



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS BLACKWATER PROSECUTION TEAM WITH FEDERAL SERVICE AWARD**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today recognized a group of professionals from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, the FBI, and the U.S. Department of State with the Federal Service Award during the annual National Crime Victims’ Service Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award goes to federal agency personnel whose work affects victims of federal, tribal or military crimes or promotes victims’ rights and services for underserved victims nationally and internationally. The team successfully prosecuted four employees of Blackwater Security Consulting for their roles in the Sept. 16, 2007, Nisur Square shooting in Baghdad.

The Blackwater employees were found guilty of charges stemming from the shooting that resulted in the killing of 14 unarmed civilians and the wounding of numerous others. The team coordinated the safe travel and court appearances of over 40 Iraqi victim-witnesses and worked diligently to ensure the Iraqi witnesses would be treated with cultural sensitivity.

“Through its commitment to justice and its compassion for victims’ families, this outstanding team of professionals closed a dark and painful chapter in our nation’s relationship with the people of Iraq,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Alan R. Hanson. “The Department of Justice is proud to honor them for their outstanding service and for their unflagging pursuit of justice on behalf of the injured and aggrieved.”

During the ceremony, the Justice Department also recognized 11 other individuals and organizations for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Awardees were selected from public nominations in nine categories, including federal service, special courage, public policy and victim services.

The Department’s Office for Victims of Crime leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. President Ronald 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 2-8, with the theme *Strength. Resilience. Justice.*

The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Alan R. Hanson, provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice

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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 and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

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