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## Crystal Judson Family Justice Center Wins Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award

Due to its continued dedication to supporting victims of domestic violence in times of crisis, The National Criminal Justice Association is honoring The Crystal Judson Family Justice Center, with its Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award. The award is given out annually at the National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This year's conference will take place Aug. 9-11 in Bellevue, Washington.

The FJC, is comprised of criminal justice agencies, government and community partners, who together provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic abuse and reduce the number of domestic violence cases that go unaddressed. The Center is dedicated to ensuring easy and convenient access to these services, which include civil legal support, protection orders, DSHS assistance, spiritual support, military advocacy, housing, transportation, emergency assistance, and safety planning. The consolidation of services makes it easier for victims and their families to seek help in times of crisis, and eliminates the necessity of visiting dozens of agencies before receiving the assistance needed.

"I am proud that the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center has achieved the recognition as an Outstanding Criminal Justice Program so quickly after opening in 2005," said Richard Torrance, Managing Director of the Community Services Division in the Washington Department of Commerce. "The Center is a model for how a community can combine resources to empower victims to recover from violence."

The program, which makes it a top priority to bring kindness, compassion, and caring to the clients, has served thousands of families since its beginnings just four years ago. The office has special accommodations for children and is designed to be a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The program is continuing in its vision of eliminating violence and providing hope and help to families who need it by bringing on new partners to actively participate.

The NCJA Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Awards are a way to seek out and share successful criminal justice programs. The purpose of these awards is to highlight programs that:

- Address an important criminal justice issue;
- Demonstrate effectiveness based on program goals;
- Are a good example of use of federal funds to initiate the program and are subsequently supported through state and local funds or are self sustaining; and
- Can be easily replicated in other jurisdictions.

For more information on NCJA, please visit [www.ncja.org](http://www.ncja.org).