

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BARNETTE RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO CRIME VICTIMS

Seventh Judicial Circuit Principal Deputy Solicitor Barry Barnette has been recognized for his commitment to crime victims.

The veteran prosecutor received the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network's Criminal Justice Award during a luncheon today in Greenville.

"It is a great honor," Barnette said. "Being a former crime victim myself, I understand and appreciate the importance of good communication throughout the life of the case."

The nomination included letters of support from local police officers, crime victims and his peers in the prosecutor's office.

"Barry is one of the first people in the office every day and one of the last to leave at the end of the day," Solicitor Trey Gowdy said. "He is a walking legal directory for young attorneys and police officers seeking legal advice in the field. He answers without hesitation, regardless of whether the question is posed in the middle of the night or the morning of a trial."

Two recent cases exemplify the success.

Barnette secured a murder conviction on a case where the victim's body wasn't recovered. He used forensic evidence and witness testimony to convince jurors that two defendants were guilty of murder. Days later, Barnette secured 10 life prison sentences on a career criminal's 55-count plea that occurred about three months after the arrest.

Barnette's 20-year career in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties include service as a magistrate, a DUI prosecutor and a violent crime prosecutor. He is the 2006 recipient of the Ernest F. Hollings Award for Excellence in State Prosecution.

Barnette is the second member of his office to be recognized by the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network. Solicitor Gowdy received the organization's criminal justice award in 2003.

Barnette was one of three Spartanburg County residents recognized during the luncheon today. Victim Advocate Debra Foster of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office received the organization's service provider award to Kathy Pierce received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Pierce is a former crime victim who routinely volunteers

with her local sheriff's office. Pierce displayed her thoughtfulness toward others today by donating two flower arrangements that were displayed during the luncheon.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892.

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