



## 2015 Victim Rights Month Award Recipients

It is with great pleasure that the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) and the Victim and Witness Advocacy Board (VWAB) announce the recipients of the 2015 Massachusetts Victim Rights Month Awards. These notable individuals have made remarkable contributions towards advancing victim rights and services, as well as enhancing the lives of victims and survivors of crime across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are very proud to honor this year's outstanding recipients.

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### State House Award Ceremony April 8, 2015, 9:00am – 11:00am Massachusetts State House, Grand Staircase

#### GERARD D. DOWNING LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Martha Coakley**, *Former Attorney General, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office*

The Gerald D. Downing Leadership Award is a prestigious honor which acknowledges an agency leader who has demonstrated unwavering commitment to advancing the rights of crime victims and is recognized by his or her colleagues for their efforts in advancing victim rights.

#### CRIME PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AWARD

**Annette Presti**

The Public Policy Advocacy Award is a prestigious honor for a survivor of crime who has transformed their experience of victimization into positive change through leadership in promoting legislation and policy that furthers rights and services to victims and survivors.

#### LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Niki Tsongas**, *Congresswoman, House of Representatives*

The Legislator of the Year Award is a prestigious honor for a legislator who has made outstanding contributions to the Victim Rights Movement by promoting legislation and policy that furthers rights and services to victims and survivors.

#### ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

**Judy Norton**, *Director of Victim Services Unit, Sex Offender Registry Board*

**Ellen Wilbur**, *Legal Director, Community Legal Services and Counseling Center*

The Access to Justice Award is a prestigious honor for a survivor, service provider, agency or organization whose leadership and outreach efforts have made victim rights and services more available and accessible to underserved populations.

#### INNOVATIONS AWARD

**Jackie Lamont**, *Director Youth Safety and Outreach, Suffolk District Attorney's Office*

**Boston Area Rape Crisis Center**, *Clinical Service Program*

The Innovation Award is a prestigious honor for a survivor, service provider, agency or organization who has developed innovative programs or policies to help crime victims. Your dedication to your efforts are admirable and well deserving of this recognition.

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**Victim Rights Conference**  
**April 24, 2015, 8:30am – 3:00pm**  
**Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

**Heather and Jerry Mullin**, *Joanna's Place*

**Shannon Silvestri**, *Hearing Loss Peer Support Counselor, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

Special Recognition Award for Activism is a prestigious honor for a survivor of crime who has transformed their experience of victimization into positive change, healing, and leadership in promoting rights and services for victims and survivors.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Alberta De Pesa**, *Director of the Special Victims Unit, Norfolk County District Attorney's Office*

**Katie Partin**, *Family Advocate, Children's Cove: The Cape and Islands Advocacy Center*

The Advocate of the Year Award is a prestigious honor for an individual from a public and/or private agency who has made extraordinary contributions to the lives of victims and survivors.