

7:00PM – 8:30PM

Plenary Session: Blackout Girl: Sexual Assault and Addiction, Understanding the Link

Jennifer Storm, Victim Advocate, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Session Description:

A short documentary and discussion shining a light on the dark secrets of shame and addiction and revealing a path towards healing and recovery. Blackout Girl shows us that addiction and other mental health disorders are directly linked to the trauma of sexual violence and in fact often used as coping mechanisms.

Speaker Biography:



Governor Tom Corbett nominated Jennifer R. Storm as Commonwealth Victim Advocate on November 8, 2013. She was confirmed by the state Senate on Dec. 10, 2013, to serve a six-year term. As Victim Advocate, she is responsible for representing the rights and interests of crime victims before the Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) and to provide notification to crime victims of the potential for inmate release, opportunity to provide testimony, and notification of the inmate's movement within the correctional system. Further, Ms. Storm is responsible for advocating the interests of adult and juvenile crime victims throughout Pennsylvania.

Prior to this appointment, Ms. Storm served for 10 years as executive director of the Dauphin County Victim/Witness Assistance Program, a non-profit organization which provides direct services to victims of crime, community outreach and training in victim's rights, and crisis response services.

The author of several books and magazine articles, Ms. Storm has received numerous awards for the telling of her personal story of victimization, addiction and recovery. She has traveled the country giving keynotes, lectures, workshops, and panel discussions regarding victims' rights, LGBT rights, addiction and recovery, and civil rights.

Ms. Storm has been profiled in, and interviewed for, many major national media outlets including: NBC's The Today Show and Dateline, People Magazine, CNN, Rolling Stone Magazine, World News Tonight with Diane Sawyer, CBS 48 Hours Live to Tell, E! News, Washington Post, Business Weekly, USA Today and many more.

Ms. Storm currently serves on the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Victims' Services Advisory Committee, PA Commission on Sentencing, Crime Victims Alliance of PA, the State Council for The Interstate Compact on Juvenile and Adult Offenders and chairs the PA Task Force on Restitution.