

Local DA Recognized for Efforts

Dale and Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams was awarded the prestigious Miriam Shehane Award by V.O.C.A.L. (Victims of Crime and Leniency) at the organization's annual candlelight and awards ceremony held in Dothan Sunday, April 26.

Each year, through the Miriam Shehane Award, V.O.C.A.L. honors extraordinary individuals who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes individuals who work with victims with the same caliber of dogmatic passion and concern as the one for whom the award is named.

Miriam Shehane founded V.O.C.A.L. in 1982 after her daughter was brutally murdered in Birmingham while a student at Birmingham Southern in 1976. Three men were arrested and tried for the crime. All were convicted but guilty convictions were overturned on appeal. The family had to suffer through several trials and years of fighting to keep one of the defendants in jail. One defendant was

executed in 1990 and one is serving a life without parole sentence. After experiencing the difficulties of the criminal justice system, Shehane dedicated her life to helping other victims understand the system. V.O.C.A.L. is a statewide organization that provides many services to victims and victims' families including crime scene clean-up, counseling, compensation assistance, funeral arrangements and court attendance.

Each year during National Crime Victims Rights Week, V.O.C.A.L. awards worthy candidates for their accomplishments. V.O.C.A.L. recognized Adams for the care and compassion he showed to victims' families during the Samson massacre. He was also recognized for his success in the courtroom as the voice for those victims too young to speak and those whose voices have been silenced forever by violent crime.



ADAMS AWARDED — Kirke Adams, district attorney for Dale and Geneva counties, was given the Miriam Shehane Award by V.O.C.A.L. (Victims of Crime and Leniency) Sunday. He is shown here with Miriam Shehane, V.O.C.A.L. founder and executive director.