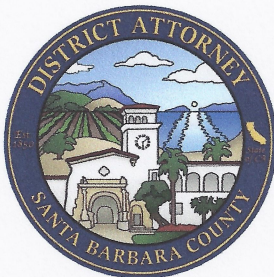


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 04-157

RELEASE NUMBER

April 24, 2013

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Megan Rheinschild, Victim-Witness Manager

CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2300

* * * * * P R E S S R E L E A S E * * * * *

April 24, 2013

**Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Holds Press Conference April 26, 2013, at 11:00 a.m.
Supporting National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 21 – April 27**

The District Attorney's Office will continue to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week by having a press conference on Friday, April 26, 2013, at 11:00 a.m., in the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Hearing Room located at 105 East Anapamu Street.

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 Nicholas Zoppo, a young man who has demonstrated resilience in the aftermath of child molestation. Nick faced years of abuse by a family friend. He endured a difficult trial having to bravely recount years of abuse which he had worked so hard to forget. Nick has now transformed his horrendous experience into an opportunity to communicate to others who may also have been victims of child abuse. His message is that you can go from being a victim to becoming a survivor and perhaps even an advocate. Nick now expresses himself through music and has plans to produce a documentary regarding his experience.

A "Victim Service Award" will also be presented to two deserving individuals. Criminalists Shavonne Sicher and Victoria Price with the California Department of Justice Laboratory are being recognized for their outstanding efforts implementing the Rapid DNA Service for sexual assault cases. The Santa Barbara Department of Justice Lab is one of only two in the state that performs this service. The Rapid DNA process has been a critical scientific tool in law enforcement investigations.

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley states, "We stand together with the individuals being honored on Friday, April 26, committed to protecting and upholding Victims' Rights and ensuring the safety of everyone in our county. This office is dedicated to the pursuit of truth and justice by employing the highest ethical standards in vigorously prosecuting the guilty as well as protecting the innocent; this we do by ensuring that all crime victims are treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect."

Award recipients will be present at the press conference and available for questions.

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