



**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:

Kent Burbank, Director  
Victim Services Division  
Pima County Attorney's Office  
Phone: 520-740-5525  
Email: [kent.burbank@pcao.pima.gov](mailto:kent.burbank@pcao.pima.gov)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2010

### **Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall Announces Domestic Violence Initiatives**

Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall is pleased to announce three new initiatives that are designed to better address the pervasive and systemic problem of domestic abuse. These initiatives are particularly relevant at this time because October is *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*. Domestic violence continues to be one of the most common crimes in our community. Approximately one-third of all victims served by the Pima County Attorney's Victim Services Division are victims of domestic violence.

LaWall said "Domestic violence destroys families, harms children, and tears at the fabric of our community. We are pleased to have three new initiatives that continue to enhance our efforts to address this plague." The three initiatives are:

- **Enhanced Prosecution of Domestic Violence Offenders** – The Pima County Attorney's Office received a competitive grant of \$990,498 from the *Office of Violence Against Women* for enhanced prosecution of domestic violence offenders by the County Attorney's specialized Domestic Violence Unit. In addition to strengthening prosecution efforts, the grant supports community partner agencies, such as *Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse* and the *Southern Arizona Legal Aid* which provide direct services to these crime victims.
- **Lethality Assessment Training for Pima County Law Enforcement** – The Pima County Attorney's Office is pleased to introduce an important new tool for law enforcement officers who are working on-scene with domestic violence victims. This simple, but powerful instrument, endorsed by the *Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST)*, will enable law enforcement to identify victims who may be at the highest risk of death at the hands of their perpetrators. Given the high volume of domestic violence cases, this tool is vital to help law enforcement better identify those situations that may escalate and then connect these victims with 24-hour crisis assistance. The Pima County Attorney's Office will host upcoming training for law enforcement officers from across the state on how to use this new tool.

- **Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team** – Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall and *Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik* are pleased to announce a new collaborative venture that may help prevent future domestic violence homicides. They are establishing a *Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team*, comprised of various agencies throughout the community, to study past domestic violence fatalities with the goal of identifying potential gaps or barriers in services and improving the coordinated community response to domestic violence victims.

If you would like to know more about these initiatives, contact Kent Burbank, Director of the Pima County Attorney's Office Victim Services Division, at 520-740-5525 or by email: [kent.burbank@pcao.pima.gov](mailto:kent.burbank@pcao.pima.gov).

\* \* \* \* \*