

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 04-104

RELEASE NUMBER

April 24, 2012

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley* JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Megan Rheinschild, Victim Witness Manager

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

**Press Conference**

**April 27, 2012, 12:00 p.m., County Courthouse, Mural Room, Santa Barbara**

**Supporting National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22 – April 28, 2012**

The District Attorney's Office will commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week from April 22-28, 2012. National Crime Victims' Rights Week was established in 1975 to draw attention to the need for efforts to uphold the rights of crime victims.

The press conference will be held on Friday, April 27, at 12:00 p.m., in the Mural Room of the County Courthouse in Santa Barbara. The public and the press are invited to attend as Santa Barbara County officials stand together as advocates for the rights of crime victims.

During the Press Conference, County officials will present a special **Citizen of Courage Award** to **Yolanda Angel Magana**, an individual who has been a tireless advocate for her brother and her family in the aftermath of the homicide of her 7-year old brother, Javier Angel, on December 2, 1978, when Yolanda was just 12-years old. In 1979, Julia Diaz was convicted of murder and is serving a life sentence. Yolanda Angel Magana has been her brother's staunch advocate, attending all of Julia Diaz's parole hearings to ensure that the Parole Board continues to understand and acknowledge the impact of this crime. During the last parole hearing in July 2011, Ms. Diaz was denied parole for the maximum term of 15 years, thanks to Yolanda's tireless advocacy.

Her efforts remind us that even 33 years later, the impact of crime is real, palpable, and warrants the attention of our community.

A **Victim Service Award** will also be presented to two deserving individuals: **Dr. Kegan Allee and Alma Guerra**. Dr. Kegan Allee is being recognized as an exemplary advocate for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. As an Advocate Support Specialist in the UC Santa Barbara Rape Prevention Education Program, she is an example of the impact one person can have on a diverse community of individuals. Alma Guerra is being honored for her extraordinary service, technical skills, and compassion as a Nurse Examiner through the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). SART is a countywide program providing care to victims of sexual assault in the most positive therapeutic environment possible.

District Attorney Joyce Dudley states, "We stand together in partnership with the individuals being honored on Friday, April 27. Together we are committed to protecting and upholding Victims' Rights and ensuring the safety of citizens of our County. This office is dedicated to the pursuit of truth and justice by employing the highest ethical standards in vigorously prosecuting the guilty as well as protecting the innocent; this we do by ensuring that all crime victims are treated with fairness, dignity and respect."

**Award recipients will be present at the press conference and available for questions.**

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