



NEWS RELEASE

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17th Judicial District Attorney's Office Staff Honored During Victims Rights Week

Four staff members of the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office were honored Thursday for their outstanding service to crime victims.

The honorees were:

- Brian Mason, senior deputy district attorney for the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office, received the Edward Towey award in recognition of his dedication, professionalism and compassion in providing outstanding service to victims.
- Amy Strong, victim advocate for the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office, received the Sean May Leadership Award for her dedication to crime victims and developing specialized services for children who are victims of crime. May, who was recognized for his work with the district attorney's child victim's unit, was shot to death in the backyard of his Denver home in 2008. The case remains unsolved.
- Susan Andrews and Rhonda Blackhurst of the restitution division of the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office received the Gale Voyles award for helping crime victims recover financial losses, thus helping them to begin healing from the trauma of crime.

Also honored were:

- The Commerce City Police Department received the Dale McLaughlin Award for outstanding service by its officers and staff to victims in the criminal justice system setting for their work on the Torrey Brown case. The 7-month-old infant's remains were found at a Denver landfill after a 40-day search. Sharriekia Page has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in her son's death and will be sentenced May 3.
- Cheryl Ellen, a volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Adams and Broomfield Counties, received the Ray McKinnon Award for outstanding volunteer service to victims. CASA volunteers work on behalf of the children and submit reports to the court in dependency and neglect cases.
- The Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic through Mile High Ministries received the Thomas Green award for outstanding service to victims in a non-profit based setting.

The awards were given at the 25th annual 17th Judicial District Victims Rights Reception at the Denver Merchandise Mart. They are chosen by previous award winners. The event is sponsored by the 17th judicial District Victim and Witness Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board.

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