

ADVOCATE

ad'·vo·kāt'

(verb): to support, assist others on a cause or issue of concern; to act as an advocate for others.



A NOTE FROM OUR MLKY STATE DIRECTOR

Friends,

What an incredible week we had raising awareness during National Crime Victims' Rights Week! On April 22, I had the privilege of working with Dorislee Gilbert, prosecutor in the Jefferson County's Attorney's office, in leading a Marsy's Law for Kentucky-sponsored ethics training, featuring our Crime Survivor Star Activity.

When we first developed this training, our dream was to show that the responsibility for victims isn't confined to any one role. It's not solely the responsibility of prosecutors, police officers, or victim advocates. This training brought that to life by bringing into one room a cross-section of individuals who interact with victims during the criminal justice process. Seeing this collective dedication reaffirmed the profound impact each role has on shaping the victim's experience. You can read more about this [here](#). Please reach out to me if you're interested in learning more about this training.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we also had the opportunity to partner with communities across the state to illuminate courthouses and landmarks to raise awareness. We were excited to see the number of counties where representatives of the county attorney's and commonwealth's attorney's offices were willing to participate in the effort. We look forward to growing the number of counties next year.

April is always a reminder that we're all in this together, and each of us has the power to make a difference. Thank you to everyone who participated - your commitment to the well-being of victims is truly inspiring.

In Gratitude,
Emily

SHINE A LIGHT ON VICTIMS' RIGHTS

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 21-29), nearly 20 counties across the state partnered with Marsy's Law for Kentucky to help . This year's initiative focused on the NCVRW theme: "How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime survivors." This year's goal was to ensure that everyone in the community recognized where and how crime victims and survivors can find help. These illuminated landmarks reminded victims that they are not forgotten.

[\(Click here to read more\)](#)



SHINE A LIGHT ON VICTIMS' RIGHTS

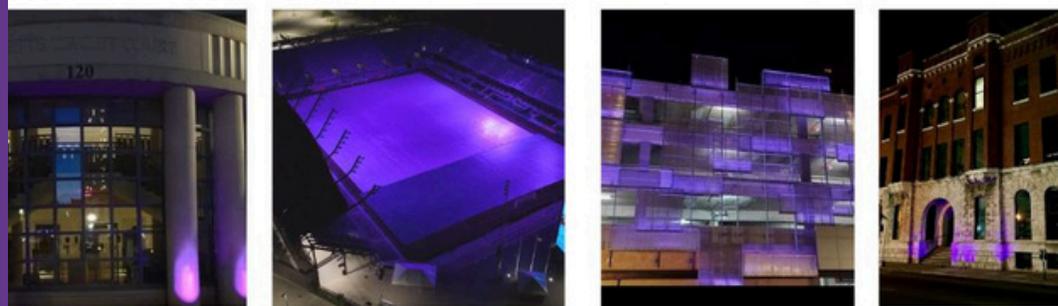
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On the state map to the left, each white dot represents a participating county. Counties included: Barren, Boyd, Clay, Fayette, Franklin, Graves, Harlan, Henderson, Jefferson, Letcher, Madison, Marion, Menifee, Perry, Pike, Shelby, Warren, and Woodford. Our goal is to continue our efforts in 2025, adding more counties to the list. If you'd like to be notified about next year's plans, contact Emily at ebonistall@marsyslaw.us.

In the News: [Shelbyville Sentinel News](#)

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2024

Shining a Light on Victims' Rights



TRAUMA, ETHICS, AND THE LEGAL EXPERIENCE FOR VICTIMS

On April 22, Emily Bonistall Postel and Dorislee Gilbert hosted “Trauma, Ethics, and the Legal Experience for Victims.” This free ethics training was approved for CLE credit and explored the ethical considerations when dealing with crime victims. This particular training was unique since it brought many different disciplines into one room to discuss how victims are impacted throughout the legal process. The event was held at the Jefferson County Attorney’s office and represented a comprehensive cross-section of the justice system, including investigators and victim advocates at the Louisville Metro Police Department, advocates and prosecutors from the County and Commonwealth Attorney’s Offices, defense attorneys, and staff members at the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office.

Following the ethics presentation, Emily and Dorislee led attendees in a hands-on demonstration using the Crime Survivor Star Activity. This training provides participants a look at the neurobiology of trauma and the shared experiences of victims and trauma. And, ultimately, it leads the group through empathy-building activities that can be used in situations to protect victims from further trauma.

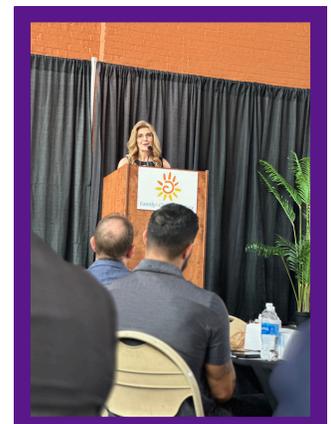
CRIME SURVIVOR STAR ACTIVITY



CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

Recently we had the opportunity to attend Family & Children's Place Champions for Children event. During this event, the organization recognized Pam Darnell, president and CEO, for 30 years of service with Family & Children's Place. Pam will retire this November. We want to take this opportunity to recognize her for her support of Marsy's Law for Kentucky. She has not only been a champion for children across Kentucky, but also for crime victims in our communities.

Thank you for your support!



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



We were honored to be present during this year's Rally to End Child Abuse on March 28. Each year Family & Children's Place kick off April's Child Abuse Prevention Month with a rally to raise awareness about abuse prevention across Kentucky and Indiana. Since 1883, the organization has helped over 280,000 children and their families. For more information about Family & Children's Place, visit www.famchild.org.



Marsy's Story

Marsy Nicholas was a beautiful, vibrant University of California Santa Barbara student who was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend. Only one week after her death, Marsy's mother walked into a grocery store where she was confronted by the accused murderer. The family, who had just come from a visit to Marsy's grave, was unaware that the accused had been released on bail. In an effort to honor his sister, Dr. Henry T. Nicholas III has made it his life's mission to give victims and their families enforceable, constitutional protections and equal rights.

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