

# PRESS RELEASE

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*Founded by Soroptimist International Northwestern Region*

## **NOMINATIONS FOR THE JVM JOURNALISM AWARD NOW OPEN** *The Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award Nominations Opens April 1st*



**Portland, OR (March 31, 2011)** –Soroptimist’s Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking opens the nomination period for journalists who are dedicated and consistent in keeping the “war on women” visible to their audiences throughout the year.

The Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award is named after award-winning journalist Jane Velez-Mitchell, host of “Issues” on HLN. Velez-Mitchell was honored in 2010 with the organization’s prestigious Ruby Award for her ongoing dedication and advocacy for women and girls. “We are hoping journalists throughout the country will be nominated for their great work in keeping the awareness and ‘issues’ on the violence against women a focus point of their reporting as Jane does five nights a week,” said Michelle Bart, the organization’s Human Trafficking Chairperson.

*The Jane Velez-Mitchell Award recognizes excellence in coverage of news of local, national, and international significance, with a single award for either a print or broadcast journalist who uses the power of media and his or her position to highlight the ongoing violence against women and girls, whether domestic violence, human trafficking, kidnapping and abductions, hate crimes, or other despicable crimes and violence against women and girls.*

*The honoree(s) of this prestigious award will be recognized for her/his ability to keep women and girls a focus point in their messages to their audience and the public. Their dedication and support of Soroptimist principles will be acknowledged in an award presentation every year.*

The JVM Journalism Award will be awarded on January 14, 2012 in Portland, Oregon during the annual Human Trafficking Conference by Ms. Velez-Mitchell. **“I am proud to support such an honorable and urgent cause by encouraging journalists to cover the critical issues affecting women. Fighting the “war on women” must become a priority in our society...this can be accomplished only by making it a priority in our national dialogue,”** said Velez-Mitchell.

Applications are now available on [www.NWCAT.org](http://www.NWCAT.org). Deadline for submission is September 30, 2011.

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