



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS D.C. ATTORNEY FOR EFFORTS TO PREVENT CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today recognized Laura Dunn with the Special Courage Award for her work on behalf of victims of sexual assault. The award goes to victims or survivors who exhibit exceptional perseverance or determination or who acted bravely to aid a victim or prevent a victimization. She was honored during the annual National Crime Victims’ Service Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Dunn founded SurvJustice in 2010 after being sexually assaulted while in college. SurvJustice played a critical role in drafting the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act of 2013, which provides rights to victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking, and ensured that these provisions were included in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 2013. SurvJustice has grown to be the only national nonprofit organization providing legal representation to victims in campus disciplinary hearings.

“Ms. Dunn’s resilience in the face of trauma, and her deep commitment to empowering other survivors, are an example to us all,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Alan R. Hanson. “The Department of Justice is proud to honor her for her outstanding service and for her 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, 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

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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.

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