AG Fitch Hosts 2021 Outstanding Service to Crime Victims Awards Ceremony

Attorney General Lynn Fitch joined the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi to honor those who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to serving crime victims in Mississippi. The awards ceremony is one of many ways the Attorney General is observing the 40th anniversary of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, emphasizing the importance of leveraging community partners statewide to help care for and support Mississippi victims of crime.

Mississippi Attorney General’s Office Award: Madison County Deputy Sheriff Brad Sullivan

The Attorney General’s Office partners with organizations statewide to show critical support to our State’s crime victims, often serving as the first line of response. Madison County Deputy Sheriff Brad Sullivan demonstrated outstanding commitment to serving victims of crime in Mississippi.

“Mississippi’s law enforcement officers provide critical support to our State’s crime victims, often serving as the first line of response. Madison County Deputy Sheriff Brad Sullivan bravely responded to a 911 call to rescue a victim of kidnapping,” said Attorney General Lynn Fitch. “Deputy Sullivan bravely responded to save a victim’s life, to ensure that as a result of her actions,扭(case happening) Deputy Sullivan, who put their life on the line every time they put on their uniform. I am grateful for your partnership in protecting crime victims and their families.”

For a photo of Deputy Sullivan, his family, and Attorney General Lynn Fitch, click here.

Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence Award: Krystal Hamlin, Haven House Family Shelter

The Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence is committed to an enhanced service delivery system for victims and survivors in our State. This year’s awardee, Krystal Hamlin, has worked tirelessly to provide programming in building capacity; conducting trainings and educational opportunities; and advocating for increased awareness and effective implementation of national systemic advocacy, and highlighting the shelters services as well as the advocacy services they provide.

“Krystal Hamlin has served at Haven House Family Shelter for the past four-and-a-half years. She has assisted many victims of domestic violence in obtaining protection orders; filed charges against those who were most importantly, advocated on the local and State level for victims,” said Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Director Wendy Maberry. “We are so grateful to have the Orange House in Warren County to bring key service providers together to make sure that the resources and systems of care are provided to ensure that advocacy and community partnerships are implemented within the community. Her dedication and passion is far reaching as she is a dedicated advocate for those who need empowerment, support, refuge, and resources.”

For a photo of Executive Director Wendy Maberry, Krystal Hamlin, and Attorney General Lynn Fitch, click here.

Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi Award: Judge Joel Smith

Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi is celebrating 20 years of protecting children and advocating for their needs, including those who are wounded, neglected and neglected children. The past two decades, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi has implemented Multidisciplinary Teams, established local Child Advocacy Centers across the state, opened the first Child Advocacy Center in Mississippi, and helped save 44,110 children.

“For 21 years in the District Attorney’s Office, first as a prosecutor and then as the District Attorney, Judge Joel Smith gave a voice to children who had lost their innocence through violence and trauma, he gave children to whom they were permanently scared from abuse by those who were supposed to love them, and he gave hope to those children who will walk through life with a sense of dignity and hope that as a result of these services they will be able to move forward with their lives and become happy, healthy kids again. Judge Smith is extremely deserving of the 2021 Outstanding Service to Crime Victims Award.”

For a photo of Executive Director Karla Tye, Attorney General Lynn Fitch, and Judge Joel Smith, click here.

Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault Award: Stephanie Piper, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence

Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault has partnered with the Office of the Attorney General for more than 25 years to provide training to criminal justice professionals, healthcare providers, and advocates to improve systems and response to crime victims.

“During these uncertain times of COVID-19, as the State was shut down to shelter in place, the crime of sexual assault did not cease. Hospitals were overwhelmed attending to COVID patients. Most hospitals were not allowing shelters at home, the crime of sexual assault did not cease. Hospitals were overwhelmed attending to COVID patients. Most hospitals were not allowing sexual assault victim advocates to come to the hospital to assist victims due to the pandemic," said Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault Executive Director Levette Kelly Johnson. “On the Gulf Coast, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Evergreen Community Foundation, and the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office worked together to fund specialized services for those who were permanently scarred from abuse by those who were supposed to love them, and he gave hope to those children who will walk through life with a sense of dignity and hope that as a result of these services they will be able to move forward with their lives and become happy, healthy kids again. Judge Smith is extremely deserving of the 2021 Outstanding Service to Crime Victims Award.”

For a photo of Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault’s Stephanie Hamlin, click here.

The Outstanding Service to Crime Victim Awards Ceremony was established to honor and celebrate individuals who go above and beyond to respond to crime in their communities and help victims find support, recovery, justice, and a sense of hope and security.

Governor Tate Reeves signed a proclamation on Monday naming the week of April 18 to 24, 2021, “Crime Victims’ Rights Week” in Mississippi. As noted in the proclamation, this week “provides an opportunity for all to recommit to responding to those who need, accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime to help them heal on every level: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.”

For a photo of Governor Tate Reeves, click here.