



Apache County Attorney
Michael B. Whiting

"... and justice for all."

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PRESS RELEASE
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Kenchiova Pleads Guilty To Homicide, Will Spend 10 Years In DOC

On September 12, 2011, Timothy Mark Kenchiova plead guilty to Homicide and Aggravated DUI. The plea is a result of his drinking and driving and then crashing into and causing the death of another person. Kenchiova will serve 10 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections for his actions that caused the death of Round Valley resident Bonnie Rogers on September 29, 2010.

Kenchiova originally plead not guilty to the charges against him relating to the death of Mrs. Rogers and the case was set for trial later this month. On May 2, 2011, County Attorney Michael B. Whiting conducted a settlement conference before the Apache County Superior Court and outlined the evidence in the case against Kenchiova, which included a video of the crash, witness statements and other evidence against him. If the case proceeded to trial, time in prison may have been higher than 10 years.

County Attorney Michael B. Whiting said, "although it appears the defendant's actions were not intentional his drinking and driving caused the death of another person and so justice must be paid." Whiting went on to say "in a typical manslaughter or negligent homicide case such as this the sentence usually ranges from 3 to 5 years, but in this case ten (10) years was as low as this office would offer due to the defendant's drinking and driving."

Whiting kept in contact with the victim's family throughout the court case and they were agreeable to the defendant receiving 10 years in prison. "We rarely have victims that are as forgiving and understating as Mrs. Rogers' three daughters," said Whiting. "Just a few weeks after the death of their mother, they were asking if they could provide financial help for the defendant's young son during the holiday season." Whiting went on to say, "Mrs. Rogers' 3 daughters are some of the most extraordinary people I have ever met while working in the criminal justice system."

Sentencing, which is a formality based on the agreement, is currently scheduled for November 14, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in the Apache County Superior Court.