

# April 2017 Newsletter

MAC  
MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

## Editor's Note

Please note that the previous version of the April 2017 MAC Newsletter sent to you contained an error. **MAC's Fundamentals in Victim Services training will be held June 22-23, 2107.** We apologize for any confusion.

## From MAC's Executive Director

**National Crime Victims' Rights Week** starts today and I'd like to reflect on the incredible work MAC members do every day to ensure victim's rights are upheld. Thanks to all of you for your hard work on behalf of crime victims in Minnesota!

MAC's mission is to improve the response to victims of all crime throughout Minnesota. As MAC strategizes about how to realize our mission and effect the change that is needed, we have become increasingly aware of the limitations of **Minnesota Statute 611A**, which addresses victims' rights.

Minnesota is one of only 15 states in the nation that does not have a constitutional amendment affording crime victims equal rights to those of the accused. MAC will be working to educate legislators, stakeholders, and the general public on the need for a constitutional amendment that comprehensively addresses equal rights for victims, such as **Marsy's Law**, a victims' rights amendment that is art of the constitutions of California, Illinois, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. We believe it is time to pass Marsy's Law in Minnesota. Stay tuned for more information regarding Marsy's Law and how you can support our efforts to ensure state constitutional rights for Minnesota crime victims.

I hope to see many of MAC's member and allies at our **National Crime Victims' Rights Week Open House, which takes place tomorrow, Tuesday, April 4th, from 4-6 pm.** Please join us!

In Peace,

Bobbi Holtberg





**762-8483**) Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST. Callers after hours will have the option to connect with the National Domestic Violence Hotline or to call back the next business day.

### **Minnesota Budget Project: President's Budget Proposes Cuts in Services for Most Vulnerable and in Funding to States**

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump released his budget outline for federal discretionary spending. It is lacking some key details, but here's what we know: it proposes dramatic cuts for services that support low-income people and it would drastically reduce funding for state and local services. The budget also includes \$54 billion in increased funding for defense. Cuts would harm low-income Americans and services provided at the state and local levels. [Read the entire article here.](#)

### **Youth Violence is Preventable: Spread the Word with Thunderclap**

For National Youth Violence Prevention Week, join the Centers for Disease Control and partners to spread the message that together we can prevent youth violence. [Sign up on Thunderclap](#) to share a message and resource on Facebook or Twitter. This one-time message will automatically post from your account on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at noon EDT. This collective message blast will amplify our voices, helping more people and groups across social media understand that youth violence is a public health problem that can and must be prevented.

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## **The Minnesota Victim Legal Services Project**

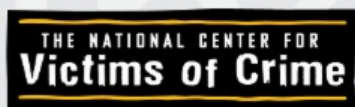
Three pilot projects, serving tribal, urban, and rural populations, are now providing civil legal services to crime victims. The pilot projects are located at Anishinabe Legal Services, which serves victims within or near the Leech Lake Reservation; Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, which serves victims in Scott County; and Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, which serves victims in Meeker, Renville, and Swift Counties.

Legal issues must be related to the crime. Examples of potential issues include obtaining a protective or harassment order, addressing identity theft credit issues, asserting rights to restitution or reparations, or understanding and asserting crime victim rights in the prosecution of a criminal case.

Project attorneys will be working to develop a coordinated network within their communities to better meet the needs of crime victims. The goal of the project is to develop and share successful strategies to benefit victims across the state.

Contact project attorneys to make referrals or to get further information:

- [Anishinabe Legal Services](#) (Leech Lake Reservation): Jerome Song, (218) 335-2223
- [Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid](#) (Meeker, Renville, Swift Counties): Laura Leitch (320) 235-9600
- [Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services](#) (Scott County): Kevin Jonassen, (651) 222-5863



*Redefining* **JUSTICE**  
*Rebuilding* **LIVES**

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## **The National Center for Victims of Crime's Statement Regarding the Creation of VOICE**

The National Center for Victims of Crime is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims and those who serve them. We support all victims of crime and their right to be heard and to pursue justice. While it is encouraging that the current administration is discussing victims' rights, the creation of a Victims of Immigration Crime Enforcement office (VOICE) is a poor use of scarce resources for crime victims and may actually block victims from exercising their rights.

Instead of creating the kind of bureaucracy the President has vowed to eliminate, fully funding existing offices within the Department of Justice, including the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office on Violence Against Women, both with proven records of helping all victims, is a much better use of federal dollars.

If a principal charge of VOICE is to deport criminals, officials should understand that deportation proceedings will interfere with victims' interests to hold their offenders accountable by way of trial, punishment, and the payment of restitution. There needs to be a clearer understanding of how to better serve victims when the offenders stand a chance for deportation.

Existing research demonstrates that immigrants commit less crime than persons born in the United States. In a time when the nation's leaders are looking to reduce government, we should use research and data to keep offices with proven capacity to deliver services to our nation's people and resist the temptation to create an additional agency whose only benefit is novelty.

*The **National Center for Victims of Crime**, established in 1985, is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims and those who serve them. For more than 25 years, the National Center has led this nation's struggle to provide crime victims with the rights, protections, and services they need to rebuild their lives.*



Please join the  
**Minnesota Alliance on Crime**  
for our  
**National Crime Victims'**  
**Rights Week Open House**

Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
4:00 to 6:00 pm

155 S. Wabasha Street, Suite 105  
St. Paul, MN 55107

# fundamentals in victim services training

june 22 & 23, 2017  
bloomington, mn

a two-day training for newer  
general crime advocates

minnesota alliance on crime



Photo of Lynn Huang by Keira Heu-Jwyn Chang

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
CAAMFEST  
2017



# LIGHT

a Film by Lenora Lee and Tatsu Aoki

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017**  
Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey School of Public Affairs  
University of Minnesota  
301 – 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455

**2 Screenings: 3:30pm & 6:30pm**  
After each 57 minute screening, there will be a brief panel discussion with the filmmakers and a light reception to follow.

**FREE event**

 Asian Women United of Minnesota  
 CORNERSTONE  
REBUILDING LIVES. RESTORING HOPE  
 MCBW Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women



## Open House

**When:** April 12th, 4:30-6:30 pm

**Where:** Quatrefoil Library, 1220 East Lake Street, Minneapolis

**What:** Representatives from organizations that provide health and sexuality resources for LGBTQ youth

**Who should attend:** LGBTQ youth, families, students in the health care field, doctors, social workers,

community members, guardians, foster care, nurses, teachers

**Organizations that will be represented:** Family Tree Clinic, Rainbow Health Initiative, Hennepin County Medical Center – Pediatric Gender and Sexual Health Program, The Red Door, Planned Parenthood, YAP – Youth and AIDS Projects, MTHC – Minnesota Trans Health Coalition

**Questions:** leigh combs 612.728.2079 \* [lcombs@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:lcombs@thefamilypartnership.org)

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A vertical poster for the AWARE event. The word "AWARE" is written in large, light blue, sans-serif capital letters at the top. To the left of the text are several colorful geometric shapes (triangles and squares) in shades of purple, orange, and pink. Below the title, the date and time are listed: "Thursday, April 20, 2017" and "5:00 - 8:00 p.m.". The location is "Best Western Plus Capitol Ridge, 161 St. Anthony Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota". A paragraph of text describes the event: "Save the date for MNCASA's 11th Annual AWARE event, and join us to celebrate advocates and allies who work to prevent sexual violence; honor special guests for their work to raise awareness to end sexual violence; support MNCASA's growth as a policy leader on sexual violence issues; and commemorate April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month." Below this, it says "2017 AWARE Award recipients announced soon." and "2017 Visionary Voice Award recipient Sarah Deer." The entertainment is listed as "Entertainment provided by Grammy award-winning artist and songwriter Jon Vezner." At the bottom, it says "Tickets available online at [mncasa.org](http://mncasa.org)."

**Working with Men who Batter as Fathers**

**Sponsored by Battered Women's Justice Project**

**Webinar | April 11th, 2017 | 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

Addressing fatherhood with abusive and violent parents requires a process that seeks to change the underlying beliefs that justify the violent and abusive behaviors. A key method to begin this process is to look at and examine the impacts and effects of the core beliefs related to parenting. [Learn more.](#)

**Tort Suits & Financial Compensation for Domestic Violence Survivors: A Webinar for Advocates**

**Sponsored by Battered Women's Justice Project  
Webinar | April 18th, 2017 | 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

This webinar will provide an overview of tort law and the timeline of a case with a focus on how to manage client expectations and support them throughout the process. We will explain how to screen for eligibility and what you can do to help your client prepare for the case. Presented by Sonya Passi and Amira Samuel. [Learn more.](#)

**Tort Suits & Financial Compensation for Domestic Violence Survivors: A Webinar for Attorneys  
Sponsored by Battered Women's Justice Project  
Webinar | April 25th, 2017 | 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

This webinar will provide an overview of tort law, including case law interpreting torts in domestic violence cases, an outline of the relief available, an outline of the hurdles presented in these cases and the need for a domestic violence tort in every state, and more information on how we can help your clients. Presented by Sonya Passi and Amira Samuel. [Learn more.](#)

**Where Do We Go From Here? Unfinished Business  
Sponsored by Battered Women's Justice Project  
Webinar | April 27th, 2017 | 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

This webinar has two parts. The first webinar discussed the evolution of system responses leading to criminalizing domestic violence, encouraging arrests, and prosecuting and sentencing abusers. In this second part, the webinar focus more on the future, suggesting strategies to ensure that good practices and policies are replicated throughout the country. Presented by Andrew Klein and Jessica Klein. [Learn more.](#)

If you have a training or webinar to submit for inclusion in the MAC newsletter, please email the following to Danielle Kluz at [danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org) by the 26th of each month:

- Training title
- Sponsoring agency/organization
- Date and time
- Location
- Names of trainers
- Cost
- Brief description of training
- How to register (**web link preferred**, will accept attachments)



[Click for April's case updates from the Appellate Court.](#)



[Click for the latest employment opportunities around Minnesota.](#)

If you have job postings you would like us to include in our monthly newsletter, please include the following

information and email to Danielle Kluz at [danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org) by the 26th of each month.

- Location
- Job title
- Organization name
- Link to organization's website
- Link to the job posting
- Closing date

## Contact Us

As always, if you have any suggestions for MAC, we welcome your input!

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**Danielle Kluz, Training and Engagement Coordinator**  
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