



Newsletter

June 2009

SAVE THE DATE



Our 6th Annual Chocolate Affair will be Friday, Oct. 23, 2009, 7-10pm, at Florian Hall in Bowie, MD.

Come join us for a fun evening featuring delicious food and desserts, music, auction, and annual awards. Cost is only \$50 per person. Your support and donations will enable MCVRC to continue serving crime victims across the state of Maryland. For reservations or donations call 301-952-0063.

Inside this issue:

Legislature	1
Memorial Service	1
MCVRC Events	2
Announcements	2
Victim Services Update	3
Legal Services Update	3
Hope II Update	3

New in Legislature

Senator Stone, Delegate Waldstreicher and Delegate Vallario, sponsored SB 654 and HB 638, the Violent Crimes-Conditional Release Under Mandatory Supervision-Limitation that becomes effective October 1, 2009. These bills establish that an inmate convicted of a violent crime committed on or after 10/1/09 is not eligible for a conditional release until after the inmate becomes eligible for parole; and requires in open court, where a sentence of confinement is imposed for a violent crime to state the minimum time the defendant must serve before becoming eligible for a conditional release under mandatory supervision.

HB 127 states that an individual has the right to appeal a denial of a request to correct findings and conclusions as to the cause and manner of death recorded on a death certificate.

MCVRC's Cathy Chen worked on HB 1030 and SB 441, which states that anyone who has been convicted of a sex offense must be put on sex offender registry regardless of how many years have passed since the crime.



MCVRC Memorial Service

On May 2, 2009, The Annual Memorial Service was held for family and friends of homicide victims and was well attended. MCVRC would like to thank everyone who made this a memorable event:

Giant Grocery Store, Bowie
Sam's Club, Costco Wholesale, Beltsville, Catering by Best, Safeway Upper Marlboro, Pure Elegance, BJ's Wholesale Club
Bowie, Chick-fil-a Bowie,

Jack Johnson County Executive, Miloff's Catering, Food Lion Mitchellville, MCVRC Staff, Ree Floyd Clerk of the Council, Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, Edible Arrangements Upper Marlboro

Some Participants Included:

Oliver and Cynthia Smith, Margery Patten, Michael and Gale Seaton, Denevia Johnson, LaVonnie Pollard, Rev. Wayne Price, Gwen Scott and Sons, Melody

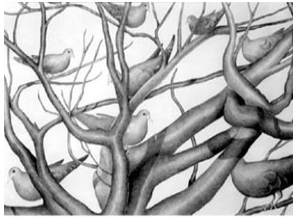
Brown Bag Series

MCVRC started an hour brown bag luncheon series for staff. Jani Tillery, MCVRC staff attorney and certified trainer to law enforcement, presented on identity theft. Another topic was on stress management and self-care activities, presented by Robin Haskins, Deputy Chief of the Baltimore City State's Attorneys Victim Assistance Division. Also, Ellie Jones, MCVRC victim advocate, and Keri Peterson, program coordinator for Hope II program, spoke to staff on domestic violence and safety planning.

Harris, Judge Thurman Rhodes, Judy Forrest and Son and godson



This picture represents the tree ceremony for homicide victims, where loved ones are remembered through the reciting of names and hanging of hearts.



16
Title: "The Doves"
Artist: Stephanie Roper

If you are interested in helping support our cause through volunteering, purchasing special note cards, or through a donation, you can visit, www.mdcrimevictims.org and look under "How You Can Help" or call 301-952-0063.



15
Title: "The Coming"
Artist: Stephanie Roper

MCVRC EVENTS

On April 26, 2009, MCVRC participated in the 25th Annual State-wide Memorial Service hosted by the Prince George's State's Attorneys office and held at the Prince George's County Community College.

On May 28, 2009, Pauline Mandel, Esq., presented at the 11th Annual Maryland Partners for Justice hosted by the Pro Bono Resource Center of

Maryland, Inc. on identity theft and fraud.

On June 10, 2009, MCVRC held an open house for community resources. This event allowed MCVRC to share with others the mission and services of the organization, as well as meeting other resources for victims of crime in the community.

June 22-24, 2009, MCVRC's Russell Butler Esq., Executive

Director and Pauline Mandel, Esq., presented at the National Center for Victims of Crime Conference.

During the week of June 29-July 2, 2009, MCVRC attorneys, Pauline Mandel, Esq., Lauren Tabackman, Esq., Bridgette Harwood, Esq., Michael Andrews, Esq. and Russell Butler, Esq., attended a legal training in Portland, Oregon sponsored by The National Center for Victim Law Institute.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

MCVRC is pleased to report that we are partnering with the national offices of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC) and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to host a day long conference and ceremony in honor of the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. A grant from the U.S. Office for Victims of Crime

(OVC) is funding the event by fines, penalties and bond forfeitures from convicted federal criminal offenders. The National Day of Remembrance is on Friday, September 25, 2009, in Washington D.C. The conference will be in the auditorium at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and the Ceremony of Remembrance will be two

blocks away at the National Press Club. The conference schedule is still being finalized. For more information contact Yang Zhao at yang@mdcrimevictims.org or 301-952-0063.

MCVRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Ellie Jones, victim advocate, and last quarter's honoree. And to Mark Cefaly, IT coordinator and the current quarter's honoree.

Retirement News

Jim Donnelly, a long time volunteer of MCVRC retired in early May. We would like to thank him

for all the time donated to helping MCVRC.

Death Announcement

Margaret (Peggy) Peterson, a long time MCVRC volunteer.

Arthur Van Horn, husband of a long time MCVRC volunteer, Dolly Van Horn.

They will be greatly missed. We offer our condolences to their

families and friends.

Award

Pauline Mandel, Esq., Director of Legal Services at MCVRC, received the Victims' Rights Governor Award during Victims' Rights Week, which was April 26-May 2, 2009. Congratulations Pauline, for a job well done!

VICTIM SERVICES UPDATE

Congratulations to Bridgette Harwood (victim advocate), Dina Recor (victim advocate), and Merry O'Brien (Hope II project coordinator) on graduating from the Roper Victim Assistance Academy, a week long service providers training.

The victim advocates and the clinician continue to enhance their victim advocacy skills by attending different trainings and workshops.

The staff is continuing to outreach to the community about

MCVRC's services, through presentations at community events.

Also, the staff continues to provide excellent service as evidenced by the returned survey, "The staff at MCVRC were superb!"

LEGAL SERVICES UPDATE

MCVRC's legal staff were busy the past few months working on both state and federal cases. Recently, MCVRC worked on a federal identity theft case in Ohio. The judge ordered the case sealed and the victim was unable to access information regarding the case. MCVRC petitioned the Federal District Court to unseal the case. When the court failed to respond,

MCVRC took a writ of mandamus to Federal Appellate Court and won. MCVRC represented a domestic violence victim in St. Mary's County and procured restitution for the victim in excess of \$37,000.00

MCVRC participated in numerous state and national trainings, including presentations by Russell Butler and Pauline Mandel at the NCVC training in D.C., the Part-

ner for Justice Conference in Baltimore, NCVLI Conference in Portland Oregon, and ABA Conference in Florida. Also, Jani Tillery, a staff attorney, presents weekly to Prince George's County Police Department on identity theft and fraud.

HOPE II UPDATE

MCVRC is in the third round of managing the Hope II (Helping Outreach Programs to Expand) grant. The U.S. Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) issues this grant to build the capacity of small, non-profit victim organizations around the country. OVC selected MCVRC to administer the grant because of MCVRC's record and longevity in the victim services field. The

HOPE II program is funding 22 sites across the country from March 1-August 31, 2009.

MCVRC hosted all HOPE II sites in April for a training conference at the BWI Baltimore Hilton hotel. Some of the nationally known presenters included Acting OVC Director Joye Frost, National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards Execu-

tive Director Dan Eddy, and National Center for Victims of Crime Co-Founder Anne Seymour.

The Hope II team consists of Project Director Josh Cohen, Project Coordinators Keri Peterson and Merry O'Brien, Fiscal Coordinator Rasheed Walford, and IT Coordinator Mark Cefaly.

MCVRC

WELCOMES

Bridgette Harwood,
Esq. *Staff Attorney*

Dina Recor
Victim Advocate

Kim Truitt
Student Intern

Melissa Montgomery
Law Intern

Merry O'Brien
*Hope II Project
Coordinator*

Michael Andrews,
Esq. *DC Clinic
Attorney/Program
Director*

Yang Zhao
*Volunteer
Coordinator/Office
Manager*