

Honoring those who seek justice for women

During the recent Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) Justice for Victims of Crime Conference, awards were given out to various people who have been working in the women's justice field for several years.

One award went to Karen Artichoker. Karen is a member of the management team of Sacred Circle, a national resource center funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, that address-



Karen Artichoker, front right, accepts her award

es the safety of Native women, sexual assault and domestic violence.

In addition to being one of the management team members, Karen also helped and was very critical to the drafting and the development of the first Violence Against Women Act, in 1994. With the assurance that Native women were included in the act and that resources were a channel to Indian governments to create programming in response to violence against Native women.

Karen has received numerous awards over her 13 years of service, ranging from the Ford Foundation, to the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School.

In addition, Ms. Artichoker has a very special connection to the TLPI conference, as the chair and director and helping to sponsor the very first conference.

This next award went to a married couple. Babette and Skip Sandman have dedicated their lives and their work to helping people heal from spiritual abuse which I think is the most insidious form of violence that we suffer from in our nations today.

Skip is a traditional healer and he has given his gift to so many women who have suffered at the hands of those who were supposed to be spiritual guides and leaders. His wife Babette is an advocate

and stands by while Skip does his healing work with the women who have suffered. They were presented with a certificate that says: *'The Victim Advocacy Award Ninth National Indian Nations Justice for Victims of Crime Conference Babette Sandman, Skip Sandman in recognition for outstanding leadership in the field of victim advocacy in Indian country. Your tireless efforts on behalf of victims of crime are appreciated.'*



The Sandman's, center and right, receive their awards.

The next awardee is not here with us this evening but her husband is Herman Hooch. Lenora Hooch is currently the President of the Alaskan Native Women's Coalition, and could not join us this evening. She is the Executive Director of the only Native women's shelter in the state of Alaska. Her village is at the base of the Yukon River and the Pacific Ocean. During the winter, the only way to get to her village is by snowmobile, or a very small plane. During the summer, their highway is the river. She has served as



Executive Director for close to 15 years, the shelter has been there for 17 years. The shelter is a product of the village people's contribution to the safety of, not only that village, but outlying villages also. Originally they gathered donations of food, clothing and bedding and the structure itself without any funding. It is not only the oldest shelter in the state of Alaska it is the only Native women's shelter. It continues to exist today because of the dedication of the staff and the dedication of Lenora Hooch.



Jackie Agtuca is honored at TLPI

The last recognition goes to Jackie Agtuca.

Jackie has worked tirelessly especially in the last two weeks to help put this conference together. She has been traveling day in and day out, to Washington to talk to legislators to find justice for victims of crime, she deserves so much more praise than we could ever give her.

