

# NEWSFLASH



Chris DeRose, Clerk of the Superior Court

Clerk of the Superior Court's Office, Maricopa County, AZ

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## Efforts of the Clerk of the Court's Victim Locate Program pays off

How does the Clerk's office find victims owed restitution? With patience and tenacity.

In a criminal case from 2008, a victim of an internet scam suffered the loss of a very rare motorcycle. The case included 18 victims in five countries in an internet fraud scheme that totaled more than \$400,000.

Sonya Goldsby, a Clerk's office supervisor, spent countless hours mining case records, buyer/seller motorcycle sites, domestic and international people locator websites, and social media sites. Finally a search led her to a motorcycle forum with a person with the same name as one of the victims. The post described his loss, including the names of the defendants, the investigating police agencies, and specifics on how he had been victimized with the theft of his rare motorcycle. The post had an email address which turned out to be no longer valid.

Undeterred, Sonya emailed members of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America (AMCA) in three U.S. states and the Australia Chapter searching for the victim and requesting that he contact the Clerk's office. Eventually, Sonya was able to provide one of AMCA's attorneys with copies of court records verifying the legitimacy of her contact request, including the court's order granting restitution to the victim.

After three months of emails back and forth with intermediaries, the victim finally replied. The victim provided several identifiers proving he was the victim in question. When all of the financial details are worked through, the victim will receive his fully ordered restitution payment of \$47,900.

For more information, public records are available in case CR2008-006000-001. If you are a victim owed restitution in a Maricopa County case and need to update your address, see our website at:

[clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov)