

330 West Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 531-4040

SanDiegoDA.com

OFFICE OF  
**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

DWAIN D. WOODLEY  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

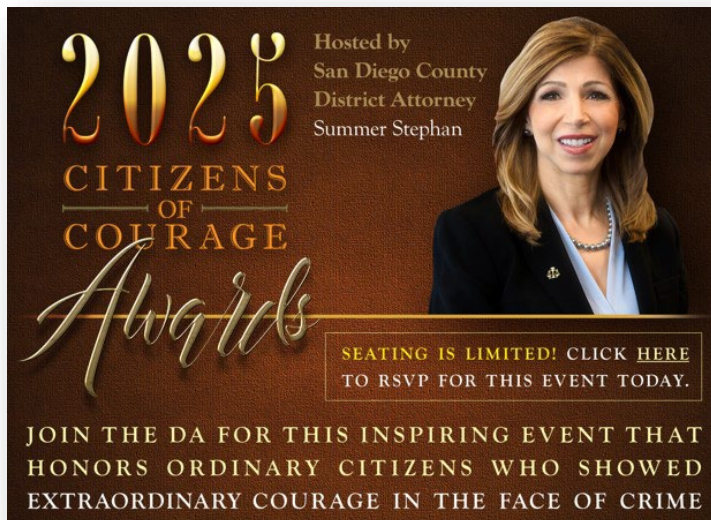
SUMMER STEPHAN  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 7, 2025  
For Immediate Release

Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 531-3890  
[Tanya Sierra](#) (619) 531-3315  
*En Español* [Barbara Medina](#) (619) 531-3305

## DA Honors Seven Local Heroes at Inspiring ‘Citizens of Courage’ Awards

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) honored seven brave individuals today during the DA’s 35<sup>th</sup> annual Citizens of Courage Awards, held as part of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. This year, National Crime Victim’s Rights Week was observed April 6-12. As part of this annual event, the DA not only highlights the courageous individuals who survived or witnessed a crime, but also the important services that are offered through the DA’s Victim Assistance program. The DA’s Office is the largest provider of victim services in the county.



“I hope this event inspires everyone to make us better as a community because we all have the potential of being Citizens of Courage,” DA Stephan said. “The seven individuals we are honoring today are an example of the courage that exists within us when placed in dangerous or trying circumstances. This special event helps us shine a light on the many courageous crime victims our office serves in the pursuit of justice every day, and the importance of supporting victims’ rights, which is at the heart of our mission at the District Attorney’s Office. I am very proud and grateful for the tireless service performed by our Victim Advocates on behalf of crime victims.”

The DA’s [Victim Services Division](#) strives to reduce the trauma, fear and pain experienced by victims, witnesses, and family members affected by crime. The Victim Assistance Program provides comprehensive services to all crime victims, while Victim Advocates are focused on providing assistance to victims of violent crimes. In 2024, they assisted **10,667** new crime victims. This assistance included **556** crisis interventions and **10,152** referrals to community resources. Additionally, **3,758** victims have completed **11,904** total visits to [One Safe Place: The North County Family Justice Center](#) since opening in 2022. These visits include comprehensive services such as case management, restraining orders, trauma therapy, forensic exams, connections to shelter and more.

Follow the District Attorney’s Office on



This year, the Citizens of Courage Awards ceremony was held at the Liberty Station Conference Center in front of more than 300 invited dignitaries, elected officials, community leaders and guests. Below are the 2025 Citizens of Courage recipients and links to videos telling their stories:

### **JENNA BRIANS**

Her maternal instinct and sixth sense led her to contact police in the middle of the night, who located her estranged husband as he was driving his truck off a cliff, allowing officers to rescue her twin daughters.

### **ERIN WILKERSON**

A resilient human trafficking survivor who was arrested, testified against her trafficker and now overcomes her trauma while speaking to law enforcement, sex buyers and women in correctional facilities.

### **ROBERT MOORE**

An off-duty security guard who witnessed a late-night shooting and came to the aid of the badly injured victim and her crying child.

### **A GROUP OF GOOD SAMARITANS**

A group of individuals who each stopped on the freeway to help a CHP officer who had been shot. Without this selfless group effort and the role each person played, the officer likely would not have survived.

###

### **About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office**

*The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.*

Follow the District Attorney's Office on

