



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Students to Take the Bench at U.S. District Court in Phoenix**

**Phoenix** – On Friday, October 26, 2012, the Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse will be filled with eighth-graders as part of a program designed to introduce youngsters to constitutional principles and the judicial system, and help create a context for a professional career in law.

The CourtWorks program will provide approximately 300 students from ASPIRE Academy / Connolly, Hamilton Elementary, Kuban Elementary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Pioneer Preparatory, and St. Vincent de Paul Elementary schools the opportunity to experience the federal court system in action as they re-enact a United States Supreme Court decision in the setting of an actual federal courtroom. Students will perform every role in the case, acting as judges, jurors, prosecutors, defense attorneys, defendants, and witnesses.

CourtWorks is a partnership of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Arizona State University's Law School, with the encouragement of Valle del Sol, a community based organization with extensive ties to local communities and their issues. The Honorable Mary H. Murguia of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit helped found the program and will be participating in the event.

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**Editors: Still and video photography allowed in the courthouse.**