

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE LAUNCHES IDENTITY THEFT TASK FORCE



Alexandria, VA (October 5, 2009) – As the number of incidents of personal victimizations continue to rise across the country, the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) has launched an Identity Theft Task Force to address the issues of identity theft that face consumers every day.

Chaired by the Honorable Chief Justice Richard Barajas, NOVA’s Identity Theft Task Force will address critical issues of the crime and develop a set of best practices for victim advocates across the nation. The Task Force will also work towards building educational curriculum for consumers related to the crime of identity theft. Barajas is a nationally recognized lecturer on the proper balancing of the constitutional rights between the criminal defendant and the victim.

“We believe that this is a critical time to form this Task Force as the reported cases of identity theft continue to rise across the United States,” said Will Marling, Executive Director of NOVA. “By assembling a collection of thought leaders with a variety of backgrounds from law enforcement and victim advocacy, we believe that we will be able to further spread an educational message to consumers about what they can do to protect themselves from becoming a victim of this crime.”

Joining Chief Justice Barajas on the Identity Theft Task Force include: **Paul Babeu**, Sheriff, Pinal County (AZ); **Cindy Charlebois**, Director, San Diego County District Attorney’s Victim Assistance Program; **James Gierke**, Victim Advocate (AZ); **Margaret Garvin**, Executive Director, National Crime Victim Law Institute (OR); **Robert Krakauer**, Executive Vice President, CFO, LifeLock (AZ); **Will Marling**, Executive Director, National Organization for Victim Assistance (VA); **Joe Myers**, Executive Director, National Indian Justice Center (CA); **Felicia Nu’Man**, Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney, Jefferson County (KY); **Cheryl Ricciardi**, Statewide Crisis Response Coordinator, Florida Crisis Response Team, Office of the Attorney General; **Cynthia Taylor**, Director, Consumer Protection Division, Boulder District Attorney’s Office (CO) and **Lawrence Wilson**, Executive Director, Identity Theft Victims Support Group of North America (TX).

About NOVA®

The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization of victim and witness assistance programs and practitioners, criminal justice agencies and professionals, mental health professionals, researchers, former victims and survivors, and others committed to the recognition and implementation of victim rights and services. Founded in 1975, NOVA is the oldest national group of its kind in the worldwide victims’ movement. NOVA’s mission is to promote rights and services for victims of crime and crisis everywhere.

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