

# **Governor Doyle Appoints Carmen Pitre to Crime Victims Rights Board**

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today appointed Carmen Pitre to the Crime Victims Rights Board as a citizen member. Pitre will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Angela Sutkiewicz following Sutkiewicz’s appointment to the Sheboygan County Circuit Court. Pitre’s term will begin immediately.

“Carmen Pitre is a dedicated advocate for victims’ rights and I am confident she will continue her great work on the Crime Victims Rights Board,” Governor Doyle said. “I want to make sure that in Wisconsin, every crime victim, particularly those of sensitive crimes such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse to know they can go into a police station or a prosecutor’s office and be treated in a professional and respectful manner.”

“Carmen Pitre is a strong and vocal advocate for victims’ rights,” Patti Seger, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, said. “She has had an extensive career advocating for victims of crimes within the justice system and in community-based organizations. Carmen will bring a very positive, victim-oriented position to the board. I would also like to commend and thank Governor Doyle for his strong and consistent support of victims’ rights.”

“I have had the privilege of serving survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse as my life’s work,” Carmen Pitre said. “Survivors have taught me the importance of seeking justice and what this can mean to their healing process. The work of the Crime Victims Rights Board is at the very heart of our collective commitment to making life better for victims in our communities. I am honored to have been asked to serve on the Crime Victims Rights Board and I am grateful to Governor Doyle for appointing me to this critical position.”

Carmen Pitre has served as the Sojourner Family Peace Center Co-Executive Director since 2009. Her vast experience in victims’ rights issues includes serving as Executive Director of the Task Force on Family Violence from 2002-2009, Project Director for the Milwaukee County Judicial Oversight Initiative, Coordinator of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence, and as training coordinator for the Milwaukee County Fighting Back Initiative.

Pitre also has served on a number of professional committees aimed at preventing violence. She has received numerous professional awards including the 2008 Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence Change Makers Award. She resides in Milwaukee and earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1984.