

## Statement of Principles

*As the national association dedicated to supporting and enhancing the effectiveness of prosecutors in their efforts to create safer communities, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) creates this statement of principles regarding our commitment to enhance juvenile programs whereby assisting prosecutors in their effort to ensure justice and promote public safety. APA supports:*

- Providing civic education for all participants that builds respect for their rule of law and the legal process, including mentorship and community service opportunities;*
- Permitting program referrals from prosecutors, police, probation departments and the courts, while not limiting program eligibility to first-time offenders;*
- Encouraging judges, lawyers, law students, civic organizations and businesses to recruit volunteers and to provide training, other assistance and support to create, sustain and promote youth programs;*
- Supporting national, state, and local research and evaluation on all aspects of juvenile justice programs;*