



The Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison's Department of Justice Newsletter

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Newsletter from the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison

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Attorney General Reaffirms Commitment to New Orleans



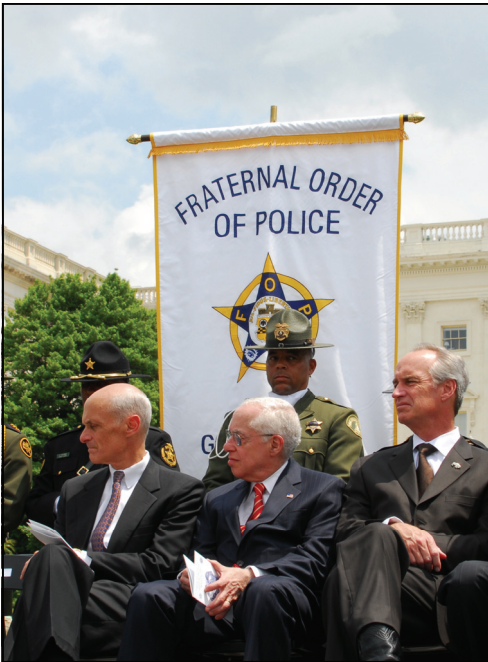
Attorney General Mukasey, pictured with Cindy Dyer, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, and U.S. Attorney Jim Letten, visited the New Orleans Family Justice Center on May 19, 2008.

On May 19, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey visited New Orleans and reaffirmed the Department of Justice's commitment to rebuilding the city's justice system in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Attorney General also announced additional funding for a legal aid grant benefiting the Family Justice Center in New Orleans.

"The Department of Justice is pleased to support the Family Justice Center's important work to help guide victims of domestic violence through the legal process," said the Attorney General. "The catastrophe that hit New Orleans caused incalculable pain and loss that we can never forget, but it also opened our eyes to the tremendous need for services. This grant is just one of the many things the Department has been doing to help rebuild the law enforcement capacity of the city and parishes, and to rebuild the justice system."

In the two and one-half years since Hurricane Katrina flooded the city of New Orleans and battered the region, the Department of Justice has sought to do its part to assist in the efforts to rebuild the city. These efforts include groundbreaking partnerships with state and local officials to strengthen the criminal justice system; assisting local law enforcement in protecting communities; fighting violent crime with both manpower and funding; investigating and prosecuting fraud through the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force; and providing needed assistance to victims of crime.

Attorney General Honors Fallen Heroes During Police Week



On May 15, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey attended the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police 27th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service. This year's theme was "Never Let Them Walk Alone."



On May 13, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey, pictured above with senior law enforcement officials, delivered the keynote address at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's 20th Annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Protecting the Rights of Servicemembers and Veterans

"This Memorial Day, I want to take the opportunity to highlight the steadfast commitment of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to protecting the rights of America's servicemembers, who have made invaluable sacrifices for this nation."

-Grace Chung Becker, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

The Civil Rights Division protects servicemembers' rights by vigorously enforcing the following laws: civilian employment rights are protected by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA); voting rights are protected by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act of 1986 (UOCAVA); financial security is protected by the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003 (SCRA); and the civil rights of veterans in public institutions are protected by the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act of 1980 (CRIPA).

For more information on the ways that the Department of Justice is protecting Servicemembers and Veterans, please visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/May/08-crt-462.html>.

Department of Justice Welcomes McGruff the Crime Dog



On May 9, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey met with Alfonso E. Lenhardt, President and CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council, as well as McGruff the Crime Dog.

Grant Opportunities from the Bureau of Justice Assistance

The Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA, a part of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities.

For information on current and upcoming BJA funding opportunities, please visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/funding/current-opp.html>.

For a complete list of OJP grants, please visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm>.

U.S. Calls for Cooperation in War on Meth

Flanked by leaders from the world's largest producing nations of methamphetamine precursor chemicals, and some of the principal consumers of finished meth and controlled pharmaceuticals, Attorney General Mukasey and John P. Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), urged all producing and transit nations for precursor chemicals used to produce methamphetamine and other drugs to expand efforts to prevent illegal diversion of the products.

For the first time, leaders from Mexico, Canada, China, Germany and India joined federal, state, and local law enforcement professionals from throughout the United States at the National Methamphetamine Chemicals Initiative Conference, an initiative of the ONDCP, held on May 7, 2008. Attorney General Mukasey and Director Walters opened the conference, which took place in Missouri, one of the states hardest hit by methamphetamine.

Project Safe Childhood Adds 43 New Prosecutors

The Department of Justice announced on May 7, 2008, the distribution of \$5 million in new funds to support Project Safe Childhood (PSC), the Department's initiative that combats technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. The money will fund 43 new Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) positions across the nation to prosecute these offenses, which remain a high priority for the Department of Justice.

Deputy Attorney General Mark Filip announced the new positions, saying: "Anyone who uses the Internet to prey on children will become the primary target of law enforcement. These additional resources back up this commitment." Filip made the announcement in visits to the U.S. Attorneys' Offices in Charlotte, N.C., and Lexington, Ky. Both offices received one of the newly created positions, which were awarded on a competitive basis among the many districts with demonstrated records of successfully prosecuting sexual crimes against children. 43 districts were awarded a new AUSA position.. For more information about PSC, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Attorney General Commemorates National Missing Children's Day



On May 21, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey honored law enforcement officers and dedicated citizens throughout the nation for their efforts to recover missing children at the Department of Justice's National Missing Children's Day Ceremony. He also highlighted the success of the Department's Project Safe Childhood initiative, as it marks its two-year anniversary this month. For a full list of award recipients, please visit: <http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/May/08-opa-450.html>.

Executive Working Group Meeting Held at Department of Justice

On May 22, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey participated in the Executive Working Group on Prosecutorial Relations meeting hosted by the Department of Justice.

The Executive Working Group on Prosecutorial Relations (EWG) met on May 22, 2008, to discuss issues of common concern to prosecutors at the federal, state and local level on the topic of public corruption.

The participants in the EWG include United States Attorneys, representatives from the Department of Justice Criminal Division, National District Attorneys Association, and the National Association of Attorneys General. The EWG comes together three times a year in a meeting hosted by the Justice Department's Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison.

Grant Funding for Anti-Gang Efforts

On May 13, 2008, Deputy Attorney General Mark Filip joined U.S. Attorneys George E.B. Holding and Anna Mills Wagoner to announce the implementation and roll out of grant funding for the Raleigh/Durham Comprehensive Anti-Gang Site. In April 2007, the Department announced the expansion of the Justice Department's Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative to four additional sites targeting dangerous street gangs and promoting prevention efforts to keep communities and neighborhoods safe. Raleigh/Durham was chosen as one of the sites and will receive \$2.5 million in additional grant funding to combat gangs and gang violence.

Keeping our neighborhoods safe from gangs and gang violence is one of the highest priorities of the Department of Justice," said Deputy Attorney General Filip. "Through strong partnerships with our state and local partners and community leaders in initiatives such as the Raleigh/Durham Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative, we are developing integrated localized efforts in the areas of prevention, enforcement and prisoner re-entry. "

Boston College Commencement

On May 23, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey delivered remarks at the Boston College Law School Commencement Ceremony. Below are excerpts from his speech:

"This nation's well-proved commitment to the rule of law is what sets it apart from many other countries around the world and throughout history. If that commitment is to persist – if we are to remain, as we often say, a nation of laws, not of men – then we must insist that law matters, that the law is something other than a hollow vessel into which a client, or a policy-maker, may pour his or her personal views or preferences."

"In becoming lawyers, you are becoming the custodians of a trust – a trust whose assets are the rule of law and the justice that results from that rule of law. Being a custodian of that trust carries with it solemn responsibilities. But it is also a great privilege because you will play a large role in the most essential debates of our times. I urge you to play it well; much hangs in the balance."

Call for Nominations: 2007-2008 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor

The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs is accepting nominations beginning May 30, 2008, for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The medal is awarded by the President to public safety officers cited by the Attorney General who have exhibited exceptional courage in protecting or saving lives. For more information on the Medal of Valor, please visit <http://www.ojp.gov/medalofvalor/>.

ARTICLES - Office of Public Affairs and Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison
PICTURES - DOJ Photography; New Orleans photo courtesy of the New Orleans Family Justice Center