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PRESS RELEASE –  
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**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS \$2.4 MILLION  
FOR DELAWARE CRIME VICTIMS**

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly announced today the decision of the United States Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to award Delaware more than \$2.4 million in victim assistance and compensation grants (VOCA) for the 2006 fiscal year. These grants are funded by moneys collected by United States Attorney's Offices and the U.S. Courts from federal offenders through special assessments, fines, and bond forfeitures.

Mr. Connolly said that the Delaware Violent Crimes Compensation Board was awarded \$933,000 to reimburse victims and service providers for medical, mental health, funeral, and other expenses and provide for lost wages and loss of support. In addition, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council (CJC) was awarded \$1,528,000 to provide services to victims of rape, drunk driving, child abuse, domestic violence, and other crimes. Connolly said that these funds will be competitively awarded by the CJC to local community based organizations that provide direct services to crime victims.

Mr. Connolly noted that collecting fines and special assessments is an important but often overlooked function his office plays in the criminal justice system. "As these grants demonstrate," Connolly said, "the fines and assessments we collect from the criminals we prosecute have a significant impact when it comes to providing services to those who suffer directly from crimes."

For more information, contact the office of United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly.

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