

**Carol L. Lavery, Victim Advocate**  
**Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate**

Carol L. Lavery was confirmed as Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate on February 15, 2006 after being nominated by Governor Rendell for the position on January 3, 2006.

Prior to taking on this position, Ms. Lavery served for ten years as the Director of the Office of Victims' Services for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, where she was responsible for the allocation of over \$30 million annually in federal and state grant funding to community-based victim service programs, district attorneys offices and juvenile probation offices. She was also responsible for the oversight of the Commonwealth's Crime Victims Compensation Program. Under her leadership at PCCD, the Crime Victims Compensation Program increased claims more than 100 percent, while at the same time reducing the amount of time that a victim must wait for compensation from an average of 26 weeks to 8 weeks. At PCCD, she oversaw a variety of initiatives, including the development of service standards for victim service programs, the creation of a comprehensive victim advocate training program including one of the nation's first Victim Assistance Training Academies, and the implementation of the state's prestigious Governor's Pathfinder Awards Program for outstanding victim service professionals. In the aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, Ms. Lavery was responsible for the development and funding of services for Pennsylvania residents directly victimized or who lost family members in the New York and Pentagon attacks, and for the surviving family members of those killed in the Shanksville crash of Flight 93. She has been a leading force behind victim-related legislation, including enhanced rights for victims of juvenile crime and increased victim compensation benefits.

She served as Acting Executive Director for the Commission on Crime and Delinquency for an interim period during 2005.

Ms. Lavery's current and former national board activities include President of the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA), a Board member of National Association of Victim Assistance Administrators, a Regional Representative to the National Criminal Justice Association Advisory Council, and active member of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards.

She is a founding member and former board president of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and a former board officer and one of the founders of the Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victim Organizations.

She served as the first Executive Director of the Victims Resource Center of Luzerne/Wyoming Counties, a position which she held for 17 years. Ms. Lavery holds a Masters in Public Administration from Marywood University and a Bachelor's Degree from Wilkes University.

Read more at... <http://www.pbpp.state.pa.us/ova>