

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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Subject: Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Announces its First Annual Conference on April 17th, Commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights.

District Attorney, Christie Stanley is dedicated to the premise, "Justice for Victims, Justice for All." "Victims of Crime tend to feel alienated and lost within the Criminal Justice System, which has traditionally focused on the investigation, prosecution and punishment of defendants. But if there's no justice for victims, our communities are compromised as well" – she indicated.

This First Annual Conference will include two expert panels. The morning panel will discuss the California Prison System and Victim and Community Safety followed by a Luncheon, during which three awards will be given out, including: Citizen of Courage, Victim Services and Law Enforcement Award. The afternoon panel will discuss Working with Sexual Assault Victims with Disabilities. The Conference, organized by the District Attorney's Office Victim-Witness Assistance Program, will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Buellton beginning at 9:00 a.m. on April 17th, to honor victims, their families and those who serve them.

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office has been the primary provider of crime victim services since 1978, becoming one of the first counties in the state and the nation to offer a voice to victims who traditionally had been an afterthought of the criminal justice system. Thirty years later the 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 acting 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.

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, Victim-Witness Assistance Program in collaboration with all of the integral law enforcement, social service, public health and community organizations is honored to continue to serve our community.