



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

WWW.OVC.GOV

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT: TANNYR DENBY WATKINS

202-616-5179

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL CRIME VICTIM SERVICE TEAM

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today recognized the Arizona Attorney General’s Office of Victim Services Agency Support Team (AST) with the Crimes Victims’ Rights Award. The award goes to programs, organizations, or individuals whose efforts to advance or enforce victims’ rights have benefitted victims at the state, tribal or national levels. The organization was honored during the annual National Crime Victims’ Service Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

In 2016, AST provided over 2,000 technical assistance services to direct service providers, administered the Victims’ Rights Fund to 58 criminal justice agencies, and developed 72 training sessions that it delivered to more than 1,500 victim advocates, support staff, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, judges and probation officers. AST employs a Victims’ Rights Compliance Administrator to work with victims who believe their rights have been violated and to help agencies improve their services.

“By enforcing victims’ rights and supporting victim service providers across the state of Arizona, the outstanding members of the Agency Support Team have demonstrated the tremendous difference a group of committed individuals can make in the lives of countless victims,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Alan R. Hanson. “The Department of Justice is proud to honor them for their outstanding service and for their unflagging pursuit of justice on behalf of the injured and aggrieved.”

During the ceremony, the Justice Department also recognized 11 other individuals and organizations for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Awardees were selected from public nominations in nine categories, including federal service, special courage, public policy and victim services.

The Department’s Office for Victims of Crime leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first Victims’ Rights Week in 1981, calling for greater sensitivity to the rights and needs of victims. This year’s observance takes place April 2-8, with the theme *Strength. Resilience. Justice.*

The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Alan R. Hanson, provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to prevent and control crime,

-MORE-

administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice

Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex

Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

###