

2023 Victim Rights Award Recipients



Stephanie Brown

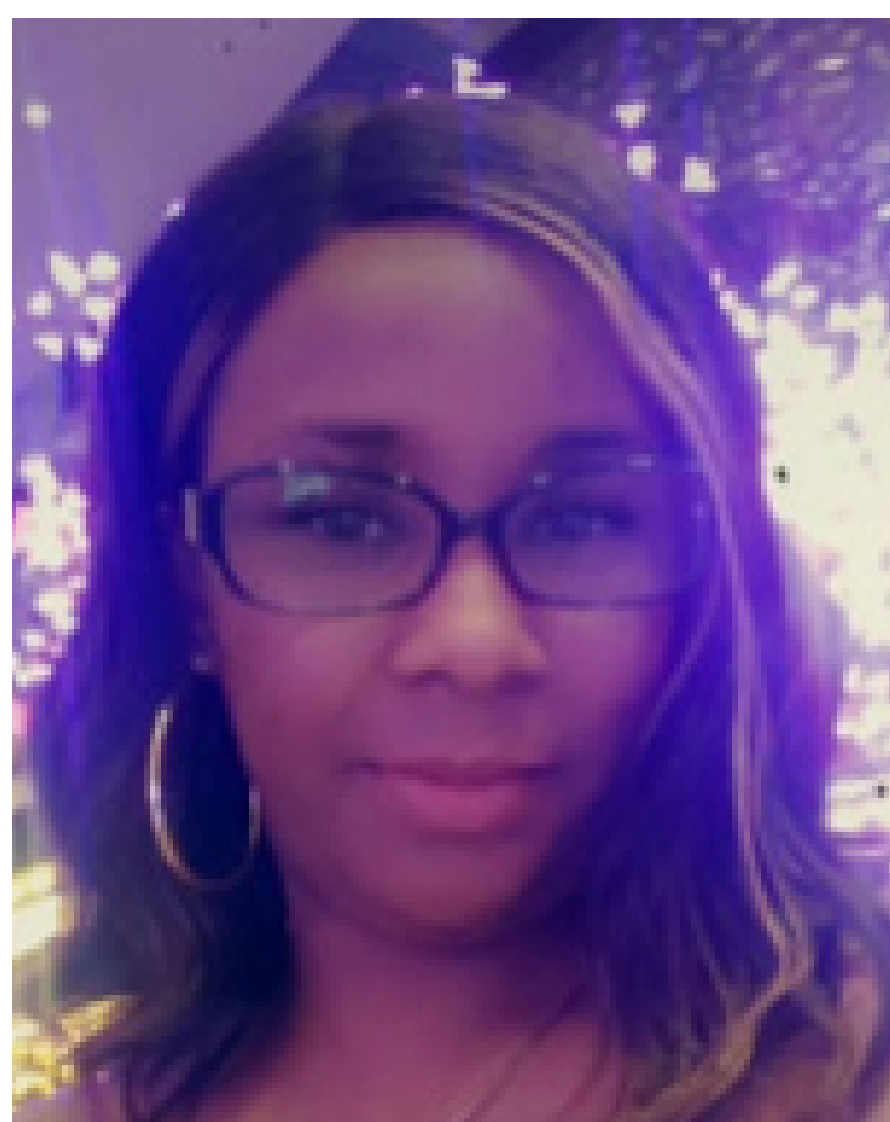
*Chief Executive Officer,
Casa Myrna*

THE GERARD D. DOWNING LEADERSHIP AWARD recognizes a public or private agency leader who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing the rights of crime victims. This individual is recognized by his or her colleagues for their efforts in advancing victim rights.



**Representative
Natalie Higgins**

THE LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD recognizes a legislator who has made outstanding contributions to the victim rights movement through promoting legislation and policy that further rights and services to victims and survivors.



LaToya Love

*Victim Advocate,
Parent Villages, Inc.*

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD recognizes a survivor, service provider, agency, or organization (criminal justice and/or community-based) whose leadership and outreach efforts have made victim rights and services more accessible or readily available to underserved populations.

2023 Victim Rights Award Recipients



**Ronald Odom, Sr.
and Kim Odom**

*Founders, The SPOT
for Life Foundation*

THE SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

recognizes a survivor of crime who has transformed their experience of victimization into positive change, healing, and leadership through promoting rights and services for victims and survivors.



THE INNOVATION AWARD

recognizes an individual survivor, service provider, agency, or organization (criminal justice and/or community-based) who has developed an innovative program or policy that helps crime victims.



Michelle Penna

*Advocate for
'Amanda's Law'*

THE PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AWARD

recognizes a survivor of crime who has transformed their experience of victimization into impactful change through promoting legislation or advocating for policy changes that further rights and services to fellow victims and survivors.

2023 Victim Rights Award Recipients



Chrissy Ruuska

*Director of
Victim Services,
Massachusetts
Department of
Correction*

THE ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

recognizes an individual from a public and/or community-based agency who has made extraordinary contributions to the lives of victims and survivors.



Julie Bakoian

*Manager of Legal
Services, Healing
Abuse Working for
Change (HAWC)*

THE ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

recognizes an individual from a public and/or community-based agency who has made extraordinary contributions to the lives of victims and survivors.