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**COUNTY ATTORNEY RECIPIENT OF THE EL PASO POLICE
DEPARTMENT'S *VISION AWARD***

The El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez has been granted the "Vision Award" conferred every year by the El Paso Chief of Police to individuals or organizations distinguished for their outstanding community service. The award was presented during the *2006 Chief's Annual Awards Ceremony* at the El Paso Country Club on Friday, February 9, 2007.

During his introduction, El Paso Chief of Police Richard D. Wiles explained that the award was given to the County Attorney for implementing several initiatives that have had a positive impact in our community, among them:

- The recovery of millions of dollars for the people of El Paso by:
 1. Obtaining a 16 million settlement with the big tobacco companies
 2. Recovering millions in bail bond forfeitures
 3. Reimbursing millions to local merchants by prosecuting hot check writers
- Increasing protection for neglected children and the elderly as well as for victims of family violence.
- Creating the Community Safety Zone in collaboration with the Police Department to stop gang violence in downtown El Paso.
- Establishing the first Teen Court that offers young offenders an opportunity to make restitution for their offenses through community service, educational classes, and jury service.

- Helping to initiate the first Family Drug Court that assists the offenders in abstaining from drugs and crime and ultimately reducing the recidivism rate among those served through the program.

José R. Rodríguez has been El Paso County Attorney for the last 14 years. Prior to his election, Mr. Rodríguez was Legal Advisor to then County Judge Alicia R. Chacón.

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