

VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

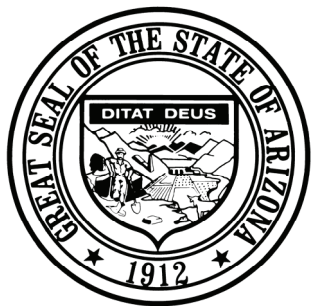
For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners and Advocates

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Local, Statewide, and

*National projects and
events*



OVS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Pam Wessel began her career in victim services in 1986 as a legal justice advocate for battered women working at the Center for Women and Families in Louisville, Kentucky. This work ignited a passion and a commitment to serving victims and Pam spent almost eleven years in that nonprofit organization working in various positions. In 1996, Pam became the Executive Director of the Lincoln Trail Domestic Violence Program in Elizabethtown, Kentucky providing shelter and supportive services to battered women and their children. Pam was active on a state level and served on the Boards of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association and the Kentucky Victims Coalition.

She also served as a registered lobbyist in Kentucky advocating for increased funding for service providers and improvements to the laws impacting victims.

During her career in social services, Pam has explored other areas of work by providing consultation and grant writing for nonprofits around the country, providing services to terminally ill patients and their families through Hospice, and spending some time at a United Way. However, her passion for working with victims always brought her back to this work. She has also served as the Executive Director at the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children in Waco,



Texas and the Coalition President for the Texas Council on Family Violence in Austin, Texas.

Pam is a graduate of the University of Louisville and earned her Master of Science in Social Work from the Kent School of Social Work and a Bachelor of Science in Counseling and Guidance from the School of Education.

Please help us welcome Pam! We are excited to have her on board!

2008 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." His words eloquently capture the spirit of this year's theme for National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 13 - 19, 2008: **Justice for Victims. Justice for All.** As we honor victims

at ceremonies all around Arizona during this week let us commit ourselves to serving them better every day of the year. By investing in *justice for victims*, we move closer to achieving *justice for all*.

The following pages list some of the various events and projects going on around the state to observe Victims' Rights Week. We invite you to take part in all events during the week to show support and commitment in helping victims heal and move forward.

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We're on the Web!
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VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Phoenix:

Monday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. - The Governor's Office will host a ceremony kicking off the week. Speakers include Governor Napolitano and Attorney General Terry Goddard. Governor Napolitano will present her *Triumph over Tragedy Award* to Gail Leland of Homicide Survivors, Inc. The event will pay tribute to crime victims and survivors who have joined together to support and promote victims' rights and services. The location is the State Capitol, Executive Tower, First Floor Lobby 1700 W. Washington Street in Phoenix.

Monday, April 14, from 11:30-1:00 - Join local legislators, public officials, judges, law enforcement officials, victim advocacy groups and other victim rights organizations to help raise awareness about the issue of victims' rights. Also, come help honor those who are making a difference in the lives of those victimized by crime. Free luncheon and keynote speech by Sharon Knutson-Felix, Exec Dir. of the 100 Club. RSVP by April 1 for the luncheon at 602-506-4922.



Monday, April 14—As part of the Victims' Rights Kickoff event, a shoe display is being put together in the Executive Tower Lobby to show how many victims are impacted by crime in Arizona. You can donate new or gently worn shoes, all type and sizes, to help with this display. The shoes will be collected in the Division for Women. If you have any questions, please call Leah Myers at 602-542-1764.

Thursday, April 17, at 10:00 a.m. - The United States Attorney's Office is hosting a victims' rights week ceremony at The U.S. Attorney's Office, Two Renaissance Square, 40 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1200, Phoenix, AZ. Collene Campbell, Founder, MOVE (Memory of Victims Everywhere), and one of the hardest hit crime victims in our Nation is the keynote speaker.

Tucson:

Monday, April 14th 10:30a - 11a The Pima County Attorney's Office and Homicide Survivors are hosting a Flag raising, proclamation and recognition ceremony at the Downtown Library, Jacome Plaza. **11a - 2p** will be the Crime Victims' Resource Fair, same location.

Wednesday, April 16th all day The Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA) Dine-Out for Safety. Tucson area restaurants will donate portions of day's sales to SACASA. Go out for lunch and/or dinner to benefit a good cause. Go to www.sacasa.org for a list of participating restaurants.

Saturday, April 19, 2007 Candlelight Vigil at Children's Memorial Park, sponsored by Homicide Survivors. Victims of any crime and the public are welcome. Candles will be provided or you can bring your own. Law enforcement reps will read names of murder victims from January 2007 through April 2008. Speakers from various agencies, in an informal setting.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK CONT.



Safford:

Tuesday, April 15 at 5:30pm—

The City of Safford, Stand Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), Eastern Arizona College (EAC), and the San-Jose Department of Corrections have partnered once again to recognize the National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year's Victim Rights Memorial Garden Dedication will be held at the new Safford City Attorney/Victim/Witness Office building.

Statewide:

All Week—In conjunction with Victim Rights Week, The Arizona Coalition of Victim Services (ACVS) is collecting used cell phones for recycling. The funds raised from this drive will be used to help fund the annual conference which educates victim service providers and also for the Domestic Violence Relocation Project which funds emergency relocation for victims of Domestic Violence. Please drop your phones off at the Attorney General's Office in Phoenix or Tucson or any Safford city office.

April 15th from 6:30pm-

7:00pm: Arizona residents can participate in an historic event: television channels 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, and others, plus numerous cable and radio stations and print media - in English and Spanish - will participate in commercial-free pro-

gramming to bring the people of our state an extraordinary 30-minute documentary entitled, "Crystal Darkness."

The program targets youth and their families, but the message extends with conviction to everyone involved in the lives of children and youth, and even adults who are victims of this addicting drug. "The story is told through the powerful testimonies of young people who have gone through the dark and lonely depths of Meth addiction. With heart-wrenching and raw honesty, they speak to their generation with an unforgettable message of warning..."

The airing of Crystal Darkness in Arizona has been a collaborative effort among Police Departments, Childhelp, ASU, Division of Behavioral Health Services, media, faith organizations, the business community and others. These organizations are working together to help Meth victims and create awareness with the hope of preventing further drug use.

National:

The Office for Victims of Crime will hold two events in Washington, D.C., leading up to National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

Thursday, April 10, 6:30-7:30

p.m.- National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony. To be held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street NW., Washington, D.C. Featured Speaker: Dominick Dunne, accomplished author, investigative journalist, host of TruTV's *Power, Privilege, and Justice*, and co-victim and homicide survivor of his beloved daughter actress, Dominique Dunne.

Friday, April 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m.-

Attorney General's Crime Victim Service Awards Ceremony at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, D.C. *Free and open to the public*

For various events across the country, please view the OVC online calendar at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar/default.asp>.

"In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917—1963)