

HALL OF JUSTICE
330 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-4040
SanDiegoDA.com



RACHEL SOLOV
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SUMMER STEPHAN
District Attorney

April 24, 2026
For Immediate Release

Contact: [Tanya Sierra](mailto:Tanya.Sierra@sdca.net) (619) 531-3315
En Español: [Barbara Medina](mailto:Barbara.Medina@sdca.net) (619) 531-3305

DA Honors Four Local Heroes at 36th Annual ‘Citizens of Courage’ Awards

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) honored four brave individuals today during the DA’s 36th 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 19-25. 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 largest provider of victim services in the county, the DA’s Victim Assistance program and One Safe Place: The San Diego County Family Justice Centers, which are a project of the DA’s Office.

“Every year, the Citizens of Courage Awards remind us that courage lives within each of us,” DA Stephan said. “The individuals we honor today demonstrate extraordinary strength and resilience in the face of crime, danger and adversity, inspiring us all to stand up for one another and for what is right. This event also shines a light on the many victims our office serves every day in the pursuit of justice and underscores the importance of protecting victims’ rights — core to our mission. I am deeply grateful for the unwavering dedication of our Victim Advocates, whose compassion and commitment make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.”



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 2025, they assisted **8,523** new crime victims. This assistance included **506** crisis interventions and **10,169** referrals to community resources.

Additionally, our office serves victims even before a police report is made, at [**One Safe Place: The San Diego County Family Justice Centers**](#), which have two locations; **One Safe Place: The North County Family Justice Center**, which opened in San Marcos in July 2022 and **One Safe Place: The South County Family Justice Center** in National City, which opened in October 2025. Combined, the DA's two family justice centers have served over **12,587** victims and survivors by providing comprehensive support services under one roof. These visits include services such as case management, restraining orders, trauma therapy, forensic exams, connections to shelter and more.

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 2026 Citizens of Courage recipients and links to videos telling their stories:

- [**Marcus Long**](#) – When violence erupted, Marcus bravely stepped in to stop a brutal attack and through his quick thinking helped locate the suspect.
- [**Alyssa**](#) – After surviving sexual assault by a trusted church leader and attempts to cover up by the church she trusted, Alyssa chose resilience over silence, rebuilding her life with courage and refusing to let the trauma define her.
- [**Linda Marshall**](#) – Targeted in a contractor scam, Linda has remained steadfast and determined throughout the ongoing prosecution, demonstrating unwavering courage in her pursuit of justice.
- [**Harmeena Omoto**](#) – When confronted with a serious school threat, Principal Omoto responded with calm authority and decisive leadership to protect her students and staff in her school and in court proceedings.

In a special moment, the DA marked seven years since **Lori Gilbert-Kaye** was viciously murdered while praying at the Chabad of Poway Synagogue by presenting her courageous daughter Hannah with a Citizens of Courage award in memory of her mother.

###

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.