

# LEGISLATIVE ALERT



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Phone: 301/952-0063 Toll Free: 1-877-VICTIM-1 Fax: 301/952-2319  
Email: [mail@mdcrimevictims.org](mailto:mail@mdcrimevictims.org) Website: [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org)  
Baltimore Office: 218 E. Lexington Street, Suite 401, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3519 Phone: 410/234-9885

*In my 20 years of service to the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., many positive changes have occurred to improve our justice system. Today, we still need your support to continue to make a difference for victims of crime.*

- Russell P. Butler, Executive Director

## 2005 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We ask your support for our 2005 Legislative Priorities:

**HB248/SB188: Crimes and Criminal Procedure-Victim and Witness Intimidation:** Improves Maryland law to prevent intimidation of victims and witnesses and to punish those who intimidate victims or witnesses. (Governor Ehrlich)

**HB1010/SB873: Restitution-Maryland's** restitution laws be improved. Suggested improvements include:

*Allowing restitution for rehabilitation expenses.*

*Providing that the \$10,000 cap of restitution is per child per incident and not aggregate children per incident.*

*If restitution is overdue and a restitution obligor is employed, requesting the court to consider imposing an earnings withholding order to collect the restitution of the obligor's salary.*

*Providing for the presumed necessity of certain restitution expenses when written documentation is provided.*

Other clarifying changes to improve the ordering and collecting of restitution judgments. (Delegates Petzold and Vallario/Senator Stone)

**HB866/SB442: Bond Bill for MCVRC** - A bill to provide the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center with a grant to obtain office space. (Delegates Proctor and Vallario/Senator Miller)

**HB599/SB\_\_\_\_\_ : Health Insurance** - Would allow MCVRC staff to participate in the State's health insurance plan. (Legal Aid currently participates. Was part of an amendment passed by the House in 2004 but not adopted by the Senate). (Delegate Niemann/Senator\_\_\_\_\_)

Please let us know if you have experienced any problems in regards to the above. (If bill numbers are not used above, please call 301-952-0063 or 1-877-VICTIM-1 to obtain bill numbers, or check our redesigned web site: [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org).)

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Visit our redesigned website:  
[www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org)  
regularly for the latest  
news and information

**How to contact your elected officials:** To support legislation to improve our criminal and juvenile justice systems through our legislative priorities, contact these legislators by phone (Wash: 301-858; Balt: 410-841; toll free: 800-492-7122) or write:

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE** (Contact to support MCVRC's Intimidation & Restitution Bills)

Delegate - Lowe House Office Building	Room #	Phone	Fax #	Email Address
Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., <i>Chair - Dist 27A</i>	121	3488	3850	N/A
Samuel I. Rosenberg, <i>Vice-Chair - Dist 41</i>	121	3297	3179	samuel_rosenberg@house.state.md.us
Curtis Stovall (Curt) Anderson, <i>Dist 43</i>	314	3291	N/A	curt_anderson@house.state.md.us
Anthony G. Brown, <i>Dist. 25</i>	121	3707	3850	anthony_brown@house.state.md.us
Jill P. Carter, <i>Dist 41</i>	317	3283	3244	jill_carter@house.state.md.us
Kathleen M. Dumais, <i>Dist 15</i>	226	3052	3219	kathleen_dumais@house.state.md.us
Donald H. Dwyer, Jr., <i>Dist 31</i>	213	3298	3779	don_dwyer@house.state.md.us
Ana Sol Gutierrez, <i>Dist 18</i>	219	3181	3053	ana_gutierrez@house.state.md.us
Darryl A. Kelley, <i>Dist 26</i>	205	3212	3078	darryl_kelley@house.state.md.us
Kevin Kelly, <i>Dist 1B</i>	320	3404	3484	kevin_kelly@house.state.md.us
Susan C. Lee, <i>Dist 16</i>	221C	3019	3026	susan_lee@house.state.md.us
W. Daniel Mayer, <i>Dist. 28</i>	216	3247	3386	daniel_mayer@house.state.md.us
Susan K. McComas, <i>Dist 35B</i>	326	3289	3202	susan_mccomas@house.state.md.us
Herbert H. McMillan, <i>Dist 30</i>	216	3439	3256	herb_mcmillan@house.state.md.us
Pauline H. Menes, <i>Dist 21</i>	210	3114	3116	pauline_menes@house.state.md.us
Carol Stocker Petzold, <i>Dist 19</i>	222	3001	3009	carol_petzold@house.state.md.us
Neil F. Quinter, <i>Dist 13</i>	206	3246	3986	neil_quinter@house.state.md.us
Christopher B. Shank, <i>Dist 2B</i>	321	3447	3818	christopher_shank@house.state.md.us
Tanya Thornton Shewell, <i>Dist. 5A</i>	322	3371	3241	tanya_shewell@house.state.md.us
Luiz R. S. Simmons, <i>Dist 17</i>	225	3037	3850	luiz_simmons@house.state.md.us
Michael D. Smigiel, Sr., <i>Dist 36</i>	217	3449	3434	michael_smigiel@house.state.md.us
Theodore J. Sophocleus, <i>Dist 32</i>	214B	3233	3235	ted_sophocleus@house.state.md.us
Robert A. (Bobby) Zirkin, <i>Dist 11</i>	304A	3342	3379	bobby_zirkin@house.state.md.us
<i>Staff:</i> Douglas R. Nestor, Lauren C. Nestor	121	3488	3850	
Claire E. Rossmark				

**WRITE: Delegate's name, room #, Lowe House Office Bldg., 84 College Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991**

**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE** (Contact to support MCVRC's Intimidation & Restitution Bill)

Senator - Senate Building	Room #	Phone #	Fax #	E-mail Address
Brian E. Frosh, <i>Chair, Dist 16</i>	2E	3124	3102	brian_frosh@senate.state.md.us
Leo E. Green, <i>Vice Chair, Dist. 23</i>	2E	3631	3174	leo_green@senate.state.md.us
Jennie M. Forehand, <i>Dist 17</i>	223	3134	3665	jennie_forehand@senate.state.md.us
Ralph M. Hughes, <i>Dist 40</i>	121	3656	3738	ralph_hughes@senate.state.md.us
Rob Garagiola, <i>Dist 15</i>	104	3169	3607	rob_garagiola@senate.state.md.us
Nancy Jacobs, <i>Dist 34</i>	403	3158	3460	nancy_jacobs@senate.state.md.us
John A. Giannetti, Jr., <i>Dist 21</i>	122	3141	3195	john_giannetti@senate.state.md.us
Philip C. Jimeno, <i>Dist 31</i>	101	3658	3586	philip_jimeno@senate.state.md.us
Larry E. Haines, <i>Dist 5</i>	316	3683	3729	larry_haines@senate.state.md.us
Alex X. Mooney, <i>Dist 3</i>	402	3575	3193	alex_mooney@senate.state.md.us
Norman R. Stone, Jr., <i>Dist 6</i>	216	3587	3218	norman_stone@senate.state.md.us
<i>Staff:</i> Susan H. Russell, Shirleen M. Pilgrim	2E	3623	3730	

**WRITE: Senator's name, room #, Senate Office Bldg., 2 East Wing, 11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401**

**SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE** (Contact to support MCVRC's Bond Bill)

Senator - Senate Building	Room #	Phone #	Fax #	E-mail Address
Ulysses Currie, <i>Chair, Dist 25</i>	3W	3127	3733	ulysses_currie@senate.state.md.us
Patrick J. Hogan, <i>Vice-Chair, Dist. 39</i>	3W	3686	3670	patrick_hogan@senate.state.md.us
David R. Brinkley, <i>Dist 4</i>	321	3703	3713	david_brinkley@senate.state.md.us
Gloria G. Lawlah, <i>Dist 26</i>	304	3092	3410	gloria_gary_lawlah@senate.state.md.us
James E. DeGrange, Sr., <i>Dist 32</i>	120	3593	3589	james_degrange@senate.state.md.us
Nathaniel J. McFadden, <i>Dist 45</i>	314	3165	3138	nathaniel_mcfadden@senate.state.md.us
Verna L. Jones, <i>Dist 44</i>	420	3612	3613	verna_jones@senate.state.md.us
Donald F. Munson, <i>Dist 2</i>	401	3609	3675	donald_munson@senate.state.md.us
Edward J. Kasemeyer, <i>Dist 12</i>	301	3653	3610	edward_kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us
Ida G. Ruben, <i>Dist 20</i>	422	3634	3166	ida_ruben@senate.state.md.us
Rona E. Kramer, <i>Dist 14</i>	401	3625	3618	rona_kramer@senate.state.md.us
Sandra B. Schrader, <i>Dist 13</i>	322	3572	3455	sandra_schrader@senate.state.md.us
J. Lowell Stoltzfus, <i>Dist 38</i>	423	3645	3569	lowell_stoltzfus@senate.state.md.us

*Staff:* Victoria L. Gruuber; Molly M. Slominski; Jennifer B. Chasse, and Ned W. Cheston

**WRITE: Senator's name, room #, Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991,**

**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE** (Contact to support MCVRC's Health Insurance Bill)

Senator - Senate Building	Room #	Phone #	Fax #	E-mail Address
Thomas M. Middleton, <i>Chair, Dist 28</i>	3 East	3616	3682	thomas_mclain_middleton@senate.state.md.us
John C. Astle, <i>Vice Chair, Dist 30</i>	123	3578	3168	john_astle@senate.state.md.us
George W. Della, Jr., <i>Dist 46</i>	201	3600	3912	george_della@senate.state.md.us
Nathaniel Exum., <i>Dist 24</i>	303	3148	3149	nathaniel_exum@senate.state.md.us
Lisa A. Gladden., <i>Dist 41</i>	3 East	3697	3142	lisa_gladden@senate.state.md.us
John J. Hafer., <i>Dist 1</i>	323	3565	3552	john_hafer@senate.state.md.us
J. Robert Hooper., <i>Dist 35</i>	320	3603	3115	robert_hooper@senate.state.md.us
Delores G. Kelley, <i>Dist 10</i>	302	3606	3399	delores_kelley@senate.state.md.us
Katharine Klausmeier, <i>Dist 8</i>	103	3620	3085	katharine_klausmeier@senate.state.md.us
E.J. Pipkin., <i>Dist 36</i>	416	3639	3762	ej_pipkin@senate.state.md.us
Leonard H. Teitelbaum., <i>Dist 19</i>	214	3151	3740	leonard_teitelbaum@senate.state.md.us

**WRITE: Senator's name, room #, Senate Office Building, 110 College Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401-1991**

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** (Contact to support MCVRC's Bond & Health Insurance Bills)

Delegate - Lowe House Office Building	Room	Phone #	Fax #	E-mail address
Norman H. Conway, <i>Chair - Dist 38B</i>	416	3425	3489	norman_conway@house.state.md.us
Talmadge Branch, <i>Vice-Chair Dist 45</i>	131	3257	3550	talmadge_branch@house.state.md.us
Susan L.M. Aumann. - <i>Dist 42</i>	303	3258	3163	susan_aumann@house.state.md.us
Charles E. Barkley. - <i>Dist 39</i>	222	3001	3009	charles_barkley@house.state.md.us
Gail H. Bates - <i>Dist 9A</i>	306	3556	3571	gail_bates@house.state.md.us
John L. Bohanan, Jr. - <i>Dist 29B</i>	415	3227	3386	john_bohanan@house.state.md.us
Joan Cadden - <i>Dist 31</i>	410B	3421	3553	joan_cadden@house.state.md.us
Galen R. Clagett. - <i>Dist 3A</i>	324	3240	3308	galen_clagett@house.state.md.us
Steven J. DeBoy, Sr., - <i>Dist 12A</i>	305	3328	3787	steven_deboy@house.state.md.us
Adelaide C. Eckardt. - <i>Dist 37B</i>	308	3343	3299	adelaide_eckardt@house.state.md.us
George C. Edwards - <i>Dist 1A</i>	320	3435	3040	george_edwards@house.state.md.us
Peter Franchot - <i>Dist 20</i>	424	3460	3532	peter_franchot@house.state.md.us
Twanna P. Gaines - <i>Dist 22</i>	207	3058	3197	twanna_gaines@house.state.md.us
Melony G. Griffith - <i>Dist 25</i>	207	3557	3498	melony_griffith@house.state.md.us
Keith E. Haynes - <i>Dist 44</i>	315	3263	3537	keith_haynes@house.state.md.us
Mary-Dulany James - <i>Dist 34A</i>	326D	3289	3294	mary-dulany_james@house.state.md.us
Adrienne A. Jones - <i>Dist 10</i>	312	3391	3157	adrienne_jones@house.state.md.us
John R. Leopold - <i>Dist 31</i>	213	3206	3764	john_leopold@house.state.md.us
Murray D. Levy - <i>Dist 28</i>	216	3325	3256	murray_levy@house.state.md.us
Richard S. Madaleno, Jr. - <i>Dist 18</i>	223	3130	3053	richard_madaleno@house.state.md.us
Doyle L. Niemann - <i>Dist 47</i>	203	3326	3403	doyle_niemann@house.state.md.us
Anthony J. Odonnell - <i>Dist 29C</i>	319	3314	3451	anthony_odonnell@house.state.md.us
Jeffrey A. Paige - <i>Dist 44</i>	315C	3263	3537	jeffrey_paige@house.state.md.us
James E. Proctor, Jr. - <i>Dist 27A</i>	411	3083	3459	james_proctor@house.state.md.us
Nancy R. Stocksdale - <i>Dist 5A</i>	322	3371	3241	nancy_stocksdale@house.state.md.us
Frank S. Turner - <i>Dist 13</i>	206	3246	3986	frank_turner@house.state.md.us
Staff: M. Kathleen Gardiner,	131	3407	5070	
Elizabeth H. Moss, Malachy Rice				

**WRITE: Delegate's name, room #, Lowe House Office Building, 84 College Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991**

**PLEASE Check our Website for Legislative Developments Throughout the General Assembly Session: [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org)**

We urge you to contact Governor Ehrlich as well as your State Senators and Delegates to support our legislative priorities. If your Senator and/or Delegates do not serve on the Senate Judicial Proceedings or House Judiciary Committee, you should also contact President Miller, Speaker Busch, and the Committee Chairs.

The Executive Director's Corner:

## Tax Credits Available for Businesses

Space or lack of space has become an issue for us in Upper Marlboro. While we have had tremendous growth, which has allowed us to serve more victims in more ways, we have outgrown our current office space. The good news is we have been awarded a grant from **Governor Robert Ehrlich** and **Secretary Victor Hoskins** of the **Department of Housing and Community Development** of \$30,000 in tax credits from which we hope to leverage \$60,000 of private donations in the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP). We thank Governor Ehrlich and Secretary Hoskins for their

assistance. We also want to thank the Town Commission of Upper Marlboro. (**Commission President Helen H. Ford** and **Commissioners Robert D. Hopkins, III, and Lawrence K. Warman, Jr.**)

**How the NPP program works: NPP Description**

The State of Maryland has awarded the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., an authorization to exchange State tax credits to leverage contributions through the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) to obtain office

*TAX CREDITS, Continued on Page 5*

# A Giant Step for Crime Victim Justice . . .

## And How You Can Help

In a rare October 9th weekend session, the U.S. Senate and House passed the strongest federal crime victims' legislation in our nation's history. H.R. 5107, the 'Justice for All Act of 2004' is groundbreaking legislation that clarifies and strengthens the rights of victims of federal crimes, and provides enforcement and remedies when there is a failure to fully apply those rights. On October 30, 2004, **President Bush** signed H.R. 5107 into law.

Title 1 is named in honor of **Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn** ... all murdered loved ones of veteran crime victim advocates across the United States. While we, the parents and spouse of these victims would have made any sacrifice to spare our loved ones, we are immensely gratified that their losses and our efforts will stand as a lasting legacy for millions of Americans who suffer the undeserved consequences of crime.

As advocates, each of the parents and spouse of the named victims has dedicated their lives to support services and to improving the criminal justice system's treatment of crime victims. While each victim's story is unique, their advocates became the voices for all victims who no longer can be heard. Their message never wavered. It embodied the great American promise of "equal justice under the law." Like Benjamin Nathan Cardozo, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court (1932 - 1938), we believe that "Justice, though due to the accused, is due to the accuser. The concept of fairness must not be strained till it is narrowed to a filament. We are to keep the balance true."

Why is H.R. 5107 important to crime victims? This landmark legislation establishes that federal crime victims have rights, standing to assert those rights, and remedies to ensure compliance with those rights. Since 1996, victims, advocates and their sponsors have supported and urged the Congress to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gives victims certain core rights to be informed, present and heard at criminal justice proceedings. Those efforts failed. This year it became clear that our best alternative was to accept a very strong compromise that would test, once and for all, whether or not victims' rights needed the protection of our Constitution ... hence the 'Justice for All Act of 2004.'

What does H.R. 5107 mean for our nation? If you become a victim of a federal crime, you have the following rights:

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public proceeding, unless the court after receiving clear and convincing

evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding

- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case
- The right to full and timely restitution as provided by law
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay
- The right to be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity and privacy

Additionally, courts shall ensure that crime victims are afforded their rights, and shall make every effort to permit the fullest attendance possible by the victim or representative. Prosecutors shall advise federal crime victims that they can seek the advice of an attorney with respect to their rights. And very importantly, the federal crime victim or representative and the attorney for the Government will have clear standing to assert the victim's rights and to seek enforcement of those rights.

H.R. 5107 also includes provisions for elimination of DNA analysis backlog, grant availability for DNA research and development, and grants eligibility for sexual assault training, examination and victim service programs.

Very importantly, Title 1 includes procedures to promote compliance, increased resources for enforcement, and requires an annual report to Congress to identify the number of times that asserted rights and relief were denied, and the reason for each denial. Consequently, advocates across the nation will be asked to support federal appropriations that document success and failures as well as remedies to implement crime victims' rights under this new law.

As the founder and a continuing advocate for the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., (MCVRC) (formerly the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation), I urge victims of all crimes to contact our office for information, support services, and legal assistance. Staff attorneys will help you to better understand your rights, and may be able to provide pro bono legal assistance and representation to you if your rights are endangered or denied. The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center has a history of free services by people who understand and care. In the Washington Metro area, call: (301) 952-0063 or Toll Free at: 1-877-VICTIM 1.

*Roberta Roper, Co-Chair,  
National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network*

# Greetings and Upcoming Events

Happy New Year from the Services Staff! We start 2005 with a renewed commitment to serving victims of crime in Maryland - because "*Justice Isn't Served Until Crime Victims Are.*" That is also the theme of this year's *National Crime Victims' Rights Week*, which runs from Sunday, April 10, 2005 through Saturday, April 16th, 2005

On Sunday, April 10th, the State Board of Victim Services is sponsoring its annual *Statewide Memorial Service* for the friends and families of homicide victims. Please call our office for the time and location nearest you.

MCVRC invites all survivors of crime to attend our *Annual Celebration of Remembrance* on Saturday, April 16th in Bowie, Maryland. If you have never been invited and would like to attend, please call our office and ask to be put on our invitation list. We look forward to seeing many of our old friends, and meeting new friends, as we honor and commemorate those who have become victims of crime including our loved ones.

## Staff Developments

As many of you know, we've experienced some changes in our Service's staff. As the new Director of Services, **Sandy Bromley** will oversee all Victim Services for the Center, both legal and direct support services in both the Baltimore City and the Upper Marlboro offices. Her replacement as Staff Attorney is **Jenny Landis, Esq.** Jenny brings to MCVRC over 12 years of experience from the Criminal Appeals Division of the Attorney General's Office.

We also have several new part-time Victim Advocates in our Upper Marlboro office: **Tara Gibson**, **Tina Rutherford**, and **Rebecca Mooney**. Each of these advocates brings to the office a different set of skills and a wonderful passion for serving victims of crime. We are extremely fortunate to have found such dedicated and conscientious advocates.

MCVRC recently contracted with **Noelle Hometchko, LGSW** to provide therapeutic counseling in both individual and group settings. In addition to her years of experience providing therapeutic services, Noelle has a criminal justice background, which is extremely useful in working with victims and survivors of crime. If you would like to schedule an appointment or just talk with Noelle, please call her at (240) 381-0710.

**Bonnie Cord** remains as our constant for the Services staff, now with the new title of Victim Legal Advocate. Bonnie serves as the direct assistant to Sandy in managing the 6 grant projects necessary in order to maintain the victim services in our office. MCVRC is known for: immediate crisis management, criminal justice information and support, financial and other necessary referrals, court accompaniment, outreach and education to the community, direct legal services, a volunteer attorney project for related legal issues, and a collaboration with the Prince George's Sexual Assault Center, and a faith/victim services project.

## Words from our Victim Advocates

I became aware of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center through my victimology instructor (MCVRC's former employee, Cortney Fisher), and it seemed like a great opportunity to gain some first hand knowledge of the criminal justice system from the unique viewpoint of crime victims. In September, I began volunteering one day a week as a victim advocate. As such, I can provide the victims of crime who call us with the resources they need to not only navigate the criminal justice system, but to financial and psychological support services that will assist them in the difficult process of repairing their lives in the wake of so much pain and suffering. Since I am a psychology and criminology major, this experience has given me new insight to both of my chosen fields. I am able to work directly with victims as well as the criminal justice system. Recently, I became a paid employee under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to provide community outreach to victims of sexual assault. It is extremely fulfilling to be able to help people during some of the most trying experiences of their lives, and that is what we do here at the MCVRC every day. Everyone in the office works to provide Maryland victims with every free service that we can muster even if it is only an understanding listener. Every day I work here, I get to enjoy the wonderful fruits of our labor when a victims is able to breathe a little easier because of the services that we provide for them.

*Rebecca Mooney  
Victim Advocate*

I am a part-time student at the University of Maryland University College, majoring in Sociology. As a MCVRC victim advocate, it is rewarding to be able to assist victims of crime with resources not readily given by other organizations. The mission of social work has a set of core values: service, social justice, dignity and worth of person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence ([www.naswdc.org/pubs/code.as](http://www.naswdc.org/pubs/code.as)). All of our efforts benefit the neighborhoods and communities where we live.

*Tara Gibson  
Victim Advocate*

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## *TAX CREDITS, Continued from Page 3*

space. For every contribution through the NPP, you or your business makes to the MCVRC, up to the limit of allocation, you will receive 50% of the amount of the contribution as a credit on your Maryland tax liability. Most importantly, this credit is in addition to your normal Maryland and federal deductions for charitable contributions. Under this program, depending on your tax bracket, a \$1000 contribution to the MCVRC may cost you as little as \$80 out-of-pocket but normally about 30% of your contribution.

How you can help: Please make a donation now and receive Maryland tax credits along with your federal and state tax deductions. For more information regarding how to contribute under the NPP program, please call **Russell Butler** at 301-952-0063.

## MCVRC Welcomes Dr. Stanley to Board of Directors

Our newest Board member, comes from the academic community. We are pleased to have another outstanding community member on our Board of Directors. Welcome Dr. Stanley!

**Dr. Debra L. Stanley** is an Associate Professor in the Division of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Social Policy at the University of Baltimore with research interests including victimology, domestic violence, substance abuse and crime, and program evaluation. She is also the Director of the Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland and co-authored its curriculum. She has participated on numerous grants and as author or editor of several books.

## Update on the Collaborative Faith Grant

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center received a grant from the **U.S. Office for Victims of Crime** in 2002 to manage a national faith based initiative bringing together faith leaders and victim assistance professionals in five high crime urban areas. The chosen cities are: Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; Nashville, TN; St. Paul, MN; and Richmond, CA. All five sites have submitted their strategic plans and are ready to implement their projects. We will keep you updated as this cutting edge project moves forward. If you would like more information take a look at our website at:

[www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org).

then click on Faith-based programs.

### *Do you want to know when an offender is released????*

We can register you for V.I.N.E. to receive telephone or email notification when Maryland offenders are released or when a court date is scheduled. Even if you previously registered for V.I.N.E., a new enhancement will soon allow for email notification as well. Please call 301-952-0063 if you want more information or to register.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or ADDRESS CHANGE MARYLAND CRIME VICTIMS' RESOURCE CENTER, INC.

*(Please Print)*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tele: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center is a (501 (c) (3) organization and all contributions are tax-deductible.**

*Enclosed is my check for:*

\$25 Annual Dues     Memorial Gift     Generous Donor

*Please mail to:*

**The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.  
14750 Main Street, 1-B  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3055  
301-952-0063 • Fax 301-952-2319**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. and am informing you of a change in my address, phone, name, email, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am renewing my membership in The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing a gift in memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Let me know how I may receive tax credit benefits.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer: telephone contact, community awareness, advocacy, or office assistance

*The mailing of our newsletter is a costly expenditure. We depend upon you to avoid unnecessary costs. Please notify us if you :*

Change Address     No longer wish to receive

***PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW TO  
CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER!!!***

# Unique MCVRC Fundraiser: Inmate Art Exhibit

The Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services and the Maryland State Arts' Council are sponsoring an Inmate Art Exhibit that will benefit the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC). The purpose is to generate inmate and public interest in offender art work. All entries and final artwork will become the property of MCVRC and the sale proceeds will be used to enhance support service programs to crime victims and their families.

Exhibits and receptions are being planned for the summer of 2005 at three to be announced locations in Maryland. Executive Director **Russell Butler** and Founder **Roberta Roper** are representing MCVRC on the

project committee. MCVRC believes that this initiative can accomplish several objectives:

offering creative outlets to inmates;

reducing inmate idleness;

utilizing inmate art to increase awareness to the on-going needs of crime victims and their families

raising funds to help MCVRC serve crime victims.

Future newsletter announcements will provide updates as well as through a calendar of events at MCVRC's web site:

[www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org)

Please contact Roberta or Russell if you would be willing to assist to make this a successful MCVRC fundraiser.

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## Attorney Helps With Potential Lease

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. is hoping to lease space that is owned by Prince George's County. In negotiating the lease with the County, we want to ensure that the lease complies with the requirements of a proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award and a proposed Maryland governmental bond bill proposal. The building, which is within walking distance of the courthouse, would need to be renovated and expanded. MCVRC contacted the **Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Services** ("MVLS") to assist it in finding an attorney willing to volunteer his or her time in negotiating the lease with the County.

MVLS contacted **N. Gordon Knox**, Esq., an associate with the law firm of **Miles & Stockbridge P.C.** in Baltimore. Mr. Knox has been practicing law for seven years and specializes in, among other things, the financing and structuring of affordable housing and community development projects. He also has significant experience in drafting and negotiating commercial real estate leases. He is a graduate of The University of Maryland School of Law and The College of William and Mary. In addition, he has a Master's degree in political science from The American University in Cairo, Egypt. Mr. Knox agreed to volunteer his time to assist MCVRC in negotiating its lease with the County. He is looking forward to facilitating the Center meeting its goal of providing much needed services to crime victims and their families across Maryland.

MCVRC acknowledges and thanks N. Gordon Knox, Esq. as its volunteer of the quarter for Spring 2005. MCVRC also appreciates the assistance of the Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Services and the law firm of Miles & Stockbridge P.C. Special thanks go to Prince George's County and **County Executive Jack Johnson** for considering the potential lease.

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## Update On Baltimore Office

MCVRC opened the doors to its Baltimore office over a year ago and has continued to work with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office to ensure that victims of crime in the city have their service needs fulfilled. Until recently, however, MCVRC has not had a member of its staff at the Baltimore location on a regular basis. On December 1, 2004, **M. Jennifer Landis** joined MCVRC as a staff attorney. Ms. Landis' primary responsibility is to represent victims of crime during their offender's criminal proceedings in order to protect the victim's right to be notified, present and heard.

In doing so, Ms. Landis plans to spend at least one day per week at the Baltimore office. This will enable MCVRC to better advance the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding between MCVRC and the Baltimore City State's Attorneys Office, which has, as its main goals, assisting:

- (1) Victims who are survivors of homicide and wish to remain in the courtroom during the trial of their offenders;
- (2) Victims who need referrals to attorneys who will assist them in legal issues related to the crime; and
- (3) Victims who wish to appeal unfavorable Criminal Injuries Compensation Board's decisions.

As soon as possible, MCVRC also plans to fully staff of the Baltimore office.