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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Terry Goddard Announces Winners of Contest to Raise Awareness of Elder Abuse *Students from Mesa, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and Ahwatukee Honored*

(Phoenix, Ariz. — May 12, 2009) Attorney General Terry Goddard presented awards to the winners of the “Why should I care about elder abuse?” Student Art Competition at a ceremony today at the Granite Reef Senior Center in Scottsdale.

In February, the Arizona Elder Abuse Coalition, Attorney General Goddard and Free Arts of Arizona invited high school juniors across the state to participate in an arts contest focused on elder abuse. Participants are asked to submit original posters, poems or essays that address the question, “Why should I care about elder abuse?”

“Elder Abuse is one of the most underreported crimes in Arizona. Almost everyone I talk with has a parent, grandparent, friend or loved one who has been victimized by elder financial fraud or physical abuse,” Goddard said. “I congratulate the students honored today and thank them for helping to bring elder abuse out of the shadows.”

“This is a great opportunity for young people to address an important issue in our community,” said Rachel Oesterle, Executive Director of Free Arts of Arizona. “The arts can help bridge divides, and this contest gives youth the opportunity to be creative, raise awareness and make a difference in the lives of Arizona’s seniors.”

In the art category, the winning students are:

First Place: Mary Anne Barno, Notre Dame Prep, Scottsdale
Second Place: Ashley Meyer, Red Mountain High School, Mesa
Third Place: Chelsea Little, Red Mountain High School, Mesa

In the writing category, the winning students are:

First Place: Victoria Macaluso, Fountain Hills High School, Fountain Hills
Second Place: Katey Phillips, Fountain Hills High School, Fountain Hills
Third Place: Ja’han Jones, Horizon Community Learning Center, Ahwatukee

The winning artworks are printed on a poster that is being distributed as part of the statewide Elder Abuse Awareness campaign held to coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2009. The winning essays are posted on the Attorney General's Web site, www.azag.gov.

Contest winners received first, second and third place prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100, donated by Wells Fargo. The poster printing was donated by APS.

A copy of the first place winners in each category is attached and available on the Web site, www.azag.gov.

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