

A Call for Nominations ★★★★★



Victims' Rights:

Every Victim. Every Time.

2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week ★ April 22–28, 2007

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13, 2006



PARTNERSHIPS FOR
SAFER COMMUNITIES

Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
"Putting Victims First"

★ Putting Victims First

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) shares your mission and annually recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services. We invite you to submit a nomination for one or more of the following eight awards: the *National Crime Victim Service Award*, the *Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services*, the *Special Courage Award*, the *Allied Professional Award*, the *Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award*, the *Volunteer for Victims Award*, the *Crime Victims Fund Award*, and the *Federal Service Award*. In making your nominations, we encourage you to recognize programs and individuals who have made significant contributions to the crime victims field. Award recipients will be honored in Washington, D.C., the week prior to the federal commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), scheduled for April 22–28, 2007. Past awards ceremonies have been presided over by the Attorney General of the United States, and have been attended annually by approximately 500 crime victims/survivors, victim advocates, and allied professionals from around the Nation.

★ About the Office for Victims of Crime

OVC was created in 1984 and formally established by a 1988 amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to support services for crime victims and training and technical assistance for the field. OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) provides resources for local organizations throughout the country that are often faced with limited financial resources. Through TTAC, OVC offers an infrastructure to assess need and build capacity by delivering training and technical assistance to eligible organizations, free of charge. For more information about OVC TTAC or NCVRW, call OVC TTAC at 1–866–OVC–TTAC or visit their Web site at www.ovcttac.org. For more information about OVC, call the OVC Resource Center at 1–800–851–3420 (TTY 1–877–712–9279) or visit the OVC Web site at www.ovc.gov.

★ About the Office of Justice Programs

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides federal leadership in developing the Nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP is headed by an Assistant Attorney General and is comprised of five component bureaus and an office: the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime, as well as the Community Capacity Development Office, which incorporates the Weed and Seed strategy and OJP's American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk. More information can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov.



NATIONAL CRIME

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

In 1981, President Ronald Wilson Reagan proclaimed the first Victims' Rights Week, calling for "a renewed emphasis on, and an enhanced sensitivity to, the rights of victims." Each April since, communities throughout the Nation have held public rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities to promote awareness of victims' rights and needs. The 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is scheduled for April 22–28, 2007. OVC will kick off the national observance of NCVRW on Thursday, April 19, 2007, with a candlelight observance to pay tribute to crime victims and on Friday, April 20, 2007, with an awards ceremony to honor individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. The public and the press are also invited to participate in both events, that will take place in Washington, D.C. OVC has featured speakers at the candlelight observance including Trisha Meili, survivor and author of "I Am the Central Park Jogger: A Story of Hope and Possibility"; and Sharon Rocha, mother of Laci Peterson and grandmother of Conner,

and author of "For Laci: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, and Justice." Please check OVC's Web site for the most current information about the featured speaker, dates and locations for both 2007 NCVRW events.

Significance of the Awards

As the discipline of crime victim services has grown over the years, so has the number of remarkable individuals and organizations that significantly contribute to its success. Today, the field includes countless people and programs that—through vision, action, and leadership—have improved the lives of victims in the aftermath of crime.

Each year, through the prestigious *National Crime Victim Service Award*, the U.S. Attorney General honors extraordinary individuals and programs that provide services to victims of crime. OVC, within the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the submission of nominations for programs and individuals whose work has been particularly noteworthy, and who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes



VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK AWARDS

Honoring Those Who Bring Honor to Victims

many of our Nation's victim service providers, some of whom are also victims of crime.

The *Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services* was instituted in 2001 in memory of Susan Laurence, an OVC employee who helped professionals who had not traditionally served victims to develop effective victim responses. In her honor, this award recognizes a program, organization, or individual who has helped to expand the reach of victims' rights and services.

The *Special Courage Award* recognizes an individual or individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary bravery in the aftermath of a crime or who have performed a courageous act on behalf of a victim or potential victim. The award may honor a victim or survivor who has exhibited exceptional perseverance or determination in dealing with his or her own victimization, or it may acknowledge an individual who has acted bravely either to aid a victim or to prevent a victimization.

The *Allied Professional Award* recognizes an individual or individuals from a specific discipline, outside the

victim assistance field, for their service to victims and/or contribution to the crime victims field.

First announced during the 2005 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Awards Ceremony, the *Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award* honors an outstanding individual or individuals whose leadership, vision, and innovation have led to significant changes in public policy and practice that benefit crime victims.

Many of the dedicated men and women who serve crime victims do so without compensation. The *Volunteer for Victims Award* honors individuals for their selfless efforts to reach out to victims. Examples of volunteerism include but are not limited to crisis counseling, transportation, court accompaniment, food delivery, and emotional and material support.

Established by the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, the Crime Victims Fund is a source of federal funding for

thousands of victim assistance programs throughout the country and for victim compensation programs in every state. The *Crime Victims Fund Award* recognizes individuals and teams for their outstanding work in pursuing federal criminal offenders and in imposing and collecting criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees, and special assessments that constitute the Crime Victims Fund.



Finally, the *Federal Service Award* honors individuals for their direct service to victims of federal crime. The award recognizes a service provider's, other professional's, or volunteer's exceptional contributions on behalf of victims in Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or in other areas governed by federal jurisdiction.

Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2007, commemorating NCVRW for 2007. Biographies and accomplishments of former award recipients can be found on OVC's Web site at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw.

Nomination Submission Guidelines

1. Each nomination form must be accompanied by a nomination letter. If you, the nominator, are affiliated with an organization, your nomination letter should be submitted on official stationery and contain your signature and your position or title. No anonymous nominations will be accepted.

2. Each form must include the nominee's full name, title, organization affiliation, address, telephone number, signature, date of birth, and Social Security number. If possible, please provide the nominee's e-mail address. If you are nominating an organization, please have the individual accepting the award on behalf of the organization provide the following required information: name, title, contact information, date of birth, Social Security number, and signature of the accepting individual. **Note:** Please make sure the nominee's full name is spelled correctly.

3. Your nomination letter should not exceed two single-spaced, single-sided, letter-size (8.5" x11") pages and should be typed using a standard 12-point font. This letter should address the questions listed under the award type for the award you are submitting a nomination for (see Nomination Letter section of this nomination form), and should reflect as much as you know about your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting crime victims.

4. Please review the award categories carefully and select the category that most accurately reflects your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting crime victims. An individual, program, or organization **may not** be nominated for more than one award category.

5. If you are nominating a group of individuals who work on a specific project, please submit one nomination letter for the group of individuals with a SEPARATE nomination form for EACH individual in that group. Please note that only one plaque will be presented per group or organization. Therefore, it is important to indicate the same plaque name consistently on each nomination form provided for a group of individuals. If the nominee

is an individual, please indicate in the space provided whether another name (e.g., a nickname) needs to appear on the award plaque if the nominee is selected.

6. Please provide additional information about the nominated individual or program that should be considered in the review process. Supporting documentation, such as newspaper articles or résumés, can be attached if it is relevant to the nominee's contributions. **Please note:** Videos, bound publications, and notebooks should not be submitted. Also, supporting documentation will not be accepted after the nomination deadline.

7. The entire nomination package, including supplemental information and letters of support, may not exceed 10 single-spaced, single-sided, letter-size pages. Nominations exceeding this limit will not be considered.

8. Please provide an original and two copies of the entire nomination package.

Eligibility Guidelines

1. You may nominate one or more worthy candidates, including individuals, programs, organizations, teams, or a coalition of individuals and programs. You must submit separate nomination packages for each nominee. You **may not** nominate the same individuals, programs, organizations, teams, or coalition of individuals and programs for more than one award category.

2. Nominees can be federal, state, local, or tribal professionals and volunteers in direct victim services and allied professions.

3. Candidates nominated but not selected in previous years are also eligible for consideration. Previous award winners, regardless of award category, are not eligible for subsequent awards.

4. Elected officials are **not** eligible for consideration.



★ Deadline for Submitting Nominations

Your nomination form and supporting materials must be received no later than **Friday, October 13, 2006**.

Your nomination package should be mailed to

Office for Victims of Crime
Attention: Maria Acker/Kimberly Kelberg
810 7th Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531

Please be advised that due to increased mail handling security measures, mail sent via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) may be significantly delayed in reaching OVC.

Nominators are encouraged to fax their nomination packages or to consider alternatives to USPS such as commercial carriers. Packages sent via private carriers, such as United Parcel Service (UPS) and Federal Express (FedEx), must be addressed to OVC, 810 7th Street, NW., OJP Mailroom on Lower Level, Washington, DC 20531-0001. NOTE: FedEx uses a different ZIP Code. Applications sent via FedEx should be addressed same as above, using ZIP Code 20001. If nominations are submitted by fax, only one copy of the package is required. If a nomination is delayed in the mail and does not reach OVC by the deadline date, it will not be considered.

Nominators may fax nomination packages to either of two OVC fax numbers: 202-514-6383 or 202-305-2440.

★ Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the award nomination or selection process, please submit them to "Ask OVC" at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/askovc>.



Nomination Letters

Each nomination form must be accompanied by a nomination letter. If you are nominating a group of individuals who work on a specific project, please submit one nomination letter for the group of individuals with a separate nomination form for each individual in the group. Nomination letters must address the questions listed under the award type below and should comply with nomination submission guideline #3.

National Crime Victim Service Award

- What accomplishments has the nominee made on behalf of crime victims?
- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- If the nominee is a paid professional working with crime victims, how do his or her contributions qualify as *beyond the call of duty*?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices in victim services?

Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services

- What accomplishments has the nominee made on behalf of crime victims, and how are those accomplishments unique and original?
- How has the nominee's work brought about change in new or nontraditional areas of victims' rights or services?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices?



Special Courage Award

- What act of courage has the nominee performed either in the aftermath of his or her own victimization or in coming to the aid of a victim?
- How is this act extraordinary?
- Who are or were the beneficiaries of this courageous act?
- What verification of this act can you provide?

Allied Professional Award

- In what way has the nominee served victims and/or contributed to the victims' field?
- How is this service or contribution extraordinary within the nominee's particular discipline?
- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- How has the nominee's service to victims contributed to bringing closer collaboration

between the nominee's particular discipline and the victims field?

- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community, state, or Nation?

Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award

- What innovations in public policy has the nominee developed that benefit crime victims, and how are those innovations unique and original?
- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- How has the nominee's leadership and vision helped change public policy and influence attitudes?
- What impact has the nominee's efforts had in the community, state, or Nation?

Volunteer for Victims Award

- What services has the nominee provided for victims?
- How can the nominee's volunteer contributions to victim services be considered extraordinary?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices?

Crime Victims Fund Award

- What innovations in procedures, regulations, or laws has the nominee developed that promote awareness of the objectives of the Crime Victims Fund?

- How have the nominee's aggressive investigation, prosecution, management, and/or collection practices resulted in greater offender accountability?
- Has the nominee undertaken any notable training efforts that promote awareness of the Crime Victims Fund?
- Has the nominee discovered any previously undisclosed assets through innovative or creative investigation?

Federal Service Award

- What extraordinary assistance has the nominee provided for federal crime victims?
- How long has the nominee been serving crime victims?
- How have the nominee's achievements affected his or her community or other jurisdictions?
- What innovative changes in attitudes, policies, or practices has the nominee brought about?
- How can the nominee's contributions be considered *beyond the call of duty*?
- How effective is the nominee in implementing the provisions of the "Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance"?





NOMINATION FORM (Please type or print clearly.)

The following information is to be completed by the nominator:

Nominator's Name _____

Nominator's Title or Position _____

Nominator's Organization _____

Nominator's Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number (____) _____ Fax Number (____) _____

E-Mail _____

If you are nominating an organization or program, please provide the information below for the individual who would accept the award on behalf of that organization or program. Please note that only one plaque will be presented per award nomination at the awards ceremony, regardless of the number of individuals accepting on behalf on an organization or program.

Nominee's Full Name _____

Type of Award (Check only one.)

- National Crime Victim Service Award
- Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services
- Special Courage Award
- Allied Professional Award
- Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award
- Volunteer for Victims Award
- Crime Victims Fund Award
- Federal Service Award

Abstract of Nominee's Accomplishments (Mandatory)

In 100 words or less, please summarize the nominee's accomplishments and your reason for nominating this individual, program, or organization. *You may include this on a separate sheet of paper.*

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information contained in this application is true and correct.

Signature of Nominator _____

The following information is to be completed by the nominee:

Nominee's Full Name _____

Name for Award Plaque (if different from full name) _____

If you are nominating a group of individuals, please ensure that the plaque name provided is the same for each nominee in that group. Only one plaque per group receiving an award.

Nominee's Title _____

Nominee's Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number (____) _____ Fax Number (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Date of Birth: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ Social Security Number _____

Voluntary Nominee Demographic Data Disclosure

The following information regarding nominee demographics is collected on a voluntary basis.

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Racial/Ethnic Background: African American Caucasian
 Asian and Pacific Islander American Indian
 Hispanic Other: Please specify

Terms of Award

The nominee must sign below. *Otherwise, the nomination will not be accepted for consideration. The signature authorizes the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, to conduct a criminal history background check. If chosen for an award, the nominee agrees to participate in all National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVWR) award ceremony events, located in Washington, D.C., at no cost to the award winner. Participation in the events will likely include photographic portraits or pictures, digital images, videotapes, other media material, and sound recordings of the award winners for general use with the press and to post on the Internet. The media will be invited to participate in all NCVWR events.*

Signature of Nominee _____

If the nominee is an organization, program, or team, the name, contact information, and signature of the individual authorized to accept the award is needed. If a team is nominated, please complete a separate nomination form for each individual on the team.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime

Washington, DC 20531

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