



NEWS RELEASE

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Cari Gerchick, Esq.
Communications Director
Telephone: (602) 448-8412
cgerchick@courts.az.gov

CHIEF JUSTICE RUTH V. MCGREGOR ANNOUNCES CENTER FOR EVIDENCE BASED SENTENCING

The Arizona Supreme Court is pleased to announce the creation of the Center for Evidence Based Sentencing. The Honorable Ron Reinstein, who had a long and significant career in the Superior Court in Maricopa County, has been named as the Center's Director and will lead the Center's efforts on behalf of the Arizona Supreme Court. The work of the Center for Evidence Based Sentencing will focus on devising effective supervision plans for offenders who are on probation.

Evidence Based Sentencing relies upon a set of tools designed to offer judicial officials objective, scientific research about criminal behavior to assist them when making probation decisions. Prior to sentencing, each probationer will undergo a risk assessment. By using objective data and matching that data with the risk level of each probationer, the judicial officer can tailor a term of probation and supervision so that greater levels of success in preventing re-offending can be achieved.

Not all probationers present the same risk to society, and customized supervision, by avoiding a "one size fits all approach" to probation and supervision, will increase public safety by reducing recidivism and facilitate a better use of public resources.

Regarding the Center, Chief Justice McGregor remarked that, "In the past, judicial officers have had limited tools at their disposal when making probation sentencing and supervision decisions. The work of the Center for Evidence Based Sentencing will provide additional tools to assist judges and probation officers in making better decisions regarding those under supervision. We hope to use the objective evidence matched to the characteristics of the offender to protect the public, change criminal behavior, and reduce recidivism."

One of the Center's first efforts will be to provide information about evidence based sentencing and risk analysis to judicial and probation officers, and to other criminal justice stakeholders statewide.

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1501 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 448-8412
FAX (602) 542-9484