



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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CONTACT: STARR STEPP
(202) 307-0703

Justice Department Honors Oklahoma Victim Advocate for Creating a Crime Victims' Compensation Program for Tribes

WASHINGTON—The Department of Justice will recognize Suzanne Kay Breedlove with the Ronald Reagan Public Policy Award for creating clear policies for crime victims' compensation in tribal communities, during the National Crime Victims' Rights Service Awards ceremony Tues., April 21, in Washington, D.C.

Breedlove, who has worked for the Oklahoma District Attorneys' Council since 1983, developed a new crime victims' compensation policy that included tribal cultural services, which has since been used as a model throughout the U.S. As the state's Director of Victims Services, she serves as the Administrator of the Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation and Victim Assistance Programs, and has increased the fund from a zero balance to more than a seven million dollar surplus. She also contributed to the first Mass Casualty Protocol Manual for Victims Compensation Programs, and oversees the three-year Oklahoma State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison Demonstration Program, which is improving outreach and services to American Indian crime victims.

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*.

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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