



# Victim Rights Law Center

## August Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As August comes to a close, the return to school is on the minds of many parents, students, clients, and teachers. Whether anticipating a first day of middle school or first steps onto a college campus, our staff is frequently asked questions about how people can prevent sexual assault at school. These well-intentioned conversations can often place the burden of avoiding violence on victims.

In reality, our answers to these questions are much more nuanced than any back-to-school checklist. Students and families should make themselves aware of available on-campus resources for people who experience sexual assault and ask school administrators about the policies in place for sexual assault response. Caregivers must have ongoing conversations about consent and the right to bodily autonomy with both their children and those around them. This [resource](#) includes helpful tools for kickstarting those conversations with kids. Establishing and upholding these norms for ourselves and our communities - including and most importantly, **BELIEVING SURVIVORS** - is how we end sexual violence.

Stacy Malone  
Executive Director

## IN THE NEWS

### VRLC in *The Boston Globe*



Student survivors deserve a fastidious and easily-navigated path for pursuing justice. Victim Rights Law Center Deputy Director of External Affairs Amanda Walsh weighed in on the complicated process required to hold perpetrators accountable for sexual assault on campus in a recent [Boston Globe](#) article. Read the full story [here](#).

## DIRECT SERVICES

### Supporting College Students

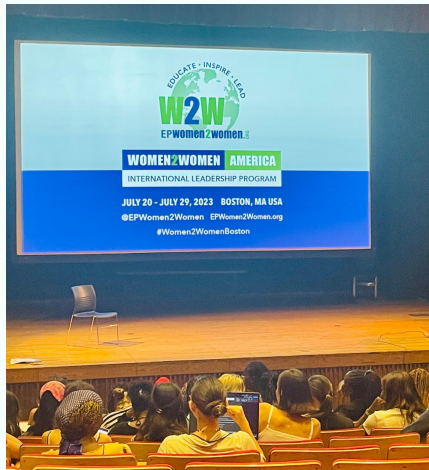
In early August, VRLC Deputy Director Amanda Walsh had the opportunity to visit with [The Wily Network](#). The Wily Network partners with college students in the greater Boston area who are working towards their degrees without emotional or financial support from family. The

conversation focused on our shared goal of protecting students' access to education and ways their team can support students who experience sexual assault before and while in college.



## NATIONAL TRAINING & TA

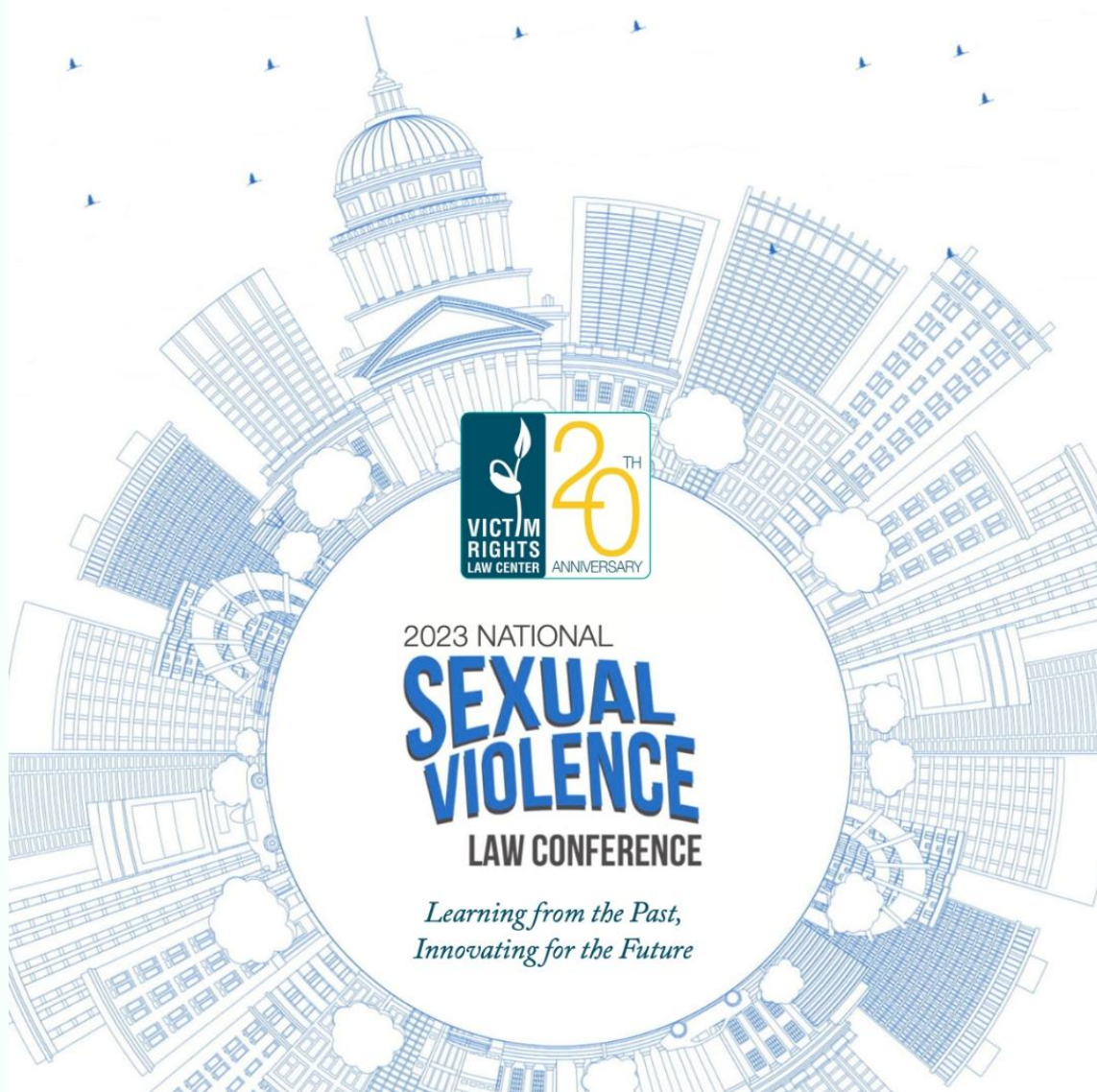
### Cultivating Young Leaders



VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone presented at the [Women2Women](#) (W2W) International Leadership Program last month in Boston. W2W provides rising young female leaders, ages 15-19, with the skills needed to succeed in our global community. Stacy presented on "Human Rights ARE Women's Rights" to 78 young women from 14 different countries. Their discussion on sexual violence was educational, emotional and inspiring as these young leaders discussed their personal experiences and how to make change in their own communities.

## EVENTS

### Resources & Details for 2023 NSVLC



**National Sexual Violence Law Conference**  
**October 25 - 26 at The Palmer House Hotel in Chicago**

Attorneys and advocates, we can't wait to see you in Chicago! Don't miss the dynamic line-up of **speakers** slated for our **2023 National Sexual Violence Law Conference!** Check out the daily **agenda**, download resources for funding requests and learn about our incredible trainers at the only national sexual violence law conference **here**.

**OVW has approved use of grant funds to attend the conference for LAV attorneys and conditionally approved** grantees from ALL, Disabilities, ICJR, JFF, Rural, SASP, State Coalition, STOP and the Underserved programs. **Details are available on the conference website.**

**20th Anniversary Gala:**  
**Tickets On Sale Now**

Join Us for our 20th Anniversary Celebration!

# Shining Star *Gala*

to benefit the Victim Rights Law Center

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 / 6:00-8:00 pm

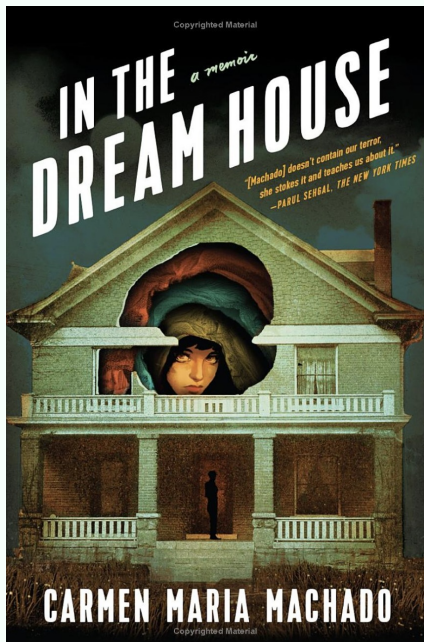
Artists for Humanity EpiCenter, 100 W 2nd Street, Boston, MA 02127

Join us for an evening of networking over drinks and delicious bites, followed by an inspiring program.

Don't Miss VRLC's **20th Anniversary Gala**! Get inspired by the outstanding contributions of our 2023 awardees, including **Roberta A. Kaplan, Esq.** who led the triumphant legal team representing E. Jean Carroll in her sexual abuse and defamation case against a former U.S. President.

Celebrate two decades of advocating for survivors. Join us Wednesday, September 20, 6:00 - 8:00pm at **Artist for Humanity Epicenter**, Boston. Purchase your tickets for our Shining Star Gala today [here](#).

## Anti-Racist Book Club



Looking for a book recommendation? VRLC's Anti-Racist Book Club spent the summer discussing ***In the Dream House*** by **Carmen Maria Machado**, finalist for the National Book Award and the winner of the Bard Fiction Prize, the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction, the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Nonfiction, the Brooklyn Public Library Literature Prize and more.

Hailed for both its compelling content and innovative structure, **NPR Book Review** says of the memoir, "just below the surface, the narrative continually shapeshifts and at times becomes a play, an academic look at female queerness in mainstream media, a choose your own adventure book, and a sharp deconstruction of the mechanisms of psychological abuse."

## MISC/FUN NEWS

### Garden Gathering

Members of our Massachusetts team soaked up the summer sun during a recent outdoor outing at the **New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill** in central MA. Staff enjoyed

gorgeous garden views and trail walking  
- a beautiful day!



*Since 2003, the Victim Rights Law Center has worked to provide survivors with free legal services to help restore their lives and promote a national movement seeking justice for rape and sexual assault survivors. Learn more about our efforts [here](#).*

**DONATE**

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