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Arizona Sweeps National Awards for Judicial Officers

Edited By Patrick Scott

Arizona continued a tradition this year at the

National Child Support Enforcement

Association (NCSEA) annual conference in

San Diego. NCSEA honored Judge Robert

Duber II with the 2000 Judge of the Year

Award. The award is presented annually "to a member of the judiciary who has strengthened the child support program by implementing more effective enforcement measures in the judicial system."

A press release issued by NCSEA stated:

"Throughout his career, Judge Duber has been a true champion of children. During his

tenure he has been assigned the vast majority of child support cases in the county. Perhaps one of Judge Duber's most innovative contributions to the child support program has been his unique way of working with unemployed noncustodial parents. A mandatory 30-hour per week paid or unpaid work requirement is imposed until the parent has a regular job and is regularly meeting his or her child support obligation. Judge Duber has used this approach hundreds of times over the past four or five years. Almost without exception, the non-paying parents have found work within two or three months. Most of the time they have a regular job within a month.

As a member of the Arizona Child Support Coordinating Council's Legislative Subcommittee, Judge Duber has worked with stakeholders in child support across the state to review proposed child support legislation before regular legislative committees consider it. During his tenure on the council, the Arizona Legislature passed several council approved bills including all necessary welfare reform legislation, statewide centralized payment clearinghouse as well as a parent education program."

Adding to the euphoria this year was the fact that the recipient of the 2000 Commissioner of the Year Award was from the Arizona Judiciary. The honor was bestowed upon

Commissioner Frederick Dardis of the Superior Court in Pima County. The award is presented annually "to a referee, commissioner, hearing officer, or court master who has strengthened the child support program as an official who renders judgments in cases that resulted in more effective child support enforcement."

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