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Tucson City Court gets nearly \$500k for domestic violence efforts

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By Alison Dorf, Digital Content Producer [CONNECT](#)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - The Tucson City Court has been awarded \$497,062 in federal grant money in support of its Domestic Violence Court.

According to a news release, the goal behind the funding to administer justice, strengthen services to victims of violence and reduce violence against women.

The funds were awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice.

"I am pleased to announce that the Justice Department has awarded such significant funding to the Tucson City Court. This grant will enable the Tucson City Court to provide assistance that is crucial to families that find themselves in the court system struggling to recover and heal from the devastation of domestic violence." said U.S. Attorney John S. Leonardo in the release.

Find out more about the Office on Violence Against Women at: <http://www.justice.gov/ovw>.

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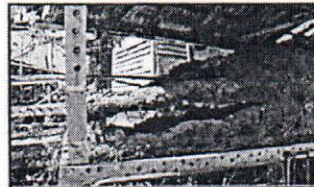
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Dear Judge Bryson,

As you may know, each year Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse holds a "Mother of the Year" luncheon focused on celebrating a mother who has overcome abuse and incredible barriers to make a better life for her and her children. This "mother of the year" is representative of so many other mothers (and abuse victims without children) who show great courage in the face of very real danger in order to live a life free from abuse. We also use this event as a time to recognize some of the key supporters and collaborators who work closely with Emerge! in support of these abuse survivors – helping to provide increased safety and opportunity.

This year, we are very pleased to recognize Judge Wendy Million and the Tucson City Court's Domestic Violence Court with a Community Partner Award at our Mother of the Year Luncheon. Judge Million is a fierce advocate for justice and a staunch defender of victim's rights. Her work to develop, sustain and grow the specialized Domestic Violence Court has profoundly impacted the way our community responds to domestic violence by ensuring we have a much more coordinated systemic approach. It has also led to victims having increased access to services, and helped ensure that people using abusive behaviors find their way to important services geared at reducing repeat offenses. Of course, none of this would be possible without your strong backing and that of Mayor Rothschild and the members of the City Council. *We are deeply grateful for your support of this important community resource!*

At this year's luncheon we will also be kicking off a new initiative to help us move beyond an intervention-only response to domestic abuse and really address the root of the problem (e.g., prevention). For that, we need the entire community to be engaged in this community issue. To help us launch this initiative, we are bringing in a wonderful keynote speaker, Tony Porter. Tony is an international speaker and co-founder of *A Call to Men*.

If your hectic schedules allow, we hope that you will consider joining us at the luncheon (**Monday, May 9th from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at La Paloma**) to honor the important role that the City of Tucson, Tucson City Court and Judge Million are playing in creating safety for victims of domestic abuse. Individual tickets are \$75 and a table sponsorship is \$1,000. Both can be purchased at www.emergecenter.org/news-events/moy.

Thank you for all that you do to support domestic violence victims and survivors in our community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Mercurio-Sakwa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ed Mercurio-Sakwa
CEO