



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER TEAM FOR EXPERTISE, COMMITMENT TO VICTIMS**

NEWARK, Del.—The Department of Justice will recognize Christiana Care Health System’s Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) program for providing emergency care to thousands of crime victims and forensic expertise at trials across the country, 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.”

The FNE team will receive the Allied Professional Award for providing physical and emotional care to victims of crime while collecting and preserving evidence.

Consisting of one medical director and 24 nurses, the team provides 24 hour services within a level-one trauma center. The team has provided services to sexual assault victims since 1996, and expanded their forensic expertise to include elder, dependent adult and child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, strangulation and major trauma, involving accidents, assaults, stabbings or gunshot wounds. In 2013, they provided forensic services to 1,963 forensic patients.

The FNE Team is trained to document and identify inflicted injuries, photograph the forensic evidence and testify as forensic experts. For example, their specialized training for recognizing and documenting gunshot wound characteristics, including entrance and exit wounds, range and direction of fire, provides information to investigators within minutes of a victim’s arrival. The majority of the team’s expert testimony occurs in the Delaware courts, but they have testified in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland courts as well. The team honors subpoenas regardless of the location. Many FNE members provide education in local nursing schools, local universities, nurse practitioner programs, legal nurse consulting and forensic sciences classes.

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

<https://ovcnvrvw.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).