



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
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300 W. Adams Street • Suite 200 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

# **NEWS**

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**CONTACT:** Cristin Monti Evans  
o. 312-793-8408  
c. 773-615-6243

## **Office on Violence Against Women Director Visits Illinois in Nationwide Tour Honoring Violence Against Women Act's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Two-day visit will highlight programs that stop violence against women in Illinois*

CHICAGO—June 30, 2015: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Executive Director John Maki will welcome Bea Hanson, Principal Deputy Director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), to the Authority today on her nationwide tour to engage with communities dedicated to ending violence against women.

Hanson will be joined by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, and Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans, who have implemented Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)-supported programs in Illinois.

Administered by the Authority, Illinois has received nearly \$100 million in federal S.T.O.P. VAWA program funding since 1995. The Authority maintains close partnerships with state and local leaders, the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault to provide VAWA-funded victims' services across the state.

"We welcome the opportunity to share the impact of Violence Against Women Act programs with Director Hanson," said Executive Director Maki. "These services have helped thousands of women in Illinois who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and other victimization."

While in Chicago, Hanson will meet with members of the Cook County Domestic Violence Task Force and the Illinois Sexual Assault Working Group and visit the Cook County State's Attorney Resource Center, Cook County Domestic Violence Court, and headquarters of the YWCA Sexual Assault Hotline and the Domestic Violence Helpline.

OVW's grant programs are designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable. Since 1995, OVW has awarded more than \$5.7 billion to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in communities across the country.

The Authority is dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice with work in the areas of grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology. Visit [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).

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