



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
MIKE HESTRIN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WEBSITE: WWW.RIVCODA.ORG

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CONTACT: JOHN HALL  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY INFORMATION SPECIALIST  
951.955.8662

## **DA MIKE HESTRIN ANNOUNCES NEW DIVISION OF VICTIM SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**RIVERSIDE** – Today, Sept. 3, 2015, District Attorney Mike Hestrin announced the new director of the office's Division of Victim Services, Melissa Donaldson.

Donaldson has been in the social services field for more than 30 years with experience at the local, state, and national levels through her work with various task forces, commissions, and coalitions.

She has served as the executive director of Safe Alternatives For Everyone (SAFE) since the agency formed in October 2001. SAFE initially served domestic violence victims through volunteer efforts, and Donaldson developed it into a true service provider which now offers a multitude of services and programs to victims of abuse and violence as well as their families.

"The Division of Victim Services is a key component in accomplishing our overall mission in this office," DA Mike Hestrin said. "Reaching out to and caring for the victims of crime are both integral parts of our achieving justice.

"Melissa Donaldson has been a leader in the field of victim services for many years and we are very fortunate to have her take the helm of our Division of Victim Services. I look forward to achieving many great things together," Hestrin added.

Donaldson has been a Riverside County Family Justice Center board member since its inception and has also been closely involved with many service groups including the Temecula/Murrieta Police Activities League, both the National and California Police Activities League, Operation for Hope, and the Circle of Safe-T advisory council.

She has been recognized many times for her work including the 2008 California Governor's Crime Victim Advocate Award and as the 2009 Third District County of Riverside Woman of the Year.

"I am excited for this opportunity at the Riverside County District Attorney's Office and to start a new chapter in my work life," Donaldson said. "I have worked with victims of crime my entire professional career and this opportunity will enable me to do that work on a much larger scale. I have much respect for District Attorney Mike Hestrin and all the staff doing the hard work of keeping our communities safe, and I look forward to being part of that team."

Melissa earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Administration in 1984 from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She has been married to her husband, Daniel, for 30 years and has two children and one grandchild.

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