

Alicia Manning



“Alicia Manning is a Sheriff’s Investigator in McCurtain County, Oklahoma.

What community partners say:

“Alicia has been the biggest team player in the protection of victims. Helping them get protective orders and arresting their abuser.”

“I am just thankful I have Alicia in my county. She makes a wonderful partnership that gives justice to crime victims.”

Andrea Constand

A fierce warrior who shattered her silence and brought forth a wave of justice for more than 60 victims of sexual violence at the hands of Bill Cosby.

Her spirit, conviction and continual willingness to be put through the roller coaster of justice changed lives.

Her organization, **Hope Healing and Transformation**, ensures trauma informed care for all survivors.

She is “a beam of bright light to any and all who have had the privilege of knowing her and coming into contact with her.”



Brooks Douglass



After he and his family were victims of a home invasion robbery when he was just 16, Brooks became a lawyer, an Oklahoma state legislator and a fierce advocate for victims' rights in Oklahoma and nationally.

He and his wife Julea created the **Douglass House** to honor his parents, who were killed in the robbery, as an online resource to help victims of crime navigate the complicated process from injury to recovery.

Just this year Brooks died after a 6 year battle with cancer. His smile is deeply missed and his victims' rights advocacy shoes are large to fill.

Children's Advocacy Centers of California

CACC provides training, support, technical assistance and leadership on a statewide level to Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) throughout California.

For over 20 years, CACC has worked diligently to protect child victims' rights. In 2019, CACC assisted at least 47 Centers in California that provided services to over 24,000 clients, including over 12,000 child forensic interviews.

“CACC provides support to agencies that protect children every day. CACC’s excellent perseverance, dedication and leadership have promoted the growth of CACs throughout California empowering children to find their voice thereby protecting one of the most important victims’ rights.”



Kathy Hessler



Kathy Hessler is a law Professor at Lewis & Clark Law School and founded the Aquatic Animal Law Initiative.

She has dedicated her life and work to ensuring and advancing the protection of society's most vulnerable beings. Whether this is through her work in the realms of animal law, anti-violence, public interest law, feminism or otherwise, she is consistent in her advocacy, professionalism, dedication and work.

“As a professor and mentor, she continues to equip future lawyers with the tools they need to be competent legal professionals, but also compassionate and sympathetic individuals.”

Justice for Homicide Victims

Justice for Homicide Victims (JHV) was established in Los Angeles, California in 1984 and is run entirely by volunteers. JHV provides support for victims who fight for their rights. They provide information to increase understanding of the criminal justice system and often also attend court with survivors.

JHV conducts periodic seminars that help explain victims' rights and what to expect throughout the legal process, and hold an annual Justice for Homicide Victims Memorial event during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.



LaWanda Hawkins

LaWanda Hawkins founded **Justice for Murdered Children** when her only child, Reggie, was murdered at the age of 19. Its mission is to reduce the number of homicides and unsolved homicides, assist families that have lost loved ones to homicide, and improve the justice system by making law enforcement more responsive to homicide victims and their families. Ms. Hawkins' billboard campaign in Los Angeles County bears photos of murder victims to raise awareness of gun violence and encourage witnesses to come forward in unsolved murders.



“LaWanda is one of the fiercest advocates for victims’ rights that I know.”

Patricia Wenskunas



Patricia Wenskunas is the Founder/CEO of **Crime Survivors Inc.** Her passion to assist those who have been victimized is driven by her own personal experiences at the hands of an assailant in her own home and the injustice she experienced at the hands of the criminal justice system. Emerging from these experiences she found her advocacy voice, and uses it to help others to be transposed from victims to survivors.

Crime Survivors Inc. initiated service provider roundtables and provides training and resources on victims' rights throughout Southern California.

“Patricia has paved the way for victims of violent crime to truly survive and thrive. Today she forges ahead fighting and championing for victims when they don’t have the strength to do it on their own. She has truly become a voice for the voiceless.”

William Kellibrew



At age 10, William witnessed the murders of his mother, Jacqueline, and 12-year-old-brother, Anthony. Over the years as he became a survivor he came to readily share his pain and strength to inspire others and now he speaks regularly nationally and internationally.

His advocacy for human rights “lifts others up” and shows “a path to a better future.”

“His authentic voice —both spoken and sung—touched me so deeply that I knew I could find my own strength to keep doing this work.”

Verna Griffin-Tabor

Verna has been the CEO of **Center for Community Solutions** for over 22 years and is devoted to advancing the idea of eliminating intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Through her hard work and dedication, CCS has over 80 staff, 300 volunteers, and a budget of \$6 million. With numerous locations in San Diego County, they are able to help more than 20,000 victims per year.

“Thousands upon thousands of lives have been changed and empowered by her agency and their phenomenal staff.”

“Through collaborative efforts . . . Verna has truly changed the vision of victim service providers and made the world a safer place. Although she believes virtue is its own reward, her heroic efforts should not go uncelebrated.”



Bernita Walker

Bernita is a survivor of domestic violence and a former law enforcement officer. She helped co-found the **Jenesse Center Domestic Violence Intervention & Prevention Program** to provide a safe shelter for victims of domestic violence to help them transition from crisis to empowerment and self sufficiency and founded **Project Peacemakers** in South Central Los Angeles to provide services, resources, and training for domestic violence survivors who do not want or need to seek shelter outside the home. Training and empowerment resources are provided in English and Spanish.



“Each day Bernita Walker selflessly helps to fill a gap in services in South Los Angeles, and does so with vibrancy and joy.”

Russell Butler



For more than 30 years, Russell Butler has been fighting for the rights of victims of crime. He has represented victims and survivors in criminal and juvenile justice systems, in state and federal courts at the trial and appellate level. And he has advocated for law change.

Over the years he has generously offered his subject matter expertise to others on cases, through publications, and as a national trainer. Committed to ensuring future attorneys understand victims' rights, he has also found time to be an adjunct professor.

“Russell not only helps individual survivors but strengthens the ability of others to help victims.”

Rhea Dumont

Rhea promotes and supports the lives of crime survivors as the Community Justice Manager at the Department of Community Justice, Crime Victim Services Unit in Multnomah County, OR.

“Rhea is a strong voice for racial injustice in our community and serving the victim survivors who have been harmed by our current justice system.” She works to ensure her agency’s advocates have the tools and information they need to successfully hear victims’ voices and help them navigate through the criminal justice process.

“Rhea’s vision and future collaboration will help to improve the interaction between the current criminal justice system, the betterment of our community and the victims we serve.”



Tommy Williams



Tommy was victimized by a family member at a very early age and underwent horrific trauma as a result. Overcoming the odds, he disclosed his abuse to access justice but he and his family had to fight for inclusion at every step.

Tommy has since created **Tommy Talks** to help survivors and their family members find their voice. Tommy has dedicated his time to empowering other survivors so they know their voices will be believed, supported and heard.

“Tommy is a role model, an inspiration for other victims and survivors” and he “fully embodies every aspect of being a Survivor Activist.”

Brie Bertges

Brie is the Supervisor of the Victim Services Unit at Reno Police Department and previously spent 10 years as a Victim Advocate working with victims of all crime types. Brie trains new officers on trauma-informed care, victim-centered investigations, and community resources. She also initiates conversations with the courts, victim compensation programs, law enforcement and others to improve the system for victims.

“Whether in a supervisory role, trainer, or direct service provider, Brie strives to give a voice to victims and protect their rights.”

“Brie is the definition of the words ‘victim advocate’ and is very deserving of recognition.”

Sarah Deer

Sarah Deer is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas.

Sarah has worked to end violence against women for over 25 years. Her scholarship focuses on the intersection of federal Indian law and victims' rights, and includes a 2015 book titled **The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America.**

“Sarah’s work ensures that the violence committed against native women cannot be ignored and that we continue to move so that no victims are left out of the conversation.”



Olga Trujillo

Olga Trujillo endured tremendous victimization and as a young lawyer was diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder.

Her memoir, **The Sum of My Parts**, was released in 2011. In it she shares her path in a raw and generous way. Her writing and national training efforts are shattering stigmas and opening space for survivors.

“I had the privilege of attending one of her trainings and it changed my view of the challenges my clients face; my approach is much more empathetic and inquisitive now.”



Paul Cassell & Brad Edwards



Paul Cassell, a law professor at the University of Utah and former U.S. District Court Judge, and Brad Edwards, a trial attorney who represents victims of sexual abuse and violent crimes, have fought in court for over ten years to protect the rights of the survivors victimized by Jeffrey Epstein. This fight has involved numerous pleadings and hearings at the trial court as well as appellate courts all aimed at ensuring victims' rights are meaningful.



Brad and Paul continue to stand with these survivors, including when their cases were dismissed after Epstein's death in 2019.

“Their dedication to survivors in the face unprecedented legal challenges is charting a new future for victims.”

Jessica Bielmeier

Jessica is an advocate at ASTOP – a sexual assault service provider offering treatment, outreach, prevention, and advocacy, emphasizing hope and connection to self and others.

Jessica leads support groups and, in her personal time, she educates the public on human trafficking on social media, webinars, and presentations. “She is beyond dedicated.”

“Jessica brings life to the term ‘advocate’ – showing that all victims deserve someone to walk alongside them, assisting them through the many challenges they may face, and serve as a support person when all too often victims do not have anyone else. She is passionate about making sure victims receive the services they not only need but deserve in order to heal.”



YOU

Each of us is inspired by someone . . .

Someone who reminds us of the “why”,
whose resilience guides,
whose example empowers . . .

For NCVLI you are our “someone”.