



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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Justice Department Honors Ohio Judge for Creating Specialty Court for Victims Charged with Prostitution

WASHINGTON—The Department of Justice will recognize Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Paul M. Herbert with the Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services, for his efforts to change the way society looks at women charged with prostitution, during the National Crime Victims' Rights Service Awards ceremony Tuesday, April 21, in Washington, D.C.

Recognizing that many prostituted women are sexually abused, Herbert started the Changing Actions to Change Habits (CATCH) Court in 1999. CATCH is a two-year specialty court that includes residential detox programs and intensive therapy for these women. Participants receive support and services for the effects of human trafficking, post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression and mental illnesses.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are given a clean slate, with their convictions records dismissed and sealed. The CATCH program has saved taxpayers thousands of dollars in court fees, attorney charges and medical and treatment expenses. Because of this significant impact on Columbus, the specialty court is now being replicated in Dayton, Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio.

At the April 21 ceremony the Justice Department will also recognize 11 other individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Descriptions of the honorees are available at the Office for Victims of Crime's Gallery:

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

The Department's Office for Victims of Crime leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week and hosts an award ceremony each year. President Reagan proclaimed the first Victims' Rights Week in 1981, calling for greater sensitivity to the rights and needs of victims. This year's observance takes place April 19-25, with the theme *Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims*.

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About the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

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.

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