



**SNAP Executive Director David Clohessy  
Will Speak at VOTF 10<sup>th</sup> Year Conference**

Since 1991, David Clohessy has served as the national director of SNAP, the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, the nation's largest and oldest self-help group for clergy molestation victims. This tireless advocate for abuse victims will address Voice of the Faithful's 10<sup>th</sup> Year Conference on Saturday morning, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Boston Copley Place Hotel. [Click here](#) for a conference agenda.



As SNAP's executive director, Clohessy has travelled and spoken extensively, helping to set up local support groups in more than 50 cities. In 2002, Clohessy was one of only four abuse survivors to address all of America's Catholic bishops at their historic meeting in Dallas, which resulted in the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. He has decried the sexual abuse of minors in the Catholic Church and championed abuse survivors in television appearances on *Sixty Minutes*, the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, the *Phil Donahue Show* and *Good Morning America*, and he has been featured or quoted in dozens of newspapers around the world.

Clohessy's professional career has included working as a community organizer in low income neighborhoods and as a union organizer representing low-wage workers. He has also served as a political and public relations consultant. Clohessy helped elect St. Louis' first African American mayor (Freeman Bosley, Jr.), and later joined his communications staff. He also helped elect the city's first female prosecutor (Dee Joyce Hayes) and guided school districts and other public entities seeking tax and bond measures at the ballot box.

In 2007, Clohessy received the Lifetime Achievement in Advocacy Award from the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), which serves those who most need an ally during the most painful of times of their lives. This award is given to an individual who exemplifies compassion, wisdom and tirelessness, and honors and encourages the qualities of an advocate by recognizing outstanding life achievement on behalf of victims of family violence.

Clohessy is a 1978 graduate of Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. In June 2003, he received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the school.

