

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard

VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners, and Advocates

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National Crime Victim Rights Week Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity April 23-29, 2006

This past year has revealed and focused on the plight of the victim. Whether they are victims of natural disasters like Katrina and the Tsunami, or victims of crime, the unfortunate necessity in the media has been to cover the loss of life. For one week in April, the focus of victim switches from the heartbreaking to the inspiring. For the week of April 23-29, 2006, the Office for Victims of Crime has selected the theme, *Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity* to highlight and focus on the need for solidarity and a unified voice to support victims of crime across the country. This week is to recognize the countless victims and survivors who have advocated and promoted victims' rights and to support the efforts, dedication, and mission of the many victim service providers, professionals, and volunteers helping victims of crime.

We invite you to take part in all events during the week to show support and commitment in helping victims heal and move forward.

Phoenix:

Monday, April 24, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. - The Governor's Office will host a ceremony commemorating the week. The Governor, Chief Justice and Attorney General will speak. Governor Napolitano will present her *Triumph over Tragedy Award* and Attorney General Goddard will present his annual *Distinguished Service Awards*, to honor Arizonans dedicated to victims' services.

Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. - The Office of the Attorney General - Office of Victim Services will honor Arizona's crime victims by presenting awards in recognition of those who have excelled in their service for victims of crime at the rose garden at the front entrance of the Law Building located at 1275 West Washington in Phoenix.

Tucson:

Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. - The Office of the Attorney General will honor staff and recognize specific efforts in assisting crime victims. The location is the Elder Abuse Conference Room, third floor, 400 West Congress Street in Tucson.

National:

The Office for Victims of Crime will hold two events in Washington, D.C., leading up to National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 23–29, 2006.

Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. - National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony with featured Speaker: Sharon Rocha, Mother of Laci Peterson and Grandmother of Conner and Author of *For Laci: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss & Justice*. U.S. Chamber of Commerce 1615 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Open to the public.

Friday, April 21, 2006 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.-National Crime Victims' Rights Week Awards Ceremony Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium 1301 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. ***Open to the public; you must register to attend.***

OVS Announces

OVS HAS A NEW DIRECTOR!



Bill Hart, Executive Director, joined The Office of Victim Services in March of 2006 after a year as Director of the Arizona Sexual Assault Network, where he was instrumental in overturning Arizona's spousal rape exemption. He also spent two years as a Systems Advocate with the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, where he advanced public policy initiatives in the sexual assault, housing and family court arenas. Prior to moving to Phoenix in 2001, Bill was a strategic planning consultant for non-profits and a communications specialist for political candidates and elected officials in Milwaukee, WI. He has served the people in a variety of capacities, including Chief of Staff for the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors,

Executive Director of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, and Field Director for statewide political campaigns in Wisconsin. He has been a volunteer with many advocacy organizations, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Arizonans for the Protection of Exploited Children and Adults (APECA). In more than 30 years of work for positive social change, Bill has stayed true to his mission: ***Help organizations achieve their mission to improve people's lives and build community.***

"What I've learned in a very short time is that the staff of the Office of Victim Services is compassionate, committed and dedicated to the rights of crime victims that are afforded in the Arizona Constitution and Statutes. Coupled with their knowledge, professionalism and good humor, the OVS staff makes it easy to come to work every day. And they make it easy for me to represent Attorney General Goddard on more than several committees, commissions and task forces. We are very excited to be a part of a new commission of the Arizona Judicial Council convened by Chief Justice Ruth McGregor - the Commission on Victims in the Court, or COVIC. Early initiatives are training for all court personnel and a study group on restitution. Please call or email if you have any concerns or ideas on how the Arizona Courts can better serve victims of crime."

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The Victims' Rights Brief is published by the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services, which remains wholly responsible for its content. The goal in generating the Brief is to promote justice and healing for crime victims by sharing information and fostering sensitivity within the justice system. Questions regarding content can be directed to Mel Burton at (602) 542-8409. To learn more about victims' rights via the internet, email us at victimrights@azag.gov or visit us at www.azag.gov