



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

CONTACT: LAUREN LAMBERT, 202-305-7776  
[LAUREN.LAMBERT@OJP.USDOJ.GOV](mailto:LAUREN.LAMBERT@OJP.USDOJ.GOV)

### **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HONORS OKLAHOMA WOMAN WITH VOLUNTEER FOR VICTIMS AWARD**

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department’s Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, presented Tricia L. Everest with the Volunteer for Victims Award. This award recognizes an individual whose work over an extended period of time has resulted in positive and substantial change in the field of victim advocacy and victims’ rights.

“Tricia Everest is a true advocate, a selfless leader who has volunteered her time and talents to creating a kinder, safer world for victims of violence,” said OJP Acting Assistant Attorney General Maureen A. Henneberg. “A lawyer, a philanthropist, a mentor and – above all – a champion of abused women and children, she has made a profound difference to the safety of her community and to the people of Oklahoma City.”

Tricia L. Everest has helped transform the service community in Oklahoma City through her leadership, vision and relationships. Ms. Everest has worked with community leaders in the fields of criminal justice, mental health and the arts to stop abuse against women, prevent over-incarceration and create pathways for children to overcome trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Her focus is to provide men and women with the tools to choose new paths for their children free of abuse, poor health, poverty, incarceration or addiction.

Ms. Everest was previously Oklahoma Assistant Attorney General, where she helped victims of domestic violence and served as chair of the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority. She is the founding chair of Palomar, Oklahoma City’s Family Justice Center, which removes barriers for abuse victims to access services, and the founding chair of ReMerge, which diverts mothers from prison and empowers women to build healthy foundations for themselves and their children. She voluntarily serves as trustee of the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, and is chair of the Inasmuch Foundation’s Advisory Committee and of the Oklahoma County Jail Trust. Her other philanthropic endeavors include service on numerous nonprofit boards.

Ms. Everest was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2019 for her leadership of hope-inspiring initiatives for people to build stronger lives after victimization. She serves as a mentor to students of the Oklahoma City University Meinders School of Business.

“Ms. Everest has given so much of herself to helping victims of domestic violence and child abuse, and her community has reaped the benefits,” said OVC Acting Director Katherine Darke Schmitt. “Thanks to her outstanding vision and leadership, organizations throughout Oklahoma City are reaching crime victims and making a difference in their lives.”

Every April, OVC leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. President Reagan proclaimed the first Victims’ Rights Week in 1981, calling for greater sensitivity to the rights and needs of victims. The 40th anniversary of NCVRW

took place this year, April 18-24, and featured the theme, “Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities,” which emphasizes the importance of leveraging community support to victims.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation’s capacity to prevent and reduce crime, advance racial equity in the administration of justice, assist victims and enhance the rule of law. More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

###