



# Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council

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## Media Advisory

### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY HAS AWARDED A GRANT TO THE ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL TO ENHANCE DRUG IMPAIRED DRIVING TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety ("GOHS") has awarded a \$16,000.00 grant to the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council ("APAAC") to enhance Drug Impaired Driving Training and Education statewide. APAAC is composed of twenty-three Council members, including the Attorney General, the fifteen elected county attorneys, five chief municipal prosecutors, a representative of the Administrative Office of the Arizona Supreme Court, and the dean of one of the state's law schools. Since the 1970's, APAAC has sought to provide training for the state, county, and municipal prosecutors, through the development of programs and services. APAAC is a key resource for collaborating with its prosecutorial counterparts nationwide and coordinating joint training efforts. APAAC's training courses were attended by over 2,000 people last fiscal year, for an annual average of 321.5 continuing legal education hours. According to the National Roadside Survey conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2013-2014, 20% of drivers surveyed tested positive for potentially being impaired by drugs. Drugged driving is driving under the influence of all impairing drugs, both illegal and prescription. This figure illustrates the significant risk that drug impaired drivers pose to our community and the need for prosecutors to have drug-specific training to hold offenders accountable. GOHS is the focal point for highway safety issues in Arizona. Under the management of Director Alberto Gutier, GOHS, a cabinet agency, provides leadership by developing, promoting, and coordinating programs; influencing public and private policy; and increasing public awareness of highway safety. Furthermore, GOHS recognizes that drug impaired driving due to alcohol and other drugs is a chronic problem that endangers all public safety. With the \$16,000.00 grant received from GOHS, APAAC will present a two and a half-day "Prosecuting the Drug Impaired Driver" course to provide Arizona's prosecutors with both scientific and legal training directly related to drug-impaired driving. This course is dedicated to instructing approximately 25 Arizona prosecutors from around the state on current drug trends, scientific studies, drug detection, common DRE challenges, and toxicology issues. Additionally, this course is designed to teach prosecutors the latest technology available and best practices to effectively prosecute drug-impaired driving. APAAC has partnered with GOHS in the past to provide impaired driving training to prosecutors around Arizona and this current grant continues that strong relationship of working together to keep our communities and roads safer.