



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS FLA. MOTHER FOR STRENGTHENING VICTIM NOTIFICATION ACROSS STATE LINES**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—The Department of Justice will recognize a Florida mother and legislative activist for her leadership in strengthening notification practices for crime victims and policies for monitoring and supervising parolees and probationers who move across state lines.

“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.”

Pat Tuthill will receive the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award during the National Crime Victims’ Rights Service Awards ceremony Wed., April 9, in Washington, D.C.

On February 24, 1999, Tuthill’s 23-year old daughter Peyton, a graduate student in Colorado, was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered by a convicted criminal sent for drug treatment, as an unsupervised probationer, from Maryland to Colorado, without notice to Colorado officials. After her daughter’s death, Tuthill became a legislative activist, public speaker and advocate for crime victims of unsupervised offenders.

She traveled the country to convince policymakers in each state to support new legislation for monitoring and supervising parolees and probationers who move across state lines. In 2005, she helped Massachusetts become the 50th state to enact Interstate Compact Adult Offender Supervision. In Aug. 2013, her work culminated in the implementation of the first National Automated Standardized Victim Notification System, ensuring that all victims and their families, no matter where they live, are notified of all significant changes when offenders move between states so they can implement a safety plan.

The new nationwide system is directly linked to the Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System and guarantees victims of crime will be notified of all proceedings involving the unsupervised offender who victimized them, including the request to transfer; request approval; departure from the sending state; arrival in the receiving state; any violations of conditions of supervision; change of address or return to the sending state.

Tuthill also founded the Peyton Tuthill Foundation “Hearts of Hope Scholarships” in 2005 to provide college scholarships to children left behind by homicide. The foundation has awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to date.

“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 Tuthill, 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://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).