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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 National Victims' Rights Week Events in Pima County

(Tucson, AZ) – The Pima County Attorney's Office commemorates Victims' Rights Week with two special events on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Local victims and survivors of crime will be at both events and available to speak to the media regarding the importance of Victims' Rights.

- **12:15 pm. Panel Presentation and Discussion.** The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Room 164, 1201 E. Speedway. A panel presentation which will include Attorney General **Terry Goddard**, Pima County Attorney **Barbara LaWall**, and two crime victims, **Joan Gilbert** and **Jose Rincon**, who will share their experiences with the criminal justice system. The event highlights the importance of Arizona Victims' Rights statutes, recognizes volunteers who have helped protect the rights of victims, and honors survivors for their advocacy and promotion of victims' rights.
- **5:30 pm. Victims' Rights Week Commemoration.** Z Mansion, 288 N. Church Avenue. This evening commemorative event, hosted by Pima County Attorney **Barbara LaWall**, will recognize and honor the work of local community members who are champions for victims and their rights. **Richard Elias**, Chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, will help present the awards. Awards will be given in the following categories:
 - Victim Voice of Courage Award. Presented to **Jose & Adriana Rincon** and to **Carol Gaxiola** for turning their personal grief and losses into advocacy on behalf of crime victims and the promotion of victims' rights.
 - Neighborhood Activist Award. Presented to **Jane Baker** for speaking out against crime, reducing victimization, and improving the safety of her Balboa Heights Neighborhood.
 - Champion of Victims Prosecutor Award. Presented to **Lindsay St. John** and **Deborah Abbey** who, as relatively new prosecutors, have shown exemplary care, compassion, and commitment to their victims.
 - Outstanding Victim Advocate Award. These two award winners, who will be announced the night of the event, were selected from community nominations. They will be honored for their combined 45 years of outstanding service to victims in Pima County.

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