



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 22, 2021**

## **Jennifer Storm Resigns as Acting Commonwealth Victim Advocate**

**Harrisburg, Pa.** — The Pennsylvania Office of Victim Advocate (OVA) today announced that Jennifer Storm will be resigning her position as Acting Commonwealth Victim Advocate, effective January 29, 2021.

Storm submitted her letter of resignation today to Governor Tom Wolf (attached).

“During my tenure, I am proud to say that with the incredible staff at OVA, we have accomplished every one of my lofty goals, improving an already excellent office,” said Storm. “The staff of OVA are the finest victim advocates you can come by and I look to my successor to continue to advocate for the staff, the mission of the office, and the incredible community of impacted persons they will have the privilege of serving.”

Jennifer served as Commonwealth Victim Advocate from 2013 to 2021, under the leadership and nominations of both Governors Corbett and Wolf. During her tenure, accomplishments include:

- Receiving more than 2.6 million in federal grant funds to expand services through hiring additional and more specialized staff
- Creating OVA satellite offices in Philadelphia, Allegheny, Lehigh and Northeastern regions, as well as within the Office of Attorney General
- Creating the first-in-the-nation Institutional Victim Assistance Coordinator whose role is solely to advocate for inmates and staff who are victimized within the walls of our state correctional institutions

[You can read OVA's latest annual report here.](#)

“I came into the role as Commonwealth Victim Advocate knowing the political realities of the position, and I did so with fidelity and determination,” said Storm. “I leave the office knowing that I have served crime victims and survivors - and the office - well and with uncompromising courage.”

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Contact Jennifer Storm directly at 717.579.1100

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**pennsylvania**

OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE

*Giving Crime Victims a Voice*

*Courage • Strength • Resilience*

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Office of Victim Advocate

Dear Governor Wolf,

It is with great sadness but excitement for my future that I tender my resignation as Acting Victim Advocate for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania effective January 29, 2021. Appreciating the fact that you inherited me from a prior administration, your leadership, commitment to understanding and loyalty are tenets I will forever respect. I thank you for believing in my work enough to reappointing me and fighting on my behalf during what can only be described as a political witch hunt.

I came into this role seven years ago knowing all too well of those political realities and I did so with the fidelity that I would bring myself wholly into this position. I would not compromise for political purposes when it came to the fundamental rights and services that crime victims and survivors deserve. I believe I have been an honest broker for them and the office, I have served them well and in turn leave to continue that work in new and exciting ways.

During my tenure, I had the good fortune of working with and reshaping the Office of Victim Advocate, I came in with lofty goals and am proud to say we have accomplished every single one of those goals. I cannot praise the staff of OVA highly enough, they are the finest victim advocates you can come by and they deserve a leader who will continue to advocate for them, the mission of the office, and the incredible community of impacted persons they have the privilege of serving.

I want to thank you and your administration, you have always held an open ear and mind when it came to understanding the issues facing victims and survivors, your administration has balanced your goals of reforming our system while respecting and holding intact the rights of those harmed by it. You have broken ground in many ways for those harmed by crime through your initiatives over the years and it has been an honor to stand with you in support.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Jennifer Storm*

Jennifer Storm