

MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE FOR VICTIM  
ASSISTANCE



VICTIM & WITNESS  
ASSISTANCE BOARD

# MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, SUITE 1101  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(P) 617-586-1340 (F) 617-586-1341 [WWW.MASS.GOV/MOVA](http://WWW.MASS.GOV/MOVA)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 3, 2017**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Chris Klaskin**

**(617) 586-1354/(617) 686-0862**

## **MARIA ARROYO-LONG RECEIVES VICTIM SERVICE “ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD” AT STATE HOUSE**

BOSTON – During Victim Rights Month in April, Attorney General Maura Healey and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) recognize individuals and agencies that have made notable contributions to victim rights and services.

Maria Arroyo-Long of the Essex County District Attorney’s Office received this year’s “Access to Justice Award” for her 22 years of assisting domestic violence victims and their families in the criminal justice system.

Maria currently supervises the Domestic Violence Unit of the Essex DAO and serves as a Victim Witness Advocate in Essex Superior Court working with victims and witnesses of major felonies. Maria has devoted almost her entire career to helping victims of domestic violence - ensuring they receive the support, compassion, and empathy needed to hold their offenders accountable and recover from abuse.

Maria is a relied upon resource by Advocates and Assistant District Attorney’s throughout the county. She has trained countless Victim Witness Advocates to provide them trauma informed skills that enable the safe and effective participation of victims in the criminal justice system.

To recognize her dedicated service to abuse victims, District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett presented her with MOVA’s “Access to Justice Award” at a ceremony at the State House.

“Maria embodies advocacy for crime victims,” District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett said. “Her professionalism and caring presence immediately puts victims at ease, allowing them to better participate in the criminal justice process. Her work ethic is unmatched and her compassion and expertise set a high example for everyone she encounters. We are so fortunate to have has are part of the Essex team.”

“During Victim Rights Month we have an opportunity to recognize those who help some of the most vulnerable and innocent among us. These individuals provide critical services to victims, and we are proud of the work they do in our communities,” said Attorney General Maura Healey.

“Maria has served so many victims in her 22 years as a committed and dedicated victim witness advocate,” said MOVA Executive Director Liam Lowney. “Working as an advocate in the criminal justice system, Maria has ensured survivors of violence are informed about the criminal system and have an opportunity to be heard while engaged with her. She has devoted herself to making a difference in the lives each individual she meets on a daily basis and we are so pleased to recognize her work, commitment, and advocacy.”

###