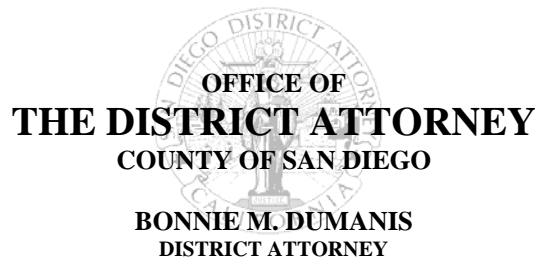


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DA Honors Local Residents with ‘Citizens of Courage Awards’ for Extraordinary Bravery

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) today honored six recipients with the 20th Annual Citizens of Courage Award as part of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

“These individuals showed true courage when confronted by a violent crime,” DA Dumanis said. “Each of them has an inspiring and compelling story, and they serve as a reminder that our office is committed to helping victims as well as prosecuting defendants.”

This year’s recipients were survivors of violent crimes and those who defied threats to their personal safety and testified in court. Honored at the 20th annual ceremony in front of more than 300 guests, this year’s Citizens of Courage recipients included:

Kelsey Hamlett: An 11-year-old who watched as her mother was fatally stabbed more than 30 times during a domestic violence attack, then called 911 and testified against the defendant.

Eric Lotter: A developmentally disabled man who was tortured, then displayed great courage on the witness stand by facing his attacker in court

Olivia Rodriguez: Kidnapped at gunpoint by three gang members, sexually assaulted and robbed, then helped convict them after they were captured five years later

Jennifer Grosso: Attempted to break up the fatal beating of her boyfriend, while he was being attacked by a beach-area gang known as the Bird Rock Bandits.

Kelly Anderson: Shot while coming to the aid of her friend, who was murdered by a gang member, then testified in court despite threats to her personal safety.

Elex Noble: Testified against a boyhood friend in a gang murder case despite numerous threats to his life.

Each recipient received a trophy from DA Dumanis, as well as proclamations from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders.

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