

# VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners and Advocates

## OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES WELCOMES DIRECTOR

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ***Welcome to the New Director of the Office of Victim Services***
- ***Highlights of the 2009 Distinguished Service Awards***



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. To learn more about victims' rights visit us at [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov).

Dan Levey is the new Director of the Office of Victim Services for Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard. Since 2002, he has been the President of the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. He previously served as the Advisor for Victims to Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano from 2003 until Jan 2009. He has been an advocate for victims' rights since 1996, when his brother, Howard, was murdered by gang members as he waited to play basketball with friends.

In his current official capacity, and in his previous role as Special Assistant on Victims' Issues to the Arizona Attorney General, Dan works to impact public policy concerning the

treatment of crime victims and their families. Dan is also the 2008 recipient of the Peyton Tuthill Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to the Interstate Compact. In addition, he was the 2007 recipient of the U.S. Attorney General's Ronald W. Reagan Public Policy Award, through the Office for Victims of Crime, which honors individuals whose leadership, vision, and innovation have led to significant changes in public policy and practice that benefit crime victims. Prior to coming on staff at the Attorney General's Office, Dan was awarded by the Attorney General Goddard, a 2009 Distinguished Service Award for Public Policy, for his work in



public policy which is highlighted later in this brief. Dan has appeared on both local and national media, has authored several articles on victims' rights, and has testified at both the Arizona State Legislature and in the United States Congress on behalf of crime victim legislation.

Please join us in welcoming Dan Levey to the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services.

## 2009 ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

In celebration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Attorney General Terry Goddard presented the 2009 Distinguished Service Awards in honor of those who have helped the Attorney General's Office fight crime and serve crime victims throughout the state. The Ceremony was held at the Victims' Rights Rose Garden at the Arizona Attorney General's Office in Phoenix, Arizona, on April 29, 2009. Award recipients included the

following and are highlighted below:

### **Distinguished Service Award for Leadership**

Chief Justice Ruth McGregor, Arizona Supreme Court

Matthew Smith, Mohave County Attorney

### **Distinguished Service Award for Public Policy**

Dan Levey, Governor's Advisor for Victims

### **Distinguished Service Award for Innovative Practices**

The DOVES Program

### **Distinguished Service Award for Service Coordination**

Ama Doo Alchini Bighan, Incorporated (ADABI)

### **Distinguished Service Award for Advocacy/Direct Service**

Lydia Johnson, Arizona Department of Corrections

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Brittany James at  
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## 2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS CONT...

### Distinguished Service Award for Leadership

This award was presented to two individuals who have exercised vision, initiative and commitment for the better treatment of crime victims. This year two individuals in Arizona received this award.

Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor was recognized with an award for her leadership in the courts that has changed the way the courts treat crime victims. She made victims a major portion of her strategic agenda from "Good to Great" for 2005-2010. Specific initiatives achieved include, putting case-related information on the web so that parties, witnesses, and victims can receive timely and accurate information and re-engineering case processing systems so that cases are resolved more quickly.



She created a state-level position within the Administrative Office of the Courts to focus on issues involving victims and the courts, providing continuing education of the judiciary and staff about the rights and appropriate treatment of victims. She leads the initiative in working in cooperation with law enforcement, prosecutorial agencies, defense counsel and victims to ensure compliance with victims' rights. One of the most impressive directives she has initiated has been the Commission on Victims in the Courts (COVIC). Established in 2006, it is one of the first commissions of its kind in Arizona, COVIC serves to make recommendations and advice to the Arizona

Judicial Council on victims' rights within the court system.



Mohave County Attorney Matthew Smith was also recognized with the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for Leadership. County Attorney Smith has shown exemplary leadership in prosecuting cases of victims of abuse from the FLDS polygamous community of Colorado City. He has utilized effective techniques to address the barriers of reluctant witnesses and the authoritarian closed FLDS community. A key strategy implemented by County Attorney Smith, included hiring a special investigator and victim advocate assigned to and based in Colorado City.

His influence has extended across multiple jurisdictions in Arizona, Utah and other states on prosecutions and on the pursuit of fugitive and "FBI Ten Most Wanted" criminal, Warren Jeffs. He has been a strong advocate for victims and because of his leadership, courage and tenacity, more victims have and will continue to come forward to seek safety and justice. County Attorney Matthew Smith overcame tremendous obstacles and produced remarkable results to help crime victims living in his community.

### Distinguished Service Award for Public Policy

This award is presented to those who have made an invaluable contribution or played a critical role in ensuring public

policy reforms, including legislative enactments, aimed at improving the treatment of crime victims. Prior to joining the Attorney General's office, Dan Levey was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for Public Policy. In his various professional roles and as board president and member of various national organizations, Dan is active in advocating for the rights of victims. He has helped change public policy for law enforcement, the prosecution, and the courts on behalf of victims.



The major reforms that Dan has led include; the victims' rights statement read by judges at the beginning of the court day, the expansion of victims' rights to include grandparents and siblings, legislation that allows victims to take time off work to attend court proceedings without penalty to their jobs, legislation that requires law enforcement to provide a free copy of the police report to victims, and legislation that protects victims' identities from public website display in domestic violence and stalking cases. He has assisted the Supreme Court Commission on Victims in the Courts in developing a website for restitution information, and providing training to judges and probation officers on victims' rights and issues. Dan Levey was recognized for his instrumental role in the development of programs and processes which have gained recognition for the state of Arizona and helped countless victims.

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## 2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS CONT...

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### Distinguished Service Award for Innovative Practices

This award is presented to those who have developed new programs to serve victims and provide services where there were none previously. The DOVES program was created six years ago by the Area Agency on Aging, Region one. It is the first program of its kind in Arizona specifically designed to serve victims of late-life domestic violence and elder abuse. DOVES takes an innovative approach to meeting the unique needs of victims of abuse aged 50 and older through outreach, education, support groups, and emergency, transitional, and interim housing.



DOVES has earned accreditation from the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services and received an Aging Innovation award from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging in July, 2008. The results of the DOVES program are dramatic. Older individuals who have lived with violence, some for most of their adult lives, are making new beginnings and discovering they can lead lives free from fear and intimidation. For the first time, many in the support groups are breaking out of their isolation and finding that there are others in similar situations.

### Distinguished Service Award for Service Coordination

This award is presented to individuals or an organization for efforts in coordinating multi-disciplinary approaches to serving crime victims. Ama Doo Alchini Bighan, Incorporated (ADABI) was recognized for its tireless and passionate work on behalf of victims in the Navajo Nation. ADABI is a private, non-profit, community-based domestic violence and sexual assault crisis

intervention program founded in 1989 and provides services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It provides advocacy, prevention, and a safe home network program to victims of intimate partner violence in the Chinle Agency of the Navajo Nation.



ADABI collaborates closely with the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Committee at the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility (an Indian Health Service hospital), Navajo Law enforcement; the prosecutor's office, social workers, health care providers and representatives from the community. ADABI provides culturally relevant services, including an on-site sweat lodge that helps meet the spiritual needs of their victims. ADABI is active in the community maintaining outreach offices at Low Mountain Senior Citizen Center and at Diné College. ADABI has enlisted the help of the First Lady of the Navajo Nation, Mrs. Vikki Shirley, to speak on the radio and at public functions about domestic violence prevention. The organization also sponsors a walk at Canyon de Chelly and plays a critical role in training first responders and judges. ADABI consistently goes above and beyond to assist victims and to increase awareness of the prevalence and consequences of interpersonal violence.

### Distinguished Service Award for Advocacy/Direct Service

This award is presented to those who demonstrate passion and commitment in promoting victims' rights and services. Lydia Johnson of the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) was recognized for her work on behalf of crime victims, in ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect. Lydia has worked for the department for thirty-two years, holding

several positions. She has managed the Victim Notification Unit since 1991.

Since the department cancelled the automated telephone notification system (VINE) in July, 2006, Lydia consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty by personally contacting crime victims by phone to advise them of a release, death or escape, in addition to providing written notification. Lydia was also instrumental in creating an electronic courtesy email notification system to inform prosecutors, law enforcement and judges about a death, release or escape of an inmate. This resulted in substantial savings in postage for the department. Lydia is extremely supportive to victims. For example, she worked with a victim to gain the courage to report a suspect who had sexually assaulted her years earlier and was still committing similar crimes. Considered a wealth of knowledge, and always willing to lend a hand, she constantly gives assistance to staff in victim services and various other departments in ADC.



*Thank you to everyone who attended the 2009 Victims' Rights Week Celebration. We thank our generous partners and guests for their assistance to the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services and their support of our mission to promote justice and healing for the people affected by crime in the state of Arizona.*