



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY HONORED FOR SECURING FINANCIAL RESTITUTION FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN

WASHINGTON—The Department of Justice (DOJ) will recognize one of its trial attorneys with the Crime Victims Financial Restoration Award for working tirelessly on behalf of child exploitation victims to secure financial restitution and their right to be heard at sentencing.

“Through their courage and critical contributions to assist and empower victims, these individuals and organizations have given hope to countless Americans victimized by crime—even under the most difficult circumstances,” said Attorney General Eric Holder. “I am proud to recognize these extraordinary advocates by celebrating their achievements and assure them that the Department of Justice is more determined than ever to help ensure their continued success.”

Department officials will present Mi Yung C. Park, who works in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of DOJ’s Criminal Division, with the award during the National Crime Victims’ Rights Service Awards ceremony Wed., April 9, in Washington, D.C.

In case after case, Park worked closely with mental health professionals to help them understand the long-term impact of these crimes, ensuring that the restitution awarded takes into account the victims’ long-term mental health needs, and she identified offenders’ assets in order to satisfy restitution orders. In one case, Park identified retirement funds of an offender and requested that they be liquidated for the purposes of paying restitution. She is working with other federal agencies to resolve the tax issues involved on behalf of victims. Park also provides victims across the country a voice in the legal process by ensuring they are afforded their right to be heard at sentencing.

“We are humbled and proud to recognize these extraordinary individuals, teams, and organizations for their outstanding service” said Deputy Attorney General James Cole. “These compassionate honorees have become beacons of hope for so many others who have endured shock and deep sadness in the face of too many incidents involving violence and loss.”

In addition to Park, the Department will recognize nine other individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Descriptions and videos of the honorees are available at the Office for Victims of Crime’s Gallery:

<https://ovcnvrv.ncjrs.gov/Awards/AwardGallery/gallerysearch.html>.

President Reagan proclaimed the first Victims' Rights Week in 1981, calling for renewed emphasis on, and sensitivity to, the rights of victims. National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed this year from April 6-12, and the theme is "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice."

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at www.ojp.gov.