

NEWS ALERT: For Immediate Release

Mothers On a Mission to Stop Violence

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Public Service forum

11:00 AM -1:00 PM, Saturday, October 20th

University Center, 1200 University Drive, Lecture Hall, Rm 145, Grayslake

Balancing the Scales of Justice will raise awareness of the social, political, and legal issues affecting children of violent crime

Hero Award and Warrior Award recipients will be recognized for their courageous efforts to bring two child sex offenders to justice. Congressman Robert Dold's Office also will present both award recipients with Congressional Certificates of Appreciation.

Alicia Kozakiewicz, founder of The Alicia Project will speak about Alicia's Law and her survival of abduction, torture, and rape at 13 during four days of captivity by an online predator. "My mission is to prevent predatory crime against children, to rescue those who have fallen prey and to ultimately share in the recovery and healing of their shattered souls," says Kozakiewicz.

Denise Rotheimer, founder of Mothers On a Mission to Stop Violence will speak about her efforts to enforce the rights of victims of violent crime and two Illinois laws that she authored, known as Jasmine's Law and Victims' Rights Sign-Off Sheet. "Crime victims' rights in Illinois are technically and legally not rights because they specifically deny a remedy. In truth, crime victims' rights are nothing more than procedures. Losing our constitutional protections as a resident and an American citizen upon becoming a victim of violent crime shocks the conscience. That is why we are called victims," says Rotheimer.

Mike Nerheim, Attorney at Law, will speak about his experience as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney having handled thousands of criminal cases including violent crimes against women and children, as well as used DNA evidence in criminal cases. "My role in educating the public on how the system works will offer future victims of violent crime with useful information to protect their interests and ensure justice is done. Crime victims should never be put at risk of becoming further victimized by a system that is designed to advocate on behalf of the people. As a prosecutor, I was able to obtain thousands of convictions while treating crime victims with fairness and respect for their dignity throughout the entire process," says Nerheim.