

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.



Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

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Senator Patrick Leahy
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

December 5, 2008

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of its staff, Board of Directors and thousands of crime victims and families we have been privileged to serve, we wish to express our strong support for the nomination of Eric Holder as Attorney General.

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC) is a non-profit organization formerly known as the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc. with a twenty-six year history of distinguished achievement and service to victims of criminal violence. Like many of our nation's leading non-profits agencies serving crime victims, MCVRC's grass roots efforts were born out of tragedy. Roberta and Vincent Roper founded the organization bearing their slain daughter, Stephanie's name following their family's experience with the criminal justice system in 1982.

Over the past twenty-six years, we have worked with many individuals and agencies on the federal, state and local level. Under President Clinton's administration, we witnessed Mr. Holder's accomplishments as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. As a neighboring victim services agency to those in the District, we often found ourselves partnering with the U.S. Attorney's programs of victim services. Mr. Holder was a leader in creating DC's Children Advocacy Center, and its first domestic violence advocacy program within the victim witness unit. He demonstrated his commitment to vulnerable child victims by establishing a Kids Court program.

As a small non-profit agency, MCVRC has had a strong working relationship with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). When Mr. Holder was appointed the Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Justice, we observed and benefitted from his leadership in advancing the nation's awareness and support of crime victims' issues. As a result, many innovative approaches were developed to better meet the needs of citizens who bear the undeserved consequences of crime.

MCVRC mentors other non-profit and faith based victim services providers. We assist all victims of all crimes including identity theft and fraud victims so that all victims receive comprehensive services and rights including legal representation to make victims' rights a reality rather than a paper promise. These are a few of the many necessities that must be continued even in these difficult economic times. It is important that the Department have victim friendly leaders who will demand that justice for all includes justice for victims of crime. We have faith and trust in Mr. Holder and MCVRC supports his nomination and confirmation. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Roberta Roper, Chairperson and Founder

Russell P. Butler, Executive Director