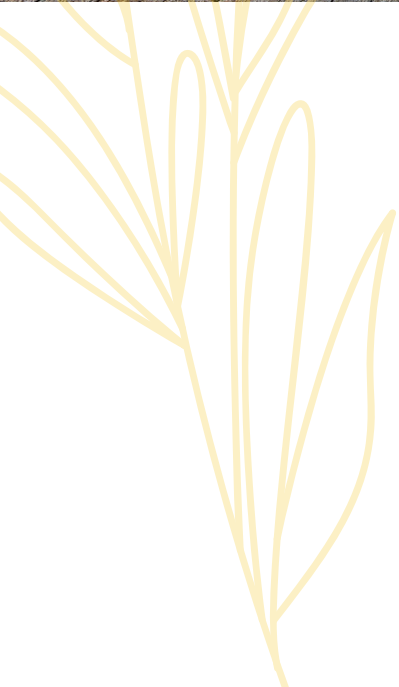




Representation. Dedication. Compassion.



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**VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER | ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

(10/1/2021 – 9/30/2022)

*The VRLC's mission is to provide legal representation to victims of rape and sexual assault to help rebuild their lives; and to promote a national movement committed to seeking justice for every rape and sexual assault victim.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

We are delighted to provide you with an overview of the critical work of our staff and volunteers in Fiscal Year 2022. The year saw many victories for sexual assault survivors as we continued to address their immediate legal needs and uplift their voices through our services. Our national training team grew, and our impact was amplified through creative and practical offerings for lawyers, advocates, and other professionals to unite and strengthen the national response to sexual violence.

Donors and volunteers continued to invest in VRLC because we are the leader in the legal response to sexual violence. Our approach works. The “secret sauce” is the synergy of providing comprehensive legal representation to individual survivors while simultaneously training and mentoring other professionals to improve the response to sexual violence nationwide. VRLC makes an impact both locally and nationally. This annual report showcases our unwavering and compassionate efforts to help survivors when and where they need us the most.

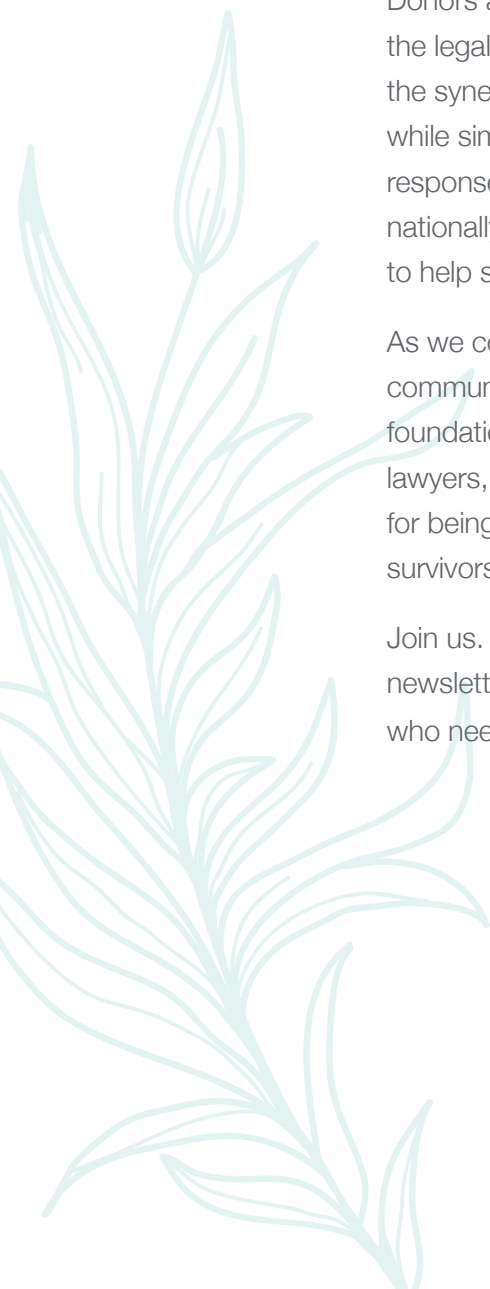
As we continued to navigate cuts to our core funding, we were confident that our community would lift us up. The generous support of individuals, businesses and foundations in FY 2022 enabled us to answer the calls of survivors who need free lawyers, and to partner with them in the journey to reclaim their futures. Thank you for being a member of our cherished community, investing in VRLC, and believing survivors.

Join us. Please follow VRLC on social media (@VictimRightsLaw), sign up for our newsletter, volunteer, host an event, and donate. Let’s keep VRLC strong for those who need us.

In gratitude,



**Stacy Malone, Esq.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# Legal Help for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors

Sexual assault survivors often reach out to VRLC needing help with multiple complex legal issues. VRLC attorneys provide a wide range of expertise across several areas of law and do so with a trauma-informed approach. This enables survivors to get help on a variety of legal needs all in one place - VRLC.

**Massachusetts:** VRLC attorneys focused on expanding safety protections for survivors. Staff attorneys collaborated with local firms to build our capacity to manage appeals in civil protection order matters and to protect our clients' private records during the criminal prosecution of their perpetrators. Our efforts saw staff argue before a three-member panel of the Massachusetts Court of Appeals for the first time as well prepare for a Single Justice appeal. Staff attorneys also collaborated with organizations statewide to provide feedback on proposed edits to the 258E Harassment Prevention Order for survivors of non-intimate partner violence. VRLC advocated to expand the available protections so that survivors of non-intimate partner violence can have the same safety precautions available to survivors of intimate partner violence, including firearm forfeiture for 258E defendants.

**Oregon:** VRLC attorneys continued to provide critical legal assistance to rape and sexual assault survivors in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. The primary legal practice areas requested by survivors were education law and immigration law. Our team also created and distributed an Oregon Civil Protection Order chart, which has proven to be a valuable tool for attorneys and victim advocates across the state to determine which type of civil protection order best applies to their clients. This chart will serve as a template to explore jurisdiction-specific protection orders throughout the country in the future.

Both Oregon and Massachusetts VRLC offices moved in 2022! Each office is now located in easily accessible parts of downtown Portland and Boston respectively. As we emerged from pandemic restrictions, it has been exciting to meet clients in our new offices as well as at community partner sites.

Luisa\* was raped by her supervisor.



Luisa's Victim Rights Law Center attorney helped her secure a visa so she could stay in the country with her family. Her attorney also helped change Luisa's work schedule and obtain employment authorization to keep her employed and safe - all at no cost to her.

*"The VRLC has changed, saved, and transformed my life, and has allowed me to imagine and create a world for hundreds of other survivors where they are given the chance to express themselves without judgment, and to heal."*  
-Luisa

\*Client names and images have been changed to protect survivor privacy.

Ariana\* was sexually assaulted by a college classmate.



Ariana's school health center referred her to the Victim Rights Law Center. Her free VRLC attorney helped Ariana secure a restraining order against the assailant, move to a different dormitory, and develop a safety plan so she could attend her classes and activities.

*"I lost the ability to imagine a world in which I could be safe. The VRLC were my champions. Through their unfailing support, I thrived, was loved, and felt safe enough to heal."*  
-Ariana

\*Client names and images have been changed to protect survivor privacy.

Grace\* was raped by the superintendent in her apartment building.



Grace's Victim Rights Law Center attorney helped her report the assault to law enforcement, break her lease, and negotiate safety measures at her new apartment so that Grace and her child would feel safe in their home.

*"VRLC lawyers were a huge part of my healing process. They helped me to see myself as an advocate for change versus a victim of a violent crime."*  
- Grace

\*Client names and images have been changed to protect survivor privacy.

Jamie\* was sexually abused by their uncle starting at 9 years old.



A child advocacy center referred Jamie to the Victim Rights Law Center. Jamie's VRLC attorney walked them through the criminal justice process and prevented the abuser from accessing their medical and therapy records during the trial. Knowing what to expect and securing Jamie's privacy helped them feel more comfortable testifying at the trial.

*"You gave me back control of my life. You helped me go from victim to victor."*  
- Jamie

\*Client names and images have been changed to protect survivor privacy.

## Board of Directors

- Rebecca Chasen, Co-Chair
- Krista Green Pratt, Esq., Co-Chair
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- Lizzie Hunpatin
- Sofia Hussain
- Brett Mirliani
- Karen O'Malley, Esq.
- Andrea Robinson, Esq.
- Brenda Sharton, Esq.
- Maegan Wilkinson

# Representation

## Massachusetts

**797**

individuals called the Massachusetts intake line

**419**

rape, sexual assault and stalking survivors were assisted with **904** separate legal matters

**43%**

of clients identified as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color)

**22%**

identified as immigrants

**18%**

had limited English proficiency

**6%**

were experiencing homelessness

**35%**

disclosed a disability

**17%**

identified as LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and others)



**400**

individuals called the Oregon intake line

**416**

rape, sexual assault and stalking survivors were assisted with **695** separate legal matters

**77%**

of clients identified as BIPOC

**65%**

identified as immigrants

**45%**

had limited English proficiency

**8%**

were experiencing homelessness

**21%**

disclosed a disability

**13%**

identified as LGBTQIA+



## Oregon

# VRLC on Sexual Violence in Antarctica

VRLC, as part of a larger team, worked for two years on issues of sexual harassment and assault within the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP), culminating in an eye-opening review. In August 2022, the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs published **a report** on sexual assault and harassment in USAP. Since its release, the high prevalence of sexual assault and harassment in the USAP has come under intense scrutiny by Congress, major news outlets, and science publications. In collaboration with the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs, VRLC spent several months in Antarctica facilitating a series of listening sessions, analyzing survey responses, and launching a confidential advocacy program for the USAP community to improve the response to sexual violence in this unique setting. Our work on the ice continues to help make the USAP a safer environment.



## Strengthening the National Response to Sexual Violence

Our National Training and Consultation program is far-reaching, creating a ripple effect nationwide. Throughout 2022, VRLC's National Training and Consultation team provided training, mentorship, and consultation to 1,750 attorneys, advocates, higher education professionals, and other service providers in 51 U.S. states and territories. VRLC's team of experts conducted these trainings and consultations under three Office on Violence Against Women funded projects: the Sexual Assault Justice Education Project; Legal Empowerment Advocacy Project; and the Student Conduct Dating, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Capacity Building Project.

VRLC closely collaborated with numerous partners, including the National Housing Law Project; El Programa Hispano Católico; Aequitas; Clery Center; Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resources Center; National Organization for Victim Assistance; and the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Trainings included advocacy for survivors in the criminal justice system; deliberate sanctioning practices; understanding the toxicology of alcohol-facilitated sexual assault; a small group cohort specifically for supervising attorneys; and much more. Following several of these trainings, the team also conducted Share and Learn calls, which provided the unique opportunity to discuss case- and program-specific questions as well as build relationships with other attorneys and advocates nationwide who have encountered similar challenges.

VRLC attorneys launched and distributed guides and resources that hundreds of attorneys now use each year to better serve survivors of sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence. In 2022, we created a Legal Pleading Bank, and updated our much sought after Legal Practice Manual. We also produced a 40-minute training video to enhance the questioning techniques of higher education professionals in dating and domestic violence cases.

VRLC's national program engages in policy work that directly impacts not only VRLC clients but all sexual assault survivors. In 2022, we submitted a public comment to the U.S. Department of Education in response to proposed Title IX changes under the Biden administration. The comment states in part, "The proposed regulations address some of the most insidious aspects of the current regulatory regime. We offer this comment to help guide and facilitate changes that would strike the appropriate balance of equity and fairness from a trauma-informed perspective. Our sincerest hope is that student-victims will not be afraid of reporting sexual assault to their school and be able to trust again that Title IX provides an effective remedy."

# Dedication

## Pro Bono Partnerships

Pro bono attorneys and legal paraprofessionals are essential partners to VRLC in both Massachusetts and Oregon.

### *Serving Survivors Locally...*

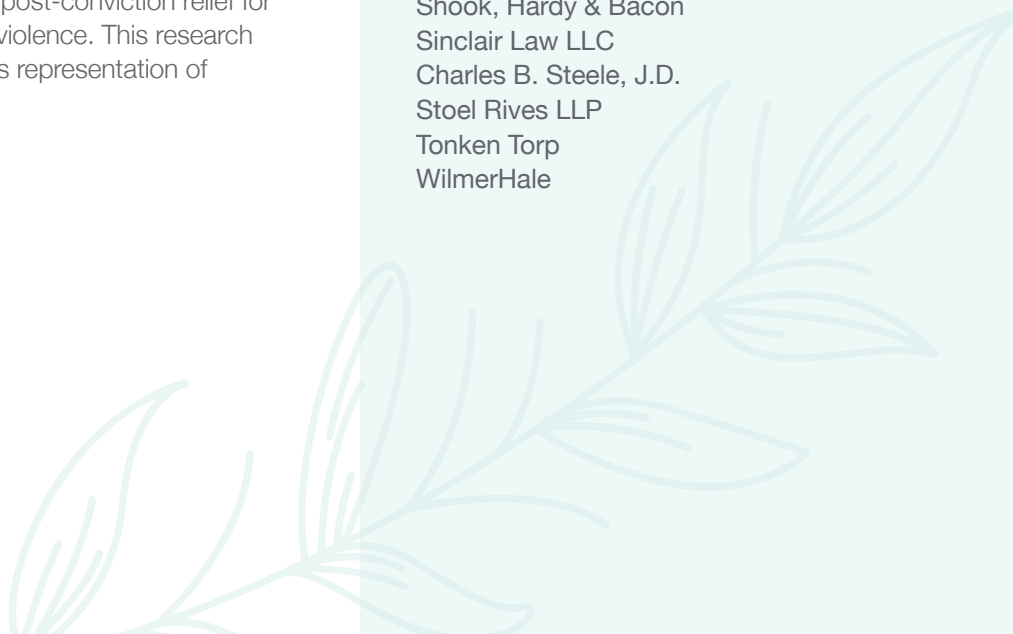
A survivor going through the criminal justice process had a decade's worth of her medical, mental health, and social media records requested by defense counsel representing her assailant. She didn't feel comfortable continuing with the criminal case, as it was a serious invasion of her privacy. A VRLC pro bono attorney represented the survivor and was able to significantly limit the selection of records supplied for the trial. The survivor felt like her privacy was protected and was able to comfortably engage in the remainder of the criminal case against the perpetrator leading to a conviction.

### *...and Impacting the Movement Nationwide*

Law firms Goodwin; Manatt, Phelps & Philips; and Shook, Hardy & Bacon assisted VRLC on several large projects. These firms contributed thousands of pro bono hours researching timely topics such as sexual assault protection orders related to when rape results in pregnancy; reporting of non-accidental injuries; jurisdiction-specific work on privacy for minors, adults, elders, and those who are disabled; the rights of attorneys (or lack thereof) to question and/or depose crime victims; and seeking post-conviction relief for survivors of gender-based violence. This research informed our staff attorney's representation of numerous survivors.

## Thank You to our Pro Bono Attorneys

Beaverton Law Group, LLP  
Bennett Hartman Attorneys at Law, LLP  
Cappelli Law, LLC  
Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP  
Crispin Hannon  
Tiffany Davidson, Attorney at Law P.C.  
Dechert LLP  
Dumas & Vaughn, Attorneys at Law  
Engrav Law Office  
Foley Hoag  
Goodwin  
Goulston & Storrs  
Graves & Swanson LLC  
Harriman Law  
Knuuttila Law  
Law Office of Sam Lambroza  
Manatt  
Trisha Mayhew Law, LLC  
McCarter & English  
McDermott Will & Emery  
Rachel Menashe, Attorney at Law  
Miller, Nash, LLP  
Mintz  
Morgan Lewis  
Proskauer  
Rizzo Bosworth Erout PC  
Seaside Attorneys  
Seyfarth  
Shook, Hardy & Bacon  
Sinclair Law LLC  
Charles B. Steele, J.D.  
Stoel Rives LLP  
Tonken Torp  
WilmerHale





# Shining Star Gala



VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone, Visionary Awardee Rachenda Rockwell with Deputy Directors Amanda Walsh and Stephanie Holt.

Photo Credit: Chery Richards Photography

On September 22, 2022, the VRLC community gathered for the Shining Star Gala at The Exchange in Boston's Seaport. It was an evening filled with networking, building community and inspiring remarks from survivors and leaders in the anti-sexual violence movement. It was moving and inspiring to hear the impact lawyers can have on survivors' lives.

**Champion Award:** Sullivan & Worcester

**Shining Star:** Katharine Foote, Esq., Mintz

**Leadership Award:** Michele Bratcher Goodwin

**Visionary Award:** Gymnast sexual assault survivors, accepted by Rachenda Rockwell

**Courage Award:** VRLC client

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, and award recipients for an extraordinary celebration!

*“When I started my journey 5 years ago to hold Larry Nassar and USA gymnastics accountable for their unspeakable actions, I was Jane Doe. I was anonymous, still suffering silently, but I was not alone...there was no gold medal at the end of my gymnastics journey, but that would not be the end of my story. Today, I take back my life.”*

Rachenda Rockwell  
2022 Visionary Awardee

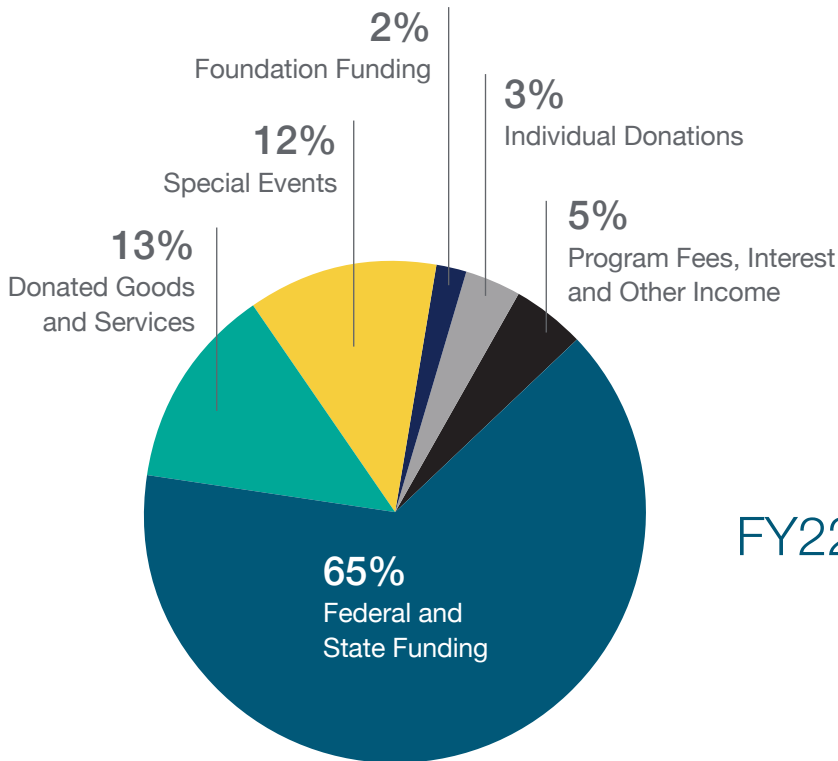
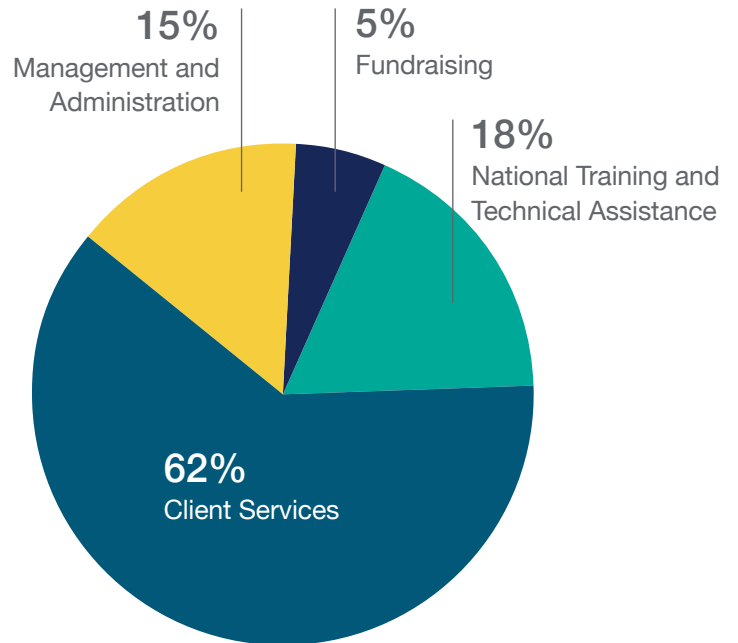
*“Without my VRLC attorney I would have been lost and confused and scared. My VRLC attorney showed me how an attorney can help people through the most difficult times of their lives... I want to change lives the way my VRLC attorney changed mine.”*

VRLC Client  
2022 Courage Awardee

# VRLC Financials

## Fiscal Year 2022

### FY22 Expense



### FY22 Revenue

The full extent of our work wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our financial supporters. Thank you to those donors for your commitment to sexual assault survivors and your confidence in VRLC to change lives.



# Thank You to Our Donors

If you'd like to learn more about how to financially support VRLC and our efforts, please visit [victimrights.org/donate](https://victimrights.org/donate) or contact Ellen Leuchs, our Director of Development ([eleuchs@victimrights.org](mailto:eleuchs@victimrights.org) or 617-401-8119)

## \$20,000 and above

The William H. Donner Foundation, Inc.  
Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation  
The Miriam Fund  
Womenade Boston

## \$10,000 – \$19,999

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Marybeth Burke and Sam Lambroza  
Dechert LLP  
Goodwin  
Michele and Howard Kessler  
Kristin Knuutila and Eric MacLeish  
Stacy Malone and Al Tringali  
Deborah and Steven Marcus  
McDermott Will & Emery  
Georgia Murray and Mark Maloney  
Karen O'Malley and Michael Feldman  
The Peery Family  
Ropes & Gray  
Brenda and Rick Sharton  
Steven Tod Wayne

## \$5,000 – \$9,999

ArentFox Schiff  
Biogen  
By Land or Sea  
Casner & Edwards  
CFGl  
Rebecca and Allan Chasen  
Foley Hoag

Sofia Hussain  
Kirkland and Ellis  
Manatt, LLP  
Massachusetts Bar Foundation  
Mintz  
Morgan Lewis  
Andrea Robinson and Jonathan Talamo  
Seyfarth  
Shook Hardy & Bacon  
Sidley Austin  
Sullivan & Worcester  
Cindy Vreeland  
WilmerHale

## \$2,000 – \$4,999

Doreen Binder  
Birch Hill Investment Advisors LLC  
Elizabeth and Thomas Boates  
Cane Systems, LLC  
Deloitte  
Feldman Geospatial  
Anne Flink  
Elizabeth Fries  
FTI Consulting  
Harriman Law  
Robert Insolia  
Jackson Lewis  
Nolan Lambroza  
Kathryn Murtagh  
Oregon Immigration Foundation  
Krista Green Pratt and Josh Pratt  
Christopher, Meg, and Eliza Price  
Daniel Rawner

# Compassion

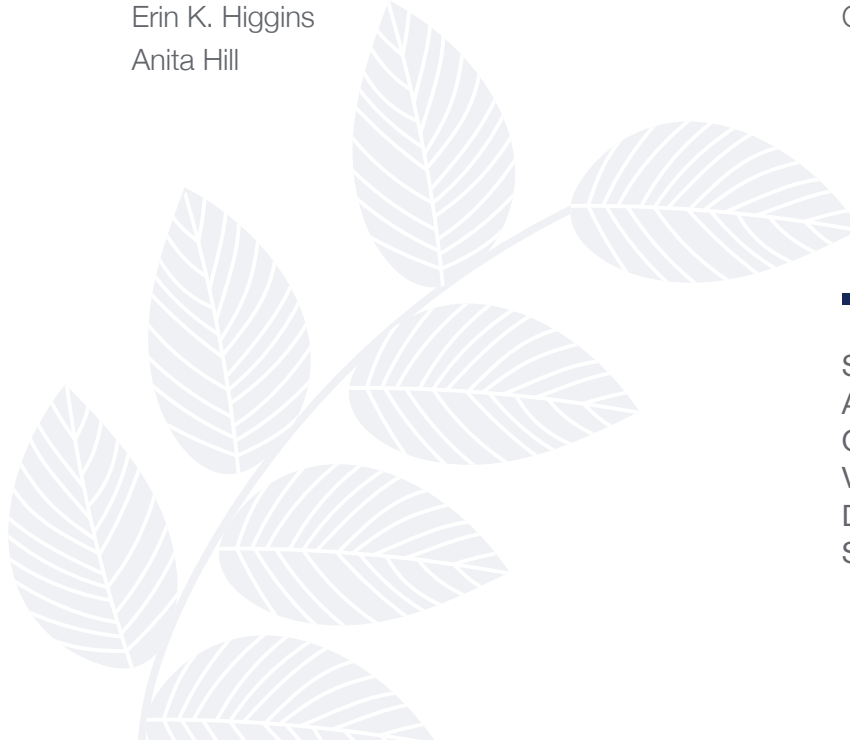


Sandra Dee Shugart  
State Street  
Susan Vickers and Clint Fondo  
Maegan and PJ Wilkinson

## \$1,000 – \$1,999

Michelle Anderson  
Ankura Consulting Group  
Anonymous  
Spectra Asala  
Sarah Bailey  
Bank of America  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Elizabeth and Thomas Boates  
Keith Carroll  
Charlotte Cipolletti  
Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP  
Consolidated Lodge A.F. & A.M.  
Gretchen and Nicholas Covino  
Birgitta Dickerson and James Crowley  
Bill Dillon  
Amy Eagleburger  
Eastern Bank  
Tim and Lisa Fagan  
Jeffrey and Roberta Feldman  
Floyd Advisory LLC  
Goulston & Storrs  
Erin K. Higgins  
Anita Hill

William Hilton  
Lizzie Hunpatin  
Carol and Dennis Kanin  
Megan Kelleher and David Abramowitz  
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Andrea Kramer  
Jeff Larson  
McCarter & English  
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Dana McSherry  
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O'Connor Professional Group  
Michael Osborn  
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Pathways for Change  
Estie Rappaport  
Janice and Kevin Roden  
Madeleine Rodriguez and Francisco Morales  
Ilene Seidman  
Keerthi Sugumaran  
The Tow Foundation  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Penina Weinberg  
Whole Foods Market Community Giving Program  
Guy Zuzovsky



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Special thanks to the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, Massachusetts Office for Victims Assistance, Office on Violence Against Women, and Oregon Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division.



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## Portland Office

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[victimrights.org](https://victimrights.org)



@VictimRightsLaw