



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS OKLAHOMA VICTIM ADVOCATE

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today recognized victim advocate Linda D. Axley with the Volunteer for Victims Award for her tireless efforts to help people escape abuse and find safety. The award goes to individuals who provide extraordinary service to crime victims without compensation. She was honored during the annual National Crime Victims' Service Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

At the start of her career as an intern psychologist for the Cherokee County Health Department, Axley developed resources for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. She recruited volunteers, arranged training and found funding to sustain these new programs, including a crisis line that started in her own home. Today, the program offers 24-hour access to shelter, crisis intervention and advocacy services for over 300 people a year. Many of the recipients are Cherokee tribal citizens, and approximately 75 percent of the victims served are children under age 12.

“In an extraordinary display of individual initiative and compassion, Ms. Axley offers refuge and hope to hundreds of victims, many of them children, every year,” 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 unflinching 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

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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 and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

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