To go to a specific section in the Annual Report, click on the  or  icon in the Tool Bar above, and click on "Bookmarks."
Mission Statement

The Maricopa County Attorney is dedicated to the vigorous prosecution of those who commit crimes within the county. As the chief advocate for the State and the citizens of the community in criminal matters, the County Attorney seeks to provide the highest quality service and maintain the integrity of the criminal justice system. Criminals must be held accountable, while assuring that the statutory rights and emotional needs of victims and witnesses are properly addressed. Additionally, the County Attorney seeks to implement, promote and participate in programs that reduce crime and enhance the quality of community life. The County Attorney also contributes to excellence in local government by providing complete legal services to the county, its officers and political subdivisions.
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A Message From the Maricopa County Attorney

As anticipated, this new millennium has brought about revolutionary changes in the way cases are investigated and tried by my office. Computer simulation software reconstructs crime scenes, replacing the smaller, easel-laden diagrams. PowerPoint slide show presentations illustrate key evidence, eliminating the flip charts of old. Case law research with the help of an in-house database provides attorneys with specific information in seconds, alleviating tedious hours in the law library. Enlarged photographs are projected on screen, so jurors no longer miss crucial testimony while passing around a photo. Technology is at the heart of this change.

As County Attorney, I have embraced new technologies designed to aid investigations and enhance the preparedness of our attorneys. Today, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office has emerged as a leader in innovative prosecution due, in part, to the use of these technologies accompanied by in-depth training. This year’s annual report focuses on the various areas of the Office where technology has had a dramatic impact.

While a laptop computer may replace an attorney’s yellow legal pad in the 21st century, technology cannot replace the fundamentals of trial advocacy. With the expertise of our prosecutors and the experience of our investigators, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office boasts a conviction rate higher than the national average. Thanks to the efforts of the entire staff, criminals are held accountable for the crimes they commit in Maricopa County.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Romley
Maricopa County Attorney
A Team Approach and Innovative Programs Assist Prosecutors

The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office uses the team approach for its newly created and innovative programs to assist attorneys during the prosecutorial process.

Use of Technology to Solve Crimes

In the past, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office continually faced a myriad of challenges in the investigation and prosecution of crimes. In order to meet these challenges, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office became one of the first prosecutorial agencies in the country to establish programs using teams of experts along with advanced computer technology and litigation-support software to provide our investigators and prosecutors with the most comprehensive tools to assist them during the investigative and prosecutorial process.

Over the years, the inability to identify victims of apparent homicides hampered efforts to bring killers to justice. Today, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office employs a medical illustrator and forensic reconstruction artist to work with investigators and prosecutors to reconstruct the facial features of unidentified victims, providing valuable leads and strong evidence for a jury.

Many drug trafficking organizations and so-called “cyber-criminals” often take advantage of legitimate improvements in electronic communications and computer technology to commit their crimes. To combat this new breed of criminal, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office Investigations Division combines sophisticated computer technology and court orders to obtain evidence from any electronic device used by criminals to commit these high-tech crimes. Law enforcement agencies in Maricopa County can rely on a history of productive investigative partnerships with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office to call on these resources for technical support and assistance in the investigation of criminal syndicates.

This commitment to innovation, technology and partnership was instrumental in the recent indictment of thirty-four (34) members of the “New Mexican Mafia,” a violent and dangerous criminal syndicate with its roots in the world of prison gangs. The combined efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies brought a halt to the activities of indicted gang members responsible for an extensive drug trade, aggravated assaults and murder.
Historically, legal research has meant hours locked away in a dusty law library searching for just the right court case. When confronted with complex issues in the middle of a trial, attorneys very often were unable to rebut the issues due to an inability to spend hours poring over legal reference books.

In 1996, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office took a major step to address this problem. At that time, every attorney in the office was provided with law research using CD Rom technology. What often took hours to find in law libraries away from the Office, now could be located within minutes—right from their desk.

Over the past four years, the Office has enhanced our research ability through the use of a variety of computer innovations. Using the technology of the Intranet, we developed an on-line bank of appellate and Supreme Court decisions, published opinions, and other legal reference material. Compiled into a user friendly, easy to navigate format called “Legal Reference Materials,” attorneys and legal assistants are able to respond to complex legal issues in a matter of hours when it once took several days.

Our most recent innovation involves enhanced legal research. The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office established a Legal Research team comprised of legal assistants who specialize in legal research and writing. Attorneys are able to request legal research using the Intranet. This team assists our attorneys, civil and criminal, with their numerous and varied legal research issues.

“AZ Briefs,” which is accessed through the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office’s Intranet site, is an automated legal brief bank which contains a comprehensive collection of substantive and procedural criminal law topics. The “AZ Briefs” team uses enhanced computer technology to provide an on-line research data base for our attorneys and legal assistants. In addition, the Office’s “Motion and Response Bank,” which is also located on our Intranet, contains related motions and responses for attorneys to use in their case preparation.

In just the first year, prosecutors and legal assistants have utilized “AZ Briefs” to answer more than two thousand intricate legal questions in a matter of minutes. Technology has helped the Office to successfully handle the ever-increasing complexity of cases, involving a multitude of legal issues.

The legal research team teaches a workshop for attorneys interested in using our new on-line research database.
Presenting Exhibits and Evidence at Trial

No longer do prosecutors have to rely on cumbersome flip charts and cardboard exhibits for their opening and closing arguments and presenting evidence to the Judge and jury during trial. The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office Investigations Division employs a team of experienced staff, who have received extensive training in the use of computer graphics software and litigation-support software, to assist prosecutors in their presentation of complex evidence issues at trial. The Courtroom Litigation Specialists team is also trained in imaging and data base technologies for complex criminal and civil cases that involve thousands of pages of documents, reports, and exhibits such as photographs, maps, charts, and diagrams. The use of computer technology allows for evidence to be projected on TV monitors or projection screens in the courtroom. These visual aids help the Judge and jury to understand the evidence and witnesses’ testimony.

The use of sophisticated computer technology has also allowed our Investigations Division Forensic Exhibits and Analysis team to successfully produce two-dimensional or three-dimensional crime scene diagrams, enlarged aerial photographs, and other illustrative exhibits for trial.
Striving for Excellence — Enhanced Training

The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office took the lead in establishing one of the first innovative and comprehensive training programs for prosecutors in the nation. Our Office has a fully functional training division located within the confines of our agency.

Today, with the complexities of prosecuting a vast array of criminal and juvenile cases, prosecutors must be armed with the most innovative tools to assist them during the prosecution of a case. The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office’s newly hired attorneys are required to attend several weeks of training on issues ranging from the criminal and juvenile justice process and victims’ rights to trial strategies. They are also afforded the opportunity to try cases with an experienced attorney mentor at their side. This team approach allows the mentor to give advice and guidance throughout the pretrial and trial process.

More experienced prosecutors within the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office also receive ongoing training. Educational classes are held on a regular basis as well as an Advanced Trial Advocacy course which is designed to continually perfect our prosecutors’ courtroom presentations.

We are extremely proud of our attorney training program. Due to the intensive and comprehensive training our prosecutors receive, they are highly respected throughout the state and nation for their work with crime victims and their prosecution success rate, as well as their training expertise.

The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office has done a tremendous job enhancing its technology and training capabilities to reinforce our prosecutors’ effectiveness at trial. This Office will never waver from the challenge to ensure our investigators and prosecutors are provided with state-of-the-art tools and resources. Together as a team, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office will continue to vigorously prosecute those in Maricopa County who make the decision to engage in criminal activity.
Maricopa County Crime Rate*  
1990–1998

In the last few years, the number of reported crimes have gone down significantly when compared to the population of Maricopa County. When comparing the 1998 rate of crime (the number of crimes reported for every 100,000 people) to the 1990 crime rate, the citizens of Maricopa County have been victimized by far fewer crimes.

Since 1990, Maricopa County’s population has increased 32.2% more than the State of Arizona (27.4%)

Overall

- Maricopa County’s crime rate has decreased 19%

Crime rate for the State of Arizona decreased 16.7%

Violent Crime

- Maricopa County’s violent crime rate has decreased 18.8%

Arizona’s violent crime rate has decreased 11.4%

Property Crime

- Maricopa County’s property crime rate has decreased 19%

Property crime rate for Arizona decreased 17.1%

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Crime Rate is defined as the number of crimes reported per 100,000 people.
Office Statistics

Corresponding to the dramatic reduction in the crime rate over the past eight years, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office has seen a reduction in the number of reported crimes solved by law enforcement agencies and referred for felony or juvenile delinquency prosecution.

### ADULT FELONY CASE FILINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>FY '98/'99</th>
<th>Change From '97/'98</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part I, UCR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>-11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>-8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Molestation</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular Homicide</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>2,146</td>
<td>-10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>1,725</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular Theft</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>-44.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI</td>
<td>2,816</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>-20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part II, UCR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Related</td>
<td>11,018</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Offenses</td>
<td>4,569</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>25,574</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Federal Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Report

### JUVENILE PETITION FILINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>FY '98/'99</th>
<th>Change From '97/'98</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part I, UCR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Molestation</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>-27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular Theft</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>-27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>1,816</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part II, UCR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Related</td>
<td>1,674</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Offenses</td>
<td>4,071</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9,883</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Federal Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Report

(Note: After July 1997 juveniles 15 years and older accused of committing homicide, aggravated assault and other violent crime were charged as adults under the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.)
ADULT CASES FILED
FY '94/95 to FY '98/99

Violent and Non-violent Crimes as defined by Part I, Uniform Crime Report

JUVENILE PETITIONS FILED
FY '94/95 to FY '98/99

Violent and Non-violent Crimes as defined by Part I, Uniform Crime Report
In fiscal year ‘98/’99, over 20,000 adult felony matters were concluded in Superior Court. Over 87% of these cases resulted in a conviction, 11% resulted in dismissal, often for reasons such as a conviction in a related case, death of the defendant, or inability to locate key witnesses. Only 1% of the dispositions were the result of acquittal at trial.

The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office conviction rate continues to exceed the national average.

Overview of the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office

- One of the largest prosecuting attorney’s offices in the country.
- Staff of 823 including 278 prosecutors, 32 attorneys handling civil matters, 78 legal assistants, 48 victim witness advocates, 53 investigators, and 334 support and administrative staff.
- Eight support staff volunteers, 34 victim witness advocate volunteers, and 67 legal assistant volunteers.
- Five locations throughout Maricopa County including offices in downtown Phoenix and Mesa, juvenile offices in West Phoenix and Mesa.
Richard M. Romley, Maricopa County Attorney
1989–Present

Nationally recognized, Rick Romley has earned the reputation as a leader in criminal justice issues. In his third term as the Maricopa County Attorney, he is responsible for administering the prosecuting attorney’s office in the fifth largest county in the United States. As such, Rick is often turned to for advice and counsel on issues important to Arizona and our Nation. Rick has been invited to testify before Congress and to address national organizations on issues such as violent crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and public corruption.

Rick has championed many prosecution and reform policies. He helped Arizona become one of our Nation’s first states to pass a Constitutional amendment which guarantees that victims are afforded certain rights during the criminal justice process. He played a leading role in rewriting Arizona’s Criminal Code, which resulted in “Truth-in-Sentencing” statutes that require convicted criminals to serve their full time. Rick was a prominent figure in the drive to reform Juvenile Justice. It was under his direction that AzSCAM, the most significant public corruption case in Arizona’s history, was successfully investigated and prosecuted. For the past several years, he has been a key sponsor of the Violence Prevention Initiative — an effort to develop a long-term and comprehensive strategy to prevent violent crime.

While Rick is known as a tough and successful prosecutor, he also believes in the need to develop integrated public policies that enhance public safety. His strategy ensures that chronic and violent offenders are prison bound while, at the same time, he promotes programs that prevent youth from starting on the path towards crime. Through his vision, citizens in Maricopa County are seeing improvements in their neighborhoods, notably a reduced crime rate. To maintain his commitment to dramatically decrease graffiti, reduce blight and substandard living conditions, Rick recently created the Community Action Bureau charged with prosecuting slumlord laws, illegal dumping and environmental concerns like dust control.

On a personal note, Rick was born in Tucson, Arizona, in 1949. Continuing a family tradition of over one hundred years, Rick and his wife, Carol, make their home in Arizona. They have three sons: Darin, David and Aaron. As a youth, Rick joined the United States Marine Corps and served as a squad leader in Vietnam until wounded. After returning from Vietnam, he enrolled at Arizona State University, graduating with honors in 1974 with a Degree in Business Management. He then began a five-year career as the owner-operator of a retail business. During this time he decided upon a career change, sold his business, enrolled in law school at Arizona State University and received his Juris Doctorate in 1981. Since then, he has been a prosecutor committed to a career in public service.

Rick Romley takes pride in being an innovative, aggressive prosecutor dedicated to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Maricopa County.
For More Information

For more information on the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, please use the following numbers:

**Maricopa County Attorney’s Office**

**Downtown** (Main Number) ................................................. (602) 506-3411
301 W Jefferson Street • Phoenix, AZ 85003
  Investigations Division .................................................... (602) 506-3844
  Legal Assistants Division ............................................... (602) 506-2751

**Southeast Facility** (Main Number) ..................................... (602) 506-2400
222 E. Javelina, Suite 2400 • Mesa, AZ 85210

**Juvenile Division Eastside Office** (Main Number) ............... (480) 962-8002
540 W Iron Avenue, Suite 110 • Mesa, AZ 85210

**Juvenile Division Westside Office** (Main Number) ............. (602) 455-3877
3501 W. Osborn Avenue • Phoenix, AZ 85019

**Wells Fargo Facility** (Main Number) ............................... (602) 372-7350
100 W. Washington, 21st Floor • Phoenix, AZ 85003
  Training and Development Division ................................. (602) 372-7200

**Specific Information on Programs of Interest**

Kids in Court Program ................................................... (602) 506-8522
Media Relations ............................................................ (602) 506-3411
Speakers Bureau ............................................................ (602) 506-7799
Maricopa County Demand Reduction ................................. (602) 506-7799
Adoptions ................................................................. (480) 962-8002
Community Action Bureau ............................................... (602) 506-3411
Victim Witness Division .................................................. (602) 506-8522
Victim Compensation Bureau ......................................... (602) 506-4955

**Hotlines**

Hate Crime ................................................................. (602) 506-5000
Slumlord ................................................................. (602) 372-7586
Graffiti Busters ...................................................... (602) 262-7327
Illegal Dumping .......................................................... (602) 506-3867

www.maricopa.gov/attorney