



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

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### **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HONORS MINNESOTA MAN WITH VICTIM RIGHTS LEGEND AWARD**

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department’s Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, presented Victor I. Vieth with the Victim Rights Legend 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/or victims’ rights.

“Victor Vieth is a highly esteemed attorney who has dedicated his impressive career to protecting children and seeking justice on their behalf,” said OJP Acting Assistant Attorney General Maureen A. Henneberg. “Not only has he been a steadfast advocate for countless young victims of physical and sexual abuse, he has helped to create an army of child protection and legal professionals dedicated to supporting children in communities and courtrooms across the country.”

Victor I. Vieth is the Chief Program Officer of Education & Research for the Zero Abuse Project, a public charity based in St. Paul, Minnesota, which is committed to education, training and survivor support to eradicate child sex abuse and remedy its resulting harms. Mr. Vieth has been listed on the President’s Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. He served as the Director and Senior Attorney of the American Prosecutors Research Institute’s National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse and as the Director of the National District Attorneys Association’s Child Abuse Programs. In 2012, Mr. Vieth was awarded the Pro Humanitate Award from the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare.

Mr. Vieth was instrumental in developing the Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) undergraduate and graduate programs, now implemented at colleges and universities nationwide. He also serves on the board of GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment). Mr. Vieth has trained thousands of child protection professionals on numerous topics and is the author of *Unto the Third Generation*. He is also the Founder of the National Child Protection Training Center.

“Victims of child sexual abuse have endured unimaginable trauma and are often left to suffer the consequences alone, so it would be impossible to overstate the enormous value of Mr. Vieth’s contributions,” said OVC Acting Director Katherine Darke Schmitt. “Through his vision, leadership and expertise, he has set a standard of excellence for child-serving professionals throughout the nation.”

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.

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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).

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