



MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY

Richard M. Romley Maricopa County Attorney

Nationally recognized as a leader in criminal justice issues, Rick Romley was appointed as Interim Maricopa County Attorney on April 16, 2010. Previously, Mr. Romley served as Maricopa County Attorney from January 1, 1989 through December 31, 2004. As County Attorney, he is responsible for administering one of the largest prosecuting attorney's offices, serving the fourth most populated county in America. His comprehensive understanding of criminal behavior and his commitment to working towards solutions are the reasons Rick is often sought for counsel on important local and national issues. He has testified before the United States Congress on the issues of violent crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, youth violence, public corruption and victims' rights. His opinions and commentaries, such as his essay, "There Are No Civilized Crimes" (Wall Street Journal, December 18, 1995), have been published in newspapers across the country.



Rick has championed many prosecution and reform policies. In the early 1990s, he successfully prosecuted "AzScam," the largest public corruption case in Arizona's history. His anti-drug diversion program was adopted as a national model by the President's Drug Advisory Committee. He helped Arizona become one of the first states to pass a constitutional amendment guaranteeing rights to victims during the criminal justice process. He played a leading role in rewriting Arizona's Criminal Code, which resulted in "Truth-in-Sentencing," requiring convicted criminals to serve their full sentence. Rick was a prominent figure in the drive to reform Arizona's juvenile justice system, and he has been a key sponsor of the Violence Prevention Initiative, an effort to develop a comprehensive, long-term strategy to prevent violent crime. For these efforts, Rick has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the National Leadership Award, presented in Washington D.C. in 1997.

While Rick is known as a dedicated and successful prosecutor, he also believes in the need to develop community-based policies that enhance public safety. His strategy combines tough law enforcement aimed at chronic offenders, and vigorous prevention efforts targeting our youth.

Continuing a 100-year Arizona family tradition, Rick and his wife, Carol, live in Scottsdale. They have three sons: Darin, David and Aaron. Rick, born in Tucson, AZ in 1949, joined the United States Marine Corps as a youth and served as a squad leader in Vietnam until wounded. Rick received numerous commendations, including the Purple Heart. In 2001, Rick received two additional distinguished national awards for his service in defense of our country: America's Presidential Unsung Hero Award, and the Outstanding Disabled American Veteran of the Year Award.