

Keynote Speakers



Cherie Jimenez

In 1976, Cherie Jimenez proudly co-founded one of the first places of refuge for women escaping violence, Transition House. Now, many years later, Ms. Jimenez is bringing attention to another personal issue - sexual exploitation. Through *Kim's Project*, a program of Finex House, Ms. Jimenez promotes those most impacted by the sex trade and violence into leadership roles for the future. As a survivor, Ms. Jimenez knows how prostitution is often a separate and hidden culture. Ms. Jimenez has said, "All of our stories of healing have their own special power; it makes us realize the strength and potential within ourselves and in others and that we all can make a difference in the world, for a minute, or a lifetime – in whatever ways we choose."



Debra Lemieux

Debra Lemieux ended an abusive, 20-year marriage, found the strength to leave with her two young children and began her life over again. After leaving her abuser, Ms. Lemieux returned to school and became a certified paralegal. She worked in several law offices throughout the North Shore until she left to stay at home and care for her children. Ms. Lemieux has been in a loving, 15-year marriage to Daniel Lemieux, living in Danvers with their 13-year-old son. In addition to family, friends and numerous other "Angels," Ms. Lemieux credits her survival to Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC), where she has become an active volunteer and advocate. She also volunteers for numerous charities, including the Salem Mission, Danvers People to People Food Pantry, and Childrens' Clothes Closet. Ms. Lemieux believes that we are all "family" and are meant to care for one another, regardless of our "zip code."

Speaker Biographies

Jonathan W. Blodgett is currently serving his second term as Essex County District Attorney. DA Blodgett has been at the forefront of a range of issues including domestic violence, underage drinking, gun violence, elder abuse, and bullying. He recognizes the critical importance of both prosecution and educational partnerships with schools, police, and community leaders in addressing these issues. DA Blodgett is a member of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board, the Board which governs MOVA, and a strong supporter of the MA Victim Assistance Academy. In 2009, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law a bill sponsored by DA Blodgett increasing penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders. DA Blodgett also currently Co-chairs the Urban Violence Committee of the Governor's Anti-Crime Council.

Timothy J. Cruz is the District Attorney of Plymouth County. He was appointed by former Acting Governor Jane Swift on November 8, 2001, and was elected to his first term in November 2002 and his second term in November 2006. DA Cruz is a graduate of Boston College and Suffolk University Law School. He began his career in 1985 as a prosecutor for the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office and was a private attorney for a number of years prior to becoming District Attorney. In 1996, he became a sole practitioner in the Law Office of Timothy J. Cruz. DA Cruz has long been dedicated to victims of crime and innovative programs to ensure access for victims to the system and coordinated services within the community. He was a key proponent of legislation to close existing loopholes in the law regarding the commitment of sexually dangerous persons. He also currently serves as a member of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board.

Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, MSW, LICSW, is the Executive Director of Independence House, Inc., a community based agency providing domestic and sexual violence services, education and training. Ms. Hurge-Putnam began working with DV and SA victims in NY in 1984. She is a 2008 recipient of the Barnstable County Human Right's Commission Cornerstone Award, and is a member of the Governor's Council on Sexual and Domestic Violence. She serves on the Executive Committee of Jane Doe, Inc.'s Board of Directors.

In the decade since her daughter, Sherry, and infant grandson, Cedric, were murdered by the baby's father, **Yoko Kato** transformed private sorrow into action against domestic violence. Ms. Kato is a recognized leader in the campaign against DV and a frequent public speaker and educator in both New England and her native Japan. As the first

Japanese woman to speak out in Japan about domestic violence, Ms. Kato has played a pivotal role in her native country where she lobbied for the first DV law passed there in 2001. Ms. Kato received a "Ministry of Foreign Affairs Award" from the Japanese Government in 2004. Ms. Kato also serves on the Board of MOVA.

Elizabeth Keegan is the Director of the Victim Assistance Program in the Office of Berkshire District Attorney David F. Capeless, where her commitment to victim rights and services has spanned more than 25 years. Ms. Keegan was the first advocate in the Berkshire DA's Office, having been appointed to that position in 1983. She is the Founding Director of the Victim Assistance Program and remains to this day in that position as a passionate and steadfast advocate and leader in the Victim Rights Movement. Ms. Keegan has worked as a volunteer and then a member of the staff of an area rape crisis center and also in an offender advocacy project with parolees and probationers. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award from MOVA in 2005 and the first Gerard D. Downing Advocate of the Year Award from MDAA in 2007.

Liam Lowney started in the Middlesex District Attorney's Office as a Victim Witness Advocate in April of 1998 in the Woburn District Court. Later, he became the Domestic Violence Services Coordinator while also assisting victims of DV, sexual assault, and homicide in the Cambridge Superior Court. Mr. Lowney also spent a year working for the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance as Policy Analyst and Legislative Liaison addressing issues facing crime victims on a statewide level. In January of 2007, he was appointed as Chief of Victim and Witness Services in the Office of Attorney General Martha Coakley.

Lisa McCue is a survivor of homicide. She has been with the Hampden County District Attorney's Office for three years. She first began as an intern and is currently the Supervising Victim Witness Advocate at the Springfield District Court Victim/Witness Program and Hampden County's Domestic Violence Intervention Unit. Ms. McCue is an active member of the Hampden County DV Task Force and is on the planning committee for Hampden County's Annual Victim Rights Conference. Ms. McCue is a distinguished alumna of the MA Victim Assistance Academy (MVAA) and is obtaining her Bachelor of Science Degree from Bay Path College this May.

Curt Rogers is Founder and Executive Director of the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP) and a survivor of domestic violence. He began GMDVP after escaping an attempted murder at the hands of his partner and then being turned away from mainstream domestic violence programs while he was in flight due to his gender and sexual orientation. Over the past 15 years, Mr. Rogers has developed the GMDVP into a statewide program with offices in multiple locations and providing a 24-hour hotline, emergency safe home services, and community and service provider education.

Guy Sapirstein, Ph.D. is a Senior Partner with Organizational Resilience International, LLC and has over 20 years experience assisting and training people and organizations to prepare for, respond to and recover from crisis and disaster situations. Dr. Sapirstein began his career helping individuals who have experienced stressful and traumatic events; in recent years, he has been involved in the response to major disasters in the US and internationally, including the September 11 attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. Dr. Sapirstein has published articles in academic and trade publications and presented at national and international conferences on the topics of “Social and Organizational Resilience” and Psychological Trauma. He is also an esteemed member of the Massachusetts Victim Assistance Academy (MVAA) Faculty.

Janet Yassen, LICSW, has been involved with the anti-violence movement for over 35 years. In 1972, she co-founded (along with a collective of 10 women), the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC). BARCC was only the second rape crisis center in the country and is the only one to be continuously functioning. Ms. Yassen is currently the Acute Crime Crisis Services Coordinator of the Victims of Violence Program at the Cambridge Health Alliance, which provides crisis intervention to women and men who have been impacted by any forms of crime victimization. Ms. Yassen provides consultation, supervision, and training locally, nationally and internationally (e.g. Japan, Northern Ireland, Israel, the Hague, Netherlands; Canada, and Germany), as well as having a private practice. Ms. Yassen and her husband have two sons and live in Newton, MA.

Gerard D Downing Award
Kevin M. Burke, Secretary of Public Safety
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



Kevin Burke is Secretary of Public Safety and Security for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Immediately prior to his appointment as Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin Burke was a managing partner with Burke & Mawn Consultants, LLC, a public safety consulting firm providing diverse services to government and industry clients. From 1979 to 2002, he served as District Attorney for the Eastern District (Essex County), where he created the first comprehensive Juvenile Diversion Program and one of the first DA-based violence prevention programs to collaborate with schools, courts and social service agencies to provide intervention and prevention services to high-risk youth. Most notably then and still today, he distinguished himself as an early leader in the Victim Rights Movement. He created the first Victim/Witness Program in the Commonwealth, authored the Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights, and as a Founding Board Member of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board, helped oversee the establishment of MOVA.

Prior to becoming District Attorney, Secretary Burke served as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from Beverly from 1975 to 1979. Secretary Burke holds a B.A. from the University of Connecticut and a law degree from Boston College Law School. He lives in Beverly with his wife Patricia. The couple has three children, Caitlin, Matthew and Brigid.

Expressions of Hope from Survivors and Providers for the Next
25 Years

"We never lose hope that the violence will end in our lifetimes..."

"Victims continue to raise their voices and be heard."

"The message will be loud and clear that NO ONE deserves to be a victim and more and more victims will come forward to seek services and make it known that they are not going to allow themselves to be abused any longer."

"Every victim will have access to the services that will allow them to heal and so they, in turn, can heal others."

Length of Service Awards

Thirty Years of Service

Gayle Beaudoin

Essex District Attorney's Office

Alberta DePesa

Norfolk District Attorney's Office

Twenty Five Years of Service

Debbie Chieco

Hampden District Attorney's Office

Susan O'Leary

Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office

Bonnie Press

Northwestern District Attorney's Office

Patricia B. Turner

Berkshire District Attorney's Office

Twenty Years of Service

Beth Brooks

Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office

Maura Cashman

Suffolk District Attorney's Office

Marnie Edwards

Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office

Kathleen Finnegan

Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office

Kathleen O'Connor

Hampden District Attorney's Office

Fifteen Years of Service

Maria Arroyo-Long

Essex District Attorney's Office

Helena Clarke

Middlesex District Attorney's Office

Christopher J. Daly

Parole Board

Marie-Elena Edwards

Department of Youth Services

John P. Giracca

Berkshire District Attorney's Office

Jennifer S. MacDonald

Parole Board

Deborah McCoy Brennan

Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office

Kimberly Pierce

Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office

Lucy Soto-Abbe

Hampden District Attorney's Office

Ten Years of Service

Lynne Cipullo

Norfolk District Attorney's Office

Virginia Dixon

Hampden District Attorney's Office

Anne Garlington

Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office

Phillip Harrison

Suffolk District Attorney's Office

Danielle Hultgren

Hampden District Attorney's Office

Shawn MacMaster

Middlesex District Attorney's Office

Teri J. McMahon

Berkshire District Attorney's Office

Heather Neumann

Northwestern District Attorney's Office

Lori Riccio

Middlesex District Attorney's Office

Katia Santiago-Taylor

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance