

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

****Media Advisory****

Terry Goddard to Host Elder Abuse Awareness Day Ceremony

(Phoenix, Ariz. — June 11, 2009) Attorney General Terry Goddard will speak at the 2009 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day “Break the Silence” event on Monday, June 15, at the Carnegie Center in Phoenix.

Elder abuse is one of the nation’s most under-reported crimes. The Arizona Elder Abuse Coalition holds this annual event to educate people about how they can recognize, prevent or report elder abuse.

“While my office has prosecuted many of these criminal cases, and will continue to go after perpetrators of elder abuse and financial exploitation, it is my hope that increased awareness of the issue will help stop abuse before it begins.”

To focus attention on elder abuse, the Arizona Elder Abuse Coalition, the Attorney General and Free Arts of Arizona in February invited high school juniors across the state to participate in an arts competition. Participants were asked to submit original posters, poems or essays that address the question, “Why should I care about elder abuse?” The winning artworks were printed on a poster that has been distributed statewide. Contest winners will be honored at this event where their artwork and essays will be displayed

The keynote speaker at Break the Silence will be Jana Bommersbach, award-winning journalist and author of “Bones in the Desert”. Representatives of the Attorney General’s office, Mesa Police Department and the Arizona Elder Abuse Coalition will also be speaking about the issue of elder abuse.

Event Information

What: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse
When: Monday, June 15
10 a.m.
Where: Carnegie Center
1101 W. Washington St., Phoenix, Ariz.
Note: This event is open to the media.

If you or a loved one have struggled with elder abuse, please contact one of the following agencies:

Adult Protective Services

24 Hour Hotline: 1.877.SOS.ADULT (1.877.767.2385)

Area Agency on Aging

24-hour Senior HELPLINE: 602.264.HELP (602.264.4357)

For additional information about Break the Silence, visit the Web site for the Office of Attorney General at www.azag.gov.

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