

VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners and Advocates



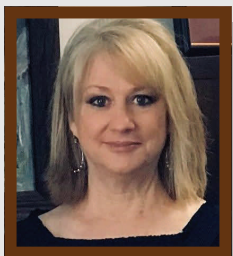
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If you have questions, suggestions or an idea for an article, contact

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The Victims' Rights Brief is published by the Arizona Attorney General, Office of Victim Services. The goal in generating the Brief is to promote justice and healing for crime victims by sharing information and fostering sensitivity within the justice system. To learn more about victims' rights visit us at

<https://www.azag.gov/criminal/victim-services>



**National Crime Victims'
Rights Week**

**April 18-24,
2021**

Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities.

This year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) will be observed April 18-24, 2021. This is a time to acknowledge and pay tribute to criminal justice agencies, victim service providers and community members who dedicate their time, skill and attention to victims of crime. As you recall, Arizona's regular statewide collaborative recognition event was cancelled last year due to COVID 19. The cancellation was only the beginning of what ended up being an obligatory paradigm shift-filled year. All criminal justice agencies and victim service providers had to think and work differently to ensure justice was served, inclusive of crime victims' rights. There continues to be some glitches along the way; but for the most part, this different way of thinking and practice has propelled us into the 21st Century technology sphere where we continue to build an arsenal of alternative ways to serve victims through the pandemic. As Arizona reaffirms its commitment to "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities." remember our collective resilience while keeping steadfast in our charge to serve victims.

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NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2021 VIRTUAL RECOGNITION EVENT

The Arizona Governor's Office, Arizona Attorney General's Office, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry, Arizona Juvenile Corrections and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is pleased to invite you to attend the 2021 virtual NCVRW event on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 12:00 Noon. This multi-agency event will highlight and honor extraordinary individuals and groups who serve victims of crime to include Governor Doug Ducey's Triumph Over Tragedy Award, the 2020/2021 Attorney General's Distinguished Service Awards presented by the Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office Crime Victims' Rights Legacy Award: Legacy of Compassion presented by County Attorney Allister Adel.

The joint committee of these Arizona agencies is also honored to announce this year's keynote speaker, nationally renowned victims' rights attorney and accomplished proponent of victims' rights, Professor Paul Cassell.

Please click link below to register.

<https://www.bigmarker.com/attorney-generals-office/Test-64358a000f5bc50bc287ef7a>

The Arizona Attorney General's Office honors extraordinary individuals and groups who serve victims of crime. Below are the 2020/2021 Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award winners.



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Child Crisis Arizona *Advocacy/Direct Services*

Into its fifth decade, CCA continues to actualize its doctrine of “Safe kids. Strong families.” The merging of emergency shelter services and preventative measures allows CCA to not only support victims during the most strenuous times, but to also pursue a world with fewer victims. CCA’s team focuses on child abuse prevention, intervention, and early childhood education. Their prevention programs equip parents with the knowledge and skills to properly care for youth. CCA’s intervention services consist of an emergency children’s shelter, a group home, counseling services, and foster care and adoption programs. CCA goes beyond providing a service by putting an emphasis on each individual child’s needs and working on ways to achieve long-term results. When the Arizona Department of Child Safety removes a child from the home, CCA becomes a safe home away from home for the child in distress and addresses all needs they may have as a result of their trauma. In addition, they also enroll children in school and provide them with tutoring to regain normalcy in their lives. Their approach in facilitating victim healing has helped over 35,000 children. CCA demonstrates their extraordinary care for the well-being of victims and perseverance in their lives as a symbol of acceptance, recovery, and home.



Child Crisis Arizona



Skye Steele

Skye Steele, StreetLight USA *Service Coordination*

Skye is the productive visionary and CEO of StreetLightUSA. Skye has spent close to two decades being an instrumental force in developing new programs to serve victims. Prior to her time at StreetLightUSA, she was occupied with founding the Phoenix Dream Center’s Human Trafficking Program and forming their Clinical Services Department, Women’s Development Program, and Youth Development Program. At StreetLightUSA, Skye is credited with revolutionizing the way human trafficking victims are served today. Utilizing her passion to make a change and her extensive background in Psychology,

she incorporated neurosensory modulation tactics into the program’s group and behavioral health homes. Another area in which Skye has had great coordinative success is with operationalized trauma informed care in the high school setting. Skye forged a trauma informed high school exclusively tailored to survivors of human trafficking. An on-site crisis counselor, specially trained teachers, flexible schedules, and more have contributed to the success of Steele’s approach, with outcomes improving by over 70%. Furthermore, she has formed partnerships with other providers in the valley to put her “relationship is the intervention” belief into fruition. Skye has achieved remarkable success in recognizing and acting upon barriers trafficking victims face in recovery.

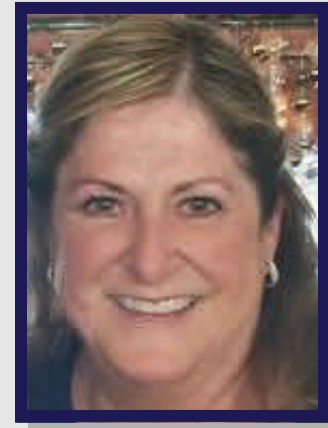


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Cindy Woods, Mohave County Attorney's Office *Innovative Practices*

Cindy Woods is the Victim Compensation Advocate of five years for the Mohave County Attorney's Office. Cindy demonstrated her innovative skills and initiative while helping a family after an immense tragedy in 2019. Cindy noticed a cry for help when a local high school senior passed away in a tragic boating incident on Lake Mead. With friends of the victim's family calling out to the community for support, Cindy wanted to take action and made a persistent effort to contact the family. She utilized the modern power of social media to make this effort to reach out a hand to a family in need. Her efforts were successful



Cindy Woods

and soon enough she was able to employ the Mohave County Victim Compensation Program to assist the family with expenses related to the tragedy. Woods success was achieved through a true passion for ensuring that victims are served no matter what, as this case was not even in her jurisdiction. Cindy Woods is respected and trusted by those around her to exhibit her compassion for victims by any means necessary, and she remains unafraid to exercise the unconventional.



Melissa
Brickhouse-Thomas

Melissa Brickhouse-Thomas, Glendale Police Department *Leadership*

For over ten years, Melissa has demonstrated her exceptional leadership as supervisor of the Glendale Police Department Victim Assistance Unit (VAU). Using a trauma informed approach. Melissa has had a significant role in impacting the recovery of victims and maintaining their legal rights. Through her vision, she has been able to actualize accessible and free trauma counseling for victims, create the VA Patrol Unit to assist victims around the clock, and make it possible for victims to petition the Glendale City Court for an OOP/IAH at alternative locations convenient to their needs. These positive changes illustrate her true empathy for vic-

tims and her visionary leadership that allows her to produce such significant outcomes. Melissa has also created a safe place for victims to feel at ease in the Glendale Family Advocacy Center to include Oliver, the Center's diligent emotional support dog. She is frequently called upon by other agencies looking to model their programs after Glendale's admirable Victim Assistance Unit. Melissa continues to play an active role in bettering the lives of crime victims and sets the precedent for being an exemplary leader in her field.

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Arizona Attorney General's Victims' Rights Engagement Campaign!

The Office of Victim Services invites you to join us in this year's Arizona Attorney General's Engagement Campaign! Our goal is to create a video compilation showcasing the dedication of Victim Advocates, Attorneys, Legal and Support Staff, Law Enforcement, and others who serve Arizona's crime victims. Please join us as we engage the community during National Crime Victims' Rights Week by participating in this video either by ***creating a short video or writing a blurb explaining how or why you support victims, build trust, and engage communities.*** Please feel free to forward this email to others to garner more participation!

VIDEO INSTRUCTIONS

Grab your phone and hold **horizontally**.

Hit record.

Briefly state (30 seconds maximum) how or why you support victims, build trust, and/or engage communities.

Submit video to Janelle Miller with OVS at Janelle.Miller@azag.gov by **5pm on April 2, 2021**.

BLURB INSTRUCTIONS

Briefly write how or why you support victims, build trust, and/or engage communities.

Submit blurb to Janelle Miller with OVS at Janelle.Miller@azag.gov by **5pm on April 2, 2021**.

To view the Arizona AGO's 2020 National Crime Victims' Rights Week - #WhyWeAdvocate Virtual Campaign video go to <https://www.azag.gov/criminal/victim-services/ovs-brochures-and-publications>

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



The Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services is excited announce that several dates for Basic, Advanced and Law Enforcement victims' rights presentations are open for registration now!

All presentations will be held as webinars via *BigMarker.com*.

To register or request another victims' rights presentation that is not listed go to <https://www.azag.gov/criminal/victim-services/training>

***Be on the lookout for Restitution presentations
that will be scheduled for late Spring!***