

# CRIME SURVIVORS HONOR DDAs AT JHV DINNER

## BY ADDA President Steve Ipsen

On Friday night, April 27th, 2007 Crime Survivors and Justice for Homicide Victims invited me and four LA County DDAs who had been selected to receive JHV Homicide Memorial Medallions to join them for Dinner.

**DDA Marc Chomel** (right) received recognition from Crime Survivors and Justice for Homicide Victims as he was presented with the JHV Homicide memorial medalion for his successful prosecution of the murderer of Soy Sung Lao, a young Cambodian girl who had escaped the camps of Cambodia with her sister only to be murdered for \$12 by the defendant who had been engaged in a series of knife point robberies. Marc convicted the defendant and convinced the jury that his callousness merited a verdict of Death. Despite 20 years of prosecution, and 10 prior murder convictions Marc's skill and determination had yet to be recognized by any organization with an award. Marc appreciates the support of Crime Survivors and JHV in accepting this award. The ADDA is proud of Marc's accomplishments and dedication to justice.



**DDA Mike Kraut** (right) DDA Mike Kraut was honored for the first time in his 13 year career in the office, for one of his 22 murder convictions. The case for which he was honored, People v. Roberts and Bailey, was particularly challenging. Victim Patrick Fulton was murdered by two blood gang members who drove into a rival gang neighborhood in broad daylight and killed 14 year old Patrick while he was riding his bike. They also killed his puppy. No witness would come forward, as one defendant had earlier intimidated a kidnapping victim to disappear before trial. In this case, the defendants intimidated all but one witness, who was housed in a hotel, from appearing in court. When she did appear, the court was filled with gang members wearing red, Blood colors, to scare her. During the trial, a plot by the defendants to kill DDA Kraut was uncovered, causing 12 deputy sheriffs to stand guard until both were convicted of first degree murder. As ADDA president, I applaud Mike courage, skill and enviable trial record and congratulate him on long overdue recognition.



**DDA Ann Park** (right) was honored for the first time in her career for her third murder conviction, all three were challenging domestic violence cases. She fought for and obtained justice for victim Francine Sims who was murdered by the defendant who lived with her and had long subjected her to domestic violence. The defendant's story was that she had already been stabbed when she came home and refused to go to the hospital. The defendant disappeared for 1 1/2 years rather than meet with detectives for a polygraph. Ann's only witnesses were drug addicts with poor memories and credibility issues. She used circumstantial evidence to prove the defendant lied in his account of the death, and showed that the blood stain on her clothes and the stomach contents disproved his "exonerating account" of what had occurred. The ADDA is proud of Ann for her success in some of this office's most important and difficult types of crimes, those that stem from Domestic violence.



**DDA Mario Trujillo** (not pictured) Mario was honored with a JHV Homicide Victims Memorial Medallion, the first recognition he has received despite a stellar career and record including 12 homicide convictions. DDA Trujillo was given a gang drive-by shooting case that had the typical gang problems of proof, with an additional challenge. The shooter was already given a deal of 17 years. Worse yet, DDA Trujillo was ordered to offer the driver an 8 year prison deal. He was pleased when the defendant rejected the deal. DDA Trujillo got justice for victim Michael Mayberry, an innocent 17 year old unwittingly wearing the color blue; shot dead in a Blood drive by gang initiation. The driver was sentenced to 50 years to life. If you read this write up, yes, Mario is my hero too. Great job.



As ADDA President, I am proud to have shared recognition by Crime Survivors alongside such dedicated and equally worthy fellow prosecutors and I thank Justice for Homicide Victims for giving these hard working prosecutors the recognition that they deserve..

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# JUSTICE FOR HOMICIDE VICTIMS HONORS PROSECUTORS AND OTHERS



In a ceremony held on the morning of April 22, the non profit group Justice For Homicide Victims (JHV) made a series of heartfelt presentations to many deserving Los Angeles County Deputy District Districts and other individuals who work on behalf of crime victims in California. The presentations were made at JHV's Homicide Victim's Memorial on the grounds of Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary. One of the first of its kind, the JHV Memorial at Rose Hills is a stone

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monument dedicated to the memory homicide victims. JHV President Marcela Leach and Lawanda Hawkins, President of Families of Murdered Children, awarded dozens of JHV "Memorial Medallions" to prosecutors who had tried murder cases. The pair also made special awards to ADDA President Steve Ipsen, State Assemblyman Todd Spitzer, former Democratic State Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez, and others

**1** Republican State Assemblyman Todd Spitzer and former Democratic State Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez stand together. They shared honors as "JHV Legislators of The Year."

**2** As he received his medallion, DDA Patrick Sequeira addressed the audience on issues related to the state parole system.

**3** Spectators view the gallery of photos of homicide victims assembled by the members of JHV with the help of the victims' families.

**4** Republican State Assemblyman Todd Spitzer addresses the audience about his efforts on behalf of crime victims in the legislature. The JHV Monument. At Rose Hills stands in the background.

**5** Mark Lunsford, the father of murder victim Jessica Lunsford, discusses the brutal abduction and murder of his daughter. After enduring many law enforcement and bureaucratic missteps, Mark led the nationwide movement for the state by state adoption of Jessica's Law.

**6** DDA Phil Stirling uses the receipt of his medallion to tell the audience about the sacrifice made by LASD Deputy Jerry Ortiz. Stirling successfully prosecuted the gang member who murdered Deputy Ortiz.

**7** DDA Halim Dhanidina stands with Gregg and Teresa Williamson, parents of murder victim Nicole Williamson. Halim received his medallion for the successful prosecution of this case.

**8** ADDA President Steven Ipsen accepts the Ellen Griffin Dunne Victim Advocate Award from JHV President Marcella Leach.

**9** Steve Ipsen discusses the sad story of the child murder for which he received his medallion. ADDA President Steve Ipsen, JHV President Marcella Leach and Families of Murdered Children President Lawanda Hawkins look on.



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## BAKER TO VEGAS: A TRADITION CONTIUES!

The Editor wishes to thank Baker to Vegas Team Captain Michael Yglecias for supplying these photos and background detail to **Attorney Notes**. The Editor also wishes Baker to Vegas Team Member Andrea Pott for helping to identify all the great people who participated! More of Michael Yglecias's photographs from Baker to Vegas will be available on [deputyda.com](http://deputyda.com)

The Baker to Vegas Mixed Invitational (Attorneys) and Support Team!: (Standing) Cynthia Nakao, Jared Moses, Richard Ceballos, Casey Higgins, Manny Garcia, Jennifer Turk, DA Steve Cooley, Lana Kim, Bob Foltz, John Nantroup, Andrea Pott, Ed Abele, Sherrie Davidson, and Mary Murray. (Kneeling and Squatting) Miji Vellakattel, Michele Hanisee, Corey Higgins, Michael Yglecias, and David Fleck



Photographers snap away and others cheer as Tom Higgins is greeted by Michele Hanisee while crossing the Baker to Vegas finish line for the LADA Invitational Mixed Team.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay, a grueling race across 120 miles of California and Nevada desert, was held on April 21-22, 2007. Law enforcement agencies worldwide were invited to participate and hundreds of agencies rose to the challenge.

The first Baker to Vegas relay was held in 1985 with nineteen teams and was intended as a foot race for police officers to improve their physical fitness. Staked out on harsh terrain, the relay starts twenty miles outside of Baker, California and finishes at Las Vegas, Nevada. It has 20 stages with each stage consisting of an average distance of six miles. The shortest stage is 3.5 miles and the longest is 8.2 miles. Each stage is ranked in difficulty from 1 (most difficult) to 20 (least difficult). Those who run in the relay usually have to engage in extensive training to prepare for the event. However, fielding a team requires more than just runners. There are other members of the team including alternates, team captains, support crews, drivers, accommodation coordinators, schedulers and equipment managers.

This year the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office was represented by two teams. Attorneys and support staff competed in the Invitational Mixed category, the category for teams comprised of non-peace officers. The LADA Invitational Mixed Team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in their category, and 71<sup>st</sup> out of the 227 teams that competed. The Bureau of Investigation also fielded a team in the relay. Racing in the "300" category, the B of I team competed against other peace officer teams from agencies with 300 or fewer sworn officers. The B of I team finished second in the 300 category, and 29<sup>th</sup> out of the total field of 227 teams. Congratulations to all who participated!

