective Services (CPS) or private parties.



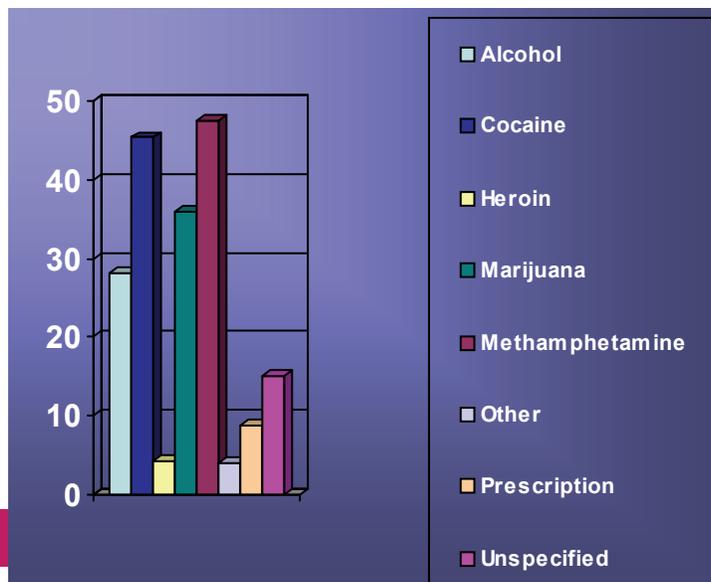
Prevention and diversion services in the community and through CPS, including Team Decision Making, In-Home Services and Family Connections Units, may have had an impact on child welfare in Pima County, keeping children and families out of the court system.

But there remain many more families in need of court oversight. As 2006 closed, there were:

1527 open dependency cases in Pima County;  
 2744 dependent children; and  
*Nearly 70% of these cases involved child maltreatment related to parental substance abuse.*

In 2006, many law enforcement, treatment and social service agencies paid special attention to **methamphetamine abuse** in Pima County and its impact on children. Through the Pima County Model Dependency Court Working Committee, a subcommittee was formed to look into the impact of meth on families in our dependency court system. The committee researched effective treatment approaches and what is available in our community. The committee also examined our approach to cases involving parental methamphetamine abuse and made recommendations for changes that might improve outcomes.

### Drug of Choice for Parents in Dependency Cases (by percent)



## PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

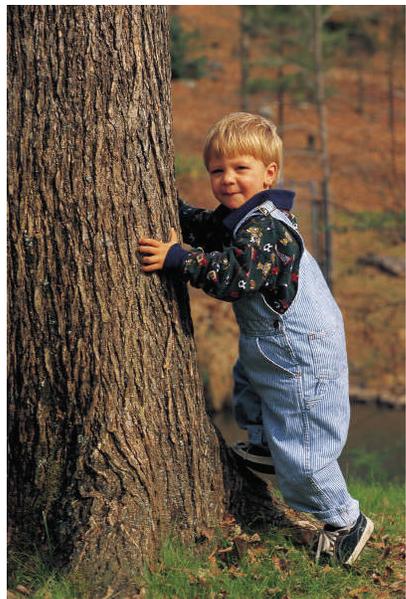
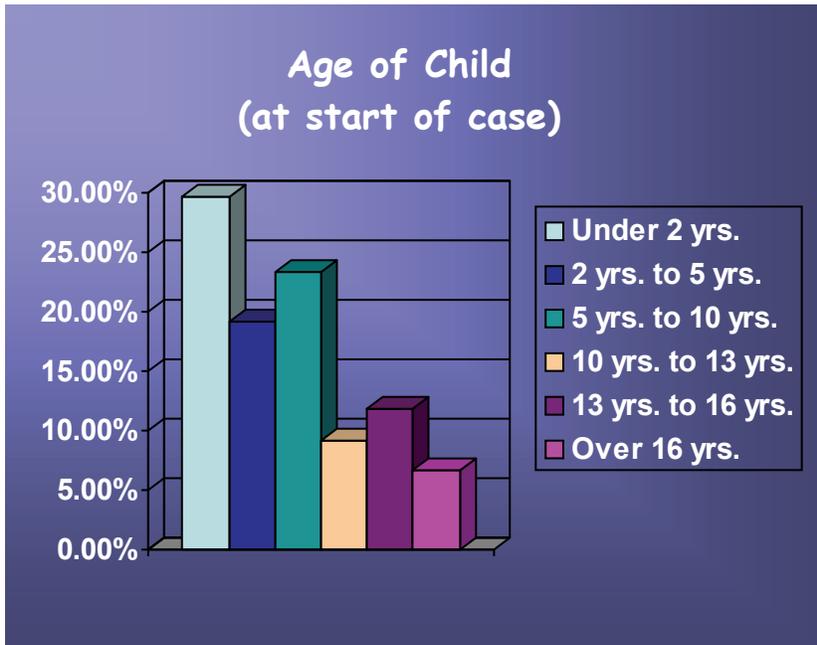
The work of the methamphetamine subcommittee culminated in a day-long forum in September for nearly 400 judges, attorneys, CPS workers, treatment providers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and parents in recovery. They heard from national experts that parents can recover from methamphetamine abuse and parent their children safely, but that a number of barriers within the dependency system need to be addressed.

No time was wasted in getting to work: breakout sessions at the end of the day resulted in ideas for immediate changes that could be made in case planning, pre-hearing conferences and engagement in treatment. As 2006 drew to a close, a number of new committees had formed to implement exciting and real changes over the next year, including co-locating adult substance abuse treatment providers at the court to improve treatment engagement.

**More good news for 2006: more children left the dependency system than came in:**

| Children entering dependency | Children leaving dependency |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1342                         | 1528                        |

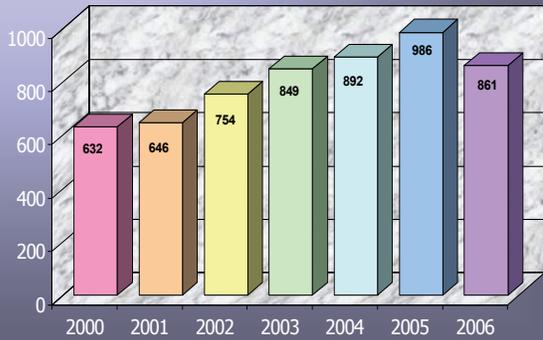
Still, 2744 children, ages 0-18, were wards of the court as 2006 closed, with more than 50% of the children under 6 years of age:



# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER



Dependency Petitions  
2000 - 2006



Source: Pima County Juvenile Court  
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)  
February 12, 2007



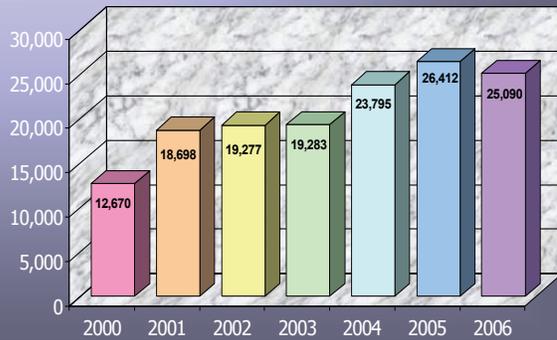
Dependency Petitions  
2000 - 2006

↑ 36.2%

Source: Pima County Juvenile Court  
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)  
February 12, 2007



Dependency Hearings  
2000 - 2006



Source: Pima County Juvenile Court  
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)  
February 12, 2007



Dependency Hearings  
2000 - 2006

↑ 98.0%

Source: Pima County Juvenile Court  
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)  
February 12, 2007

## PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

More than 350 children benefited from having a **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)** in 2006. Each CASA, acting as the "eyes and ears of the Court", is appointed by a judge to a child or sibling group, and makes recommendations in the children's best interests, after reviewing reports and assessments, conferring with teachers, foster parents, case managers and treatment providers, and spending time with the children. CASA staff, part of Children & Family Services, recruit, train and supervise the volunteer advocates. As 2006 ended, there were:

- 225 Court Appointed Special Advocates appointed to
- 328 dependency cases,
- Volunteering 21,143 hours and
- Driving 220,193 miles to visit a child, interview a parent, attend a staffing, or go to Court.

Research continues to demonstrate the importance of brain development, attachment, nutrition and mental health in **children ages zero to three**, and the CASA program has begun to explore training special "Baby CASAs" to work just with young children. In 2006, the CASA program implemented a strategic plan to increase recruitment while at the same time improve the quality and training of volunteer advocates. Retention of experienced CASAs was also spotlighted. One experienced CASA, **Barbara Himebaugh**, was named State CASA of the Year.



## PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

As a Model Court, PCJCC pays special attention to collaborative approaches by serving children and families. **Mediation** is often a better venue for problem-solving in dependency cases than a courtroom. In 2006, two full-time Court Mediators conducted more mediation sessions,



facilitated settlement conferences, and facilitated case conferences (all examples of Alternative Dispute Resolution) than in any previous year, providing a more informal venue for families to deal with serious issues. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is far less expensive and time consuming than a court hearing. By participating in a mediation or other dispute resolution process, parties in dependency cases are often able to avoid expensive dependency or severance trials, which require a judge, a number of attorneys, testimony, evidence, a court clerk and transcription. In 2006:

- 236 hours of contested dependency trial time were vacated when the issue of the dependency was resolved in facilitated settlement conferences;
- 222 hours of contested severance trial time were vacated as a result of facilitated case conferences or mediation; and
- 9 hours of contested guardianships were vacated as a result of mediation.

Families who reach agreements in ADR sessions are more invested in their decisions, feel more empowered, and often have better outcomes. We look forward to exploring the use of ADR in delinquency cases in the coming year.

### Number of Cases Referred for Court-Based ADR Services

| 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 230  | 256  | 358  | 537  | 708  |

House Bill 2024, allowing parents to request **jury trials** when CPS files a motion to sever their parental rights, sunsetted on December 31, 2006. While 78 jury trials were assigned, only 12 were completed, many because ADR processes were used. Of 17 parents who received jury trials, 15 had their parental rights severed, 9 trials were still pending as the year ended.

Family Drug Court (FDC) remained a vital resource for many parents in dependency cases who struggled with substance abuse, and the Family Drug Court staff and graduates played a vital role in educating our community and agency stakeholders about meth and its impact on dependency cases. The message: Meth is dangerous, it precludes safe parenting, and the physical and neurological effects on its users are frightening....**BUT** traditional cognitive-behavioral treatment models work, community support must be there to sustain what's learned in treatment, and parents who abuse meth can parent their children again safely.

As endorsement of this message, our main community stakeholders in the dependency process stepped forward to support Family Drug Court when it appeared that neither federal nor state funding would be available to keep this program alive. Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, Pima County's Regional Behavioral Health Authority, pledged funding for the FDC Case Specialists, who provide intensive case management and frequent home visits to parents; Child Protective Services (CPS) dedicated CPS Case Aides to FDC, to be stationed at the Court and to provide transportation to treatment and other concrete wraparound services like food boxes and bus passes. Judge Joan Wagener remained on the bench as the FDC judge, providing leadership to the program and support and accountability to the clients who appear before her every week.

PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER



Additionally, the Court was honored to learn that the Family Drug Court program had received additional grant funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. A survey of FDC clients revealed that underlying trauma issues - usually sexual trauma from their own childhoods - had never been addressed therapeutically. With the SAMHSA grant, FDC has begun a partnership with Las Familias, an agency under the Arizona's Children Association, to provide treatment for FDC clients who have underlying trauma issues manifesting in symptoms such as anxiety disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Our hope is that graduation rates will increase over the next three years with this important service, as well as through partnerships with Providence Corporation (specialized parenting classes), Old Pueblo Foundation (stabilization housing) and the University of Arizona (evaluation). To date:

- 194 parents have participated in Family Drug Court;
- 65 clients have graduated;
- 8% of graduates had reactivated dependency cases;
- 18 babies have been born drug-free to FDC clients; and
- 95% of FDC graduates have been reunified with their children.

PCJCC continued to offer low-cost Adoption & Guardianship services to Pima County residents in 2006. In keeping with the Court's mission of safe, permanent placements for children, the Adoption Examiner's office offers fingerprinting, home studies and certifications for families who wish to legally adopt stepchildren, grandchildren, or other children already in their home. In partnership with the County Attorney's office, these families are able to provide permanency for their children and pay fees commensurate with their household income. In 2006, these community services generated \$26,800 in revenue for PCJCC.



|                | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Adoptions      | 127  | 136  | 113  | 142  | 107  |
| Certifications | 11   | 17   | 10   | 09   | 8    |
| Guardianships  | 26   | 36   | 35   | 30   | 36   |
| Totals         | 164  | 189  | 158  | 181  | 151  |



## PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

The Children & Family Services Division was pleased to begin an important partnership with PCJCC's Information Technology Department in 2006: JOLTSaz, a joint effort between the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and PCJCC. This effort is a multi-year mission to develop and implement an improved, enhanced, and modernized replacement for the current JOLTS (Juvenile On-Line Tracking System) in Pima County as well as in Arizona's rural counties. The project has been divided into separate, manageable modules so PCJCC and AOC teams can work simultaneously to make more rapid progress.

One of the modules being developed by PCJCC is the Dependency module. In August, a business analysis team began gathering requirements for the new module from subject matter experts within the **Dependency Unit**, which is charged with tracking all dependency hearings and case outcomes. The culmination of that effort was the publication and distribution of the final version of the Pima County Dependency Functional Requirements in early December. The team will now turn their focus towards designing the new module. Development of the software based on that design is scheduled to begin in April of 2007.

This partnership is in keeping with the Division's commitment to monitoring and improving dependency case flow management and to spotting and responding to trends - such as the current methamphetamine epidemic - that may affect Pima County's most vulnerable citizens: dependent children and their families.



# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## Key Community Partnerships 2006

The Pima County Juvenile Court Center could not help the children and families of this community without strong collaboration. Our sincere appreciation goes out to those governmental and community organizations whose partnerships are key to our success:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)<br>Juvenile Justice Services & Dependent Children's Services | Arizona Children's Association (ACA)  |
| Anne E. Casey Foundation (AECF)  | Arizona Department of Education (ADOE) Pima County Public Schools                 |
| Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)  | Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission   |
| Attorney General's Office  | Ashford Disbrow, Inc.   |
| AVIVA  | Cactus Counseling Services  |
| CAPE for Educational Services/Superintendent of Education, Pima County                                 | Chicanos Por La Causa   |
| Child & Family Resources   | Child Protection Services   |
| Children's Action Alliance   | Center for Juvenile Alternatives (CJA)  |
| CODAC  | Community Food Bank   |
| Community Justice Boards—in cooperation with Pima County Attorney's Office                             | Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA)                                  |
| Compass  | COPE  |
| Crime Reduction Task Force   | DMC/JDAI Executive Committee  |
| Governor's Division for Children   | Governor's Community Policy Office  |
| La Frontera  | National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)                     |
| New Beginnings   | Old Pueblo Community Foundation   |
| Pantano  | Pima Community College  |
| Pima County Administrator  | Pima County Attorney's Office (PCAO)  |
| Pima County Board of Supervisors (BOS)   | Pima County Clerk of the Court  |
| Pima County Facilities Management  | Pima County Fleet Services  |
| Pima County Juvenile Court Community Advisory Board (CAB)  | Pima County Parks and Recreation Department                                       |
| Pima County Public Library   | Pima County Sheriff's Office (PCSO)   |
| Pima County Youth Opportunity (Project YO)   | Pima Foundation for Youth   |
| The Partnership (formerly known as Pima Prevention Partnership)  | Providence  |
| Public Defender  | Superior Court Adult Probation  |
| Superior Court Administrator's Office  | SMART Programs—School, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Probation collaborations |
| Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA)  | Sunnyside Unified School District   |
| TMM Family Services, Inc.<br>(formerly known as Tucson Metropolitan Ministries)                        | Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)                                |
| Tucson Police Department (TPD)   | Tucson Indian Center (TIC)  |
| Tucson Urban League (TUL)  | Tucson Unified School District (TUSD)   |
| University of Arizona  | University of Phoenix   |
| Victim Offender Mediation Program (VOMP)   | W. Haywood Burns Institute  |
| World Care   | Zuni Bike Club  |

# PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Among the almost-600 employees of Juvenile Court are some of the most exceptional and professional people in the state of Arizona. Each year the Arizona Chief Probation Officers Association (ACPOA) sponsors awards for the employees of the juvenile and adult probation departments throughout the state. This year the employees who represented Juvenile Court in the statewide competition were:

**Employee of the Year - *Susan Parnell***  
**Court Mediator, Child and Family Services**

**Detention Officer of the Year - *Bob Thomas***  
**Detention Officer, Detention Services**

**Line Officer of the Year - *Sheila Kembel***  
**Probation Officer, NW Community Justice Center**

**Supervisor/Manager of the Year - *Rona Newton***  
**Director, IT & Research**



Congratulations to these outstanding staff for their excellent service to the children and families of our community and their superior efforts in carrying out the mission of the Court.

**PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER**

**PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CENTER  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)**

**MEMBERS/PARTICIPANTS LIST**

The Pima County Juvenile Court is one of nine Courts in the state to have a Community Advisory Board (CAB) since 1995. CABs were established to advocate on behalf of the Courts and to provide input from the community as to the Court's functions. The Pima County Juvenile CAB is currently comprised as follows:

*Community Members & Juvenile Court Participants*

|                        |                           |                        |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Frank Carmen</b>    | <b>Jesus Diaz</b>         | <b>Patricia Escher</b> |
| <b>Hilary Eshelman</b> | <b>Elaine Flaherty</b>    | <b>Brenda Flynn</b>    |
| <b>Karen Godzyk</b>    | <b>Pete Hochuli</b>       | <b>Judy Holgate</b>    |
| <b>Lt. Rick Hovden</b> | <b>Arnold Palacios</b>    | <b>Rik Schmidt</b>     |
| <b>Betty Shelman</b>   | <b>Margaret Singleton</b> | <b>Clint Stinson</b>   |