



**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](http://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](mailto:isabel.burruel-smutzer@pcao.pima.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 26, 2012

**PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES  
FIRST GRADUATIONS FROM INNOVATIVE DRUG  
TREATMENT PROGRAM**

TUCSON, ARIZONA - An innovative program created by Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall to rehabilitate nonviolent drug offenders will hold its first graduation ceremony this week.

Two women who successfully completed the first stage of the 36-month Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP) program will mark the milestone at a March 27 ceremony in Pima County Superior Court.

"These women are proof that drug recovery support services can and do work," said LaWall, who created the program three years ago. "DTAP is making a positive difference in people's lives and in our community."

DTAP requires participants to live in a residential treatment center, work closely with drug counselors and be supervised by a drug court judge and probation officer. Local organizations such as the Primavera Foundation, The Haven and Compass Behavioral Health Care are instrumental in the rehabilitation effort.

Both women, Arlene Shideler and Denise Hotchkiss, were repeat drug offenders. "The DTAP program saved my life," said Shideler. "Going through The Haven gave me the tools and counseling to be a productive member of society. It has brought me back to my family and allowed me to stand on my own two feet. I am a better mother to my children and a better daughter to my mom." A second graduation ceremony will be held on April 3 for Adam Finkelstein.



**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](http://www.pcao.pima.gov)

"These individuals were motivated to get clean and stay sober," LaWall said. "In helping them get their lives back on track, we help make our community a safer and better place to live."

The DTAP program is a collaboration of the Pima County Attorney's Office, the Superior Court, the Public Defender's Office, the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Department. It is one of only 28 similar programs in the country. It is funded by a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

Media is welcome to cover both ceremonies, but cameras will not be permitted inside the courtroom.

- Graduation of Arlene Shideler and Denise Hotchkiss (photos attached)  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012  
8:30 a.m.  
Pima County Superior Court - 3rd floor  
Courtroom of the Honorable Judge Teresa Godoy
- Graduation of Adam Finkelstein (photo attached)  
Tuesday, April 3, 2012  
8:30 a.m.  
Pima County Superior Court - 3rd floor  
Courtroom of the Honorable Judge Teresa Godoy

###

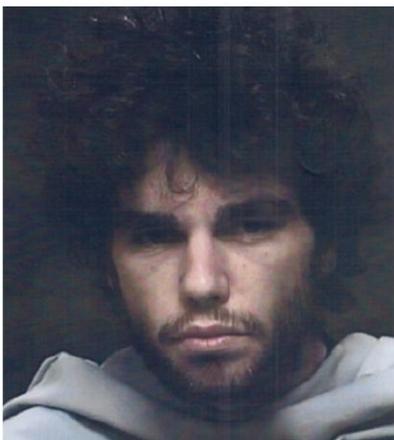
## BEFORE DTAP



**Arlene Shideler**



**Denise Hotchkiss**



**Adam Finkelstein**

## AFTER DTAP

