



## United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II Northern District of West Virginia

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### **YWCA and U.S. Attorney's Office partner for National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

*Area high schools to hear from victim of Online Predator*

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA — In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week the United States Attorney's Office has partnered with the YWCA of Wheeling to educate local students about the dangers of sexual predators on the Internet.

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II, announced that a young woman from Pittsburgh will speak to high school students in the area this week about her near-death experience at the hands of a man that she met in an Internet chat room. Alicia Kozakiewicz was the victim of violent sexual predator and lived to tell about it, and now travels the country as part of "Alicia's Project" to share her story with teenagers. A grant obtained by the YWCA has allowed this program to be brought to the Ohio Valley.

Ms. Kozakiewicz's story has received widespread attention over the past several years, in part due to her testimony before Congress in 2007 that led to the passage of the "Protect Act" in 2008. Her story was featured on the Oprah Show as well as internationally in magazines in the hope of raising awareness. She also has participated in Internet safety films for the FBI, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, the Pennsylvania Center for Safe Schools, and the Biography Channel. She co-authored a publication titled "You're Not Alone," an Office of Juvenile Justice publication whose goal is to empower other victims, and was the subject of an award winning Internet safety documentary for PBS.

This week Ms. Kozakiewicz will speak to students at Wheeling Park High School and Cameron High School on April 25 and to students at Paden City High School on April 26.

"We're proud to partner with the YWCA on such an important topic," said U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld. "Now more than ever our children need to learn about the dangers of online predators and how quickly someone they're communicating with can show up on their doorstep and do harm to them."