**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018**

**WWW.OJJDP.GOV**

**CONTACT: JAMES GOODWIN**

202-353-5624; james.goodwin@usdoj.gov

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO HONOR INVESTIGATING OFFICERS, PRIVATE CITIZEN FOR EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Justice will present awards to two law enforcement officers and an Internet Crimes Against Children task force for their investigations in cases involving sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, as well as a private citizen for his role in the rescue of an abducted infant.

Acting Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio will present the awards as part of the National Missing Children’s Day ceremony, Wednesday, May 23, at 2 p.m. EDT. This year’s award recipients are from Santa Clara, California; and La Plata, Rockville and Easton, Maryland. Additionally, a fifth grade student from Michigan will be recognized as the National Missing Children’s Day poster contest winner for best conveying the theme, “Bringing Our Missing Children Home,” in a poster.

Each year, the Department commemorates National Missing Children’s Day with a ceremony honoring the exemplary and heroic efforts of agencies, organizations and individuals to protect children. National Missing Children’s Day is dedicated to encouraging parents, guardians, caregivers and others to make child safety a priority.

**WHAT:** National Missing Children’s Day Ceremony

**WHEN:** 2 to 3 p.m., EDT, Wednesday, May 23, 2018

**WHO:** National Missing Children’s Day Award Recipients
Acting Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Alan Hanson, Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Administrator Caren Harp

**WHERE:** U.S. Department of Justice
Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building (The Great Hall)
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

**OPEN PRESS - ***This event will be live-streamed at www.justice.gov/live

**NOTE:** All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a driver’s license) as well as valid media credentials. Media should RSVP to Jim Goodwin at james.goodwin@usdoj.gov no later than 4 p.m. EDT, Tuesday, May 22.