



MEMO

Pinal County Attorney's Office

Date: June 20, 2025
To: Pinal County Board of Supervisors
From: Brad Miller, County Attorney
Subject: Pinal County Attorney's Office request for use of RICO funds

The Pinal County Attorney respectfully requests the Board of Supervisors approve an application for payments to Casa Grande Valley Newspapers Inc. for a total amount of \$2,994.62 to assist in the funding of awards for the Pinal County Attorney's Office 35th Annual Anti-Drug Poster Contest. The Anti- Drug Poster Contest is an event available to all sixth grade classes within Pinal County. The event encourages the students to create their own "Anti-Drug" posters that focus on the importance of not using drugs. The event raises awareness of drug abuse and the consequences of drug use, while encouraging students to engage in creative thinking. In turn, the posters created are utilized by the schools, police departments and the courts throughout our community as part of a public awareness campaign.

In accordance with statutory changes made to A.R.S. 13-2314.03 (County anti-racketeering revolving fund; use of fund), when the County Attorney desires to use monies from the anti-racketeering fund for purposes related to the County Attorney's office, the statute requires an application that includes a description of what the requested monies will be used for be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. In turn, the Board of Supervisors shall approve the County Attorney's use of the monies if the purpose is authorized by statute or federal law.

Pursuant to the U.S Department of Justice Guide to Equitable Sharing for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, permissible uses of forfeited assets include "(i) Drug, gang and other prevention or awareness programs-Costs associated with conducting law enforcement agency awareness programs. Examples include...meeting costs...items used or distributed by the agency..."

This year, it is anticipated that we will distribute over 2,000 pieces of poster paper of which only 40 finalists will be chosen. The final awards ceremony will take place in August and will publicly recognize the participants and their creative efforts. I am requesting \$2,994.62 to cover the cost of 60 posters, which display the anti-drug images of the top 10 posters and the names of the top 40 finalists, printing second place posters on 60 spiral notebooks, printing 200 calendars and 500 custom rulers. These items will be distributed to students, schools and judges and further contribute to the public awareness campaign.

The evils of drug abuse can start early and cripple our communities, schools and families. This event, and the associated awards ceremony, helps create a positive pro-social message to our youth, while building self-confidence and encouraging their peers to join them in avoiding drugs. In short, this is a great drug prevention and education tool for our community that fits within the guidelines as a permissible use of funds. Thus, I am requesting the use of Pinal County Attorney's anti-racketeering funds to support this event.