

**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

ANN L. BRAMSEN
Acting District Attorney



DA 04-0030
RELEASE NUMBER

April 8, 2010
RELEASE DATE

Ann L. Bramsen
APPROVED BY ANN BRAMSEN, ACTING DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Silvia Uribe (805) 568-2318
CONTACT PERSON

******* PRESS RELEASE *******

April 8, 2010

Subject: Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Holds Press Conference April 23, 2010, Supporting National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 18 – April 24.

Acting District Attorney Ann Bramsen, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown and Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Chair Janet Wolf, Second District, will share the podium on Friday, April 23, to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week celebrated this year April 18-24, 2010.

The press conference will begin at 11:30 a.m., April 23, in the Sunken Gardens at the historic County Courthouse building in Santa Barbara. The public and the press are invited to attend as Santa Barbara County officials stand together as advocates for the rights of crime victims. National Crime Victims' Rights Week was established in 1975 to draw attention to the need for efforts to uphold the rights of crime victims.

As part of the press conference, County officials will present a special "Citizen of Courage Award" to an individual who has shown resilience in the aftermath of a crime. In addition, a "Victim Service Award" will be presented to a representative of an agency that demonstrates exemplary service and commitment to crime victims. Award recipients will be present at the press conference and available for interviews.

"Our office is committed to protecting and upholding Victims' Rights and ensuring the safety of citizens of our County," Acting District Attorney Bramsen said. "The public needs to know that we stand united in our efforts to protect and defend them from crime and criminals."

Victims of crime too often feel alienated by the criminal justice system, which historically has focused on the investigation, prosecution and punishment of defendants, Bramsen said. The District Attorney's Office is dedicated to upholding the fairness, dignity and respect to all victims—and survivors—of crime and criminals, she said.

Since 1978, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office has been the primary local provider of crime victim services. The office was one of the first county agencies in California and the Nation, to offer a "voice to victims," Bramsen said. More than three decades later, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office has a well-established Victim-Witness Assistance Program with a professional team of Victim Advocates; Victim Compensation and Restitution Specialists dedicated to meeting the needs of victims; and acts as a liaison between the victim and the criminal justice system.

This advocacy dramatically reduces victims' anxiety and serves to educate the victim to become an active participant in the process affording the victim a voice before, during, and after the criminal case has concluded.