



*Los Angeles County  
District Attorney's*

# *Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony*

*Friday, October 7, 2016*

*Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles*

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

### **HOLLIE BOWERS**

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Andrea Mader

On Jan. 5, 2015, a 59-year-old motorcyclist was driving home on the 91 Freeway in Cerritos when he was rear-ended by a drunken driver. The collision launched the victim airborne and he landed approximately 100 feet away from his motorcycle. Ms. Bowers, then a 19-year-old University of Southern California student, witnessed the collision and called 911. She got out of her car to assist the injured motorcyclist. She spoke with him and then relayed his information to paramedics when they arrived. She also called the victim's wife to alert her about the crash. The victim later died from multiple injuries suffered in the collision. Ms. Bowers assisted prosecutors and even came to court to support the victim's wife, who she did not know prior to this crime, during the sentencing phase of the case.

### **MANDEEP KUMAR and ROBERT ESPINA**

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Joy Sumabat-Graff

Mr. Kumar was walking to dinner in Los Angeles' Westlake District on July 23, 2015, when he heard a woman scream. He ran toward the sound and saw a 21-year-old gang member standing over a woman as she cowered on the ground. Mr. Kumar demanded that the man leave the woman alone. Angry at Mr. Kumar's intervention, the man smashed a bottle and swung the broken glass at Mr. Kumar, slashing his arm. The assailant then threatened to kill Mr. Kumar. Police arrived and Mr. Espina approached the officers to report what he witnessed. He told police that the assailant was beating up a woman just before Mr. Kumar appeared. At great risk to themselves, both Mr. Kumar and Mr. Espina cooperated with the prosecution of the gang member and testified at trial.

### **CHARLIE ABBOTT**

Presented by Deputy District Attorney John Lewin

A 28-year-old nurse was found murdered inside her Torrance apartment on the night of Aug. 29, 1979. Police suspected the victim's ex-boyfriend but he had an alibi: He said he was sailing. At the time, there was not enough evidence to charge anyone with the crime; the investigation became inactive. More than two decades later, Torrance police reexamined the case and on March 12, 2009, the ex-boyfriend was charged with the murder. Prosecutors needed an expert witness who could challenge the defendant's alibi. They found Mr. Abbott, a seasoned skipper. He donated an enormous amount of his time to the prosecution, conducting research and analyzing records. He also helped them understand, simplify and clearly explain to jurors the complex concepts of currents and wind conditions as well as weather patterns. With Mr. Abbott's assistance, prosecutors were able to thoroughly impeach the defendant's expert witnesses and devastate his alibi.