



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Westchester

AWARD RECIPIENTS

BRANDY MAYES

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Melanie Drew

On July 29, 2017, Ms. Brandy Mayes was driving a limousine in Pasadena, when she saw a man dragging a woman by the hair toward his vehicle. She parked her limousine in order to intervene, causing the man to release the 19-year-old woman and flee. Ms. Mayes walked with the victim to a nearby market, called police and stayed at the scene until authorities arrived. Police later located the man and arrested him. Ms. Mayes cooperated with prosecutors and was willing to testify in court, prompting the man to plead no contest to the charges.

MARIA NUNEZ AND SELESTINO PENALOZA

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Monique Preoteasa

Ms. Maria Nunez and Mr. Selestino Penalzoza came to the aid of a bicyclist who was knocked to the ground and threatened by a man wielding two long sticks. Ms. Nunez and Mr. Penalzoza saw the Nov. 1, 2018, attack from separate vehicles in South Los Angeles. Mr. Penalzoza checked on the bicyclist, then followed the assailant, stopping two police officers along the way, who arrested the man. Meanwhile, Ms. Nunez assisted the bicyclist until first responders arrived. Ms. Nunez and Mr. Penalzoza identified the defendant for police. Through their testimony at trial, they helped deputy district attorneys secure a conviction.

SABRINA O'HARA

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Lucrecia Boado

Ms. Sabrina O'Hara heard a man screaming outside her West Hollywood home on Nov. 7, 2018, and went to help him. She was aiding the man, who had a large gash on his palm and blood on his arm, when she saw the assailant across the street threatening to stab the man again. Ms. O'Hara told the man to go away and called 911. While she was on the phone, the man threatened to kill her and then fled. Despite the threat, Ms. O'Hara continued to help the man. Authorities located the assailant nearby, and Ms. O'Hara identified him. She later testified in court, and the defendant was convicted.