



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

EMBARGOED UNTIL  
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### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS ARIZ. PROSECUTOR FOR ADVANCING CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS**

PEORIA, Ariz.—The Department of Justice will recognize Arizona prosecutor Jamie Balson with the Crime Victims' Rights Award for her efforts to provide crime victims greater access to justice within the legal system, during the National Crime Victims' Rights Service Awards ceremony Wed., April 9, in Washington, D.C.

“Through their courage and critical contributions to assist and empower victims, these individuals and organizations have given hope to countless Americans victimized by crime—even under the most difficult circumstances,” said Attorney General Eric Holder. “I am proud to recognize these extraordinary advocates by celebrating their achievements and assure them that the Department of Justice is more determined than ever to help ensure their continued success.”

Balson developed a training program for officers on victims' rights and officers' responsibilities under victims' rights laws. She also represented the surviving families of domestic violence homicide as a civil attorney, working diligently to expedite her cases on their behalf and ensure their voices were heard throughout the criminal justice process.

Balson regularly speaks about domestic violence to local shelters and agencies that assist domestic violence survivors and teaches law students about victims' rights and the impact attorneys can have in this area. Last year, she received the Guara Award from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence for her outstanding efforts to provide services to victims of domestic violence. She has published *Therapeutic Jurisprudence: Facilitating Healing in Crime Victims*.

“We are humbled and proud to recognize these extraordinary individuals, teams, and organizations for their outstanding service” said Deputy Attorney General James Cole. “These compassionate honorees have become beacons of hope for so many others who have endured shock and deep sadness in the face of too many incidents involving violence and loss.”

In addition to Balson, the Department will recognize nine other individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Descriptions of the honorees are available at the Office for Victims of Crime's Gallery:

<https://ovcncvrw.ncjrs.gov/Awards/AwardGallery/gallerysearch.html>.

President Reagan proclaimed the first Victims' Rights Week in 1981, calling for renewed emphasis on, and sensitivity to, the rights of victims. National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed this year from April 6-12, and the theme is "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice."

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six components: 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 can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).