



# Victim Rights Law Center

February Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Happy Valentine's Day! For some, this is a fun day celebrating love. For others, including some sexual assault survivors, it can highlight feelings of loneliness and isolation. Following sexual violence, survivors can struggle with building and maintaining romantic relationships and experiencing intimacy with their partners. So, on this Valentine's Day, this is my #SurvivorLoveLetter to you.

Dear Survivor,

Today, I know it might be hard to imagine you could hold someone's hand without shaking or truly relax into an embrace.

I see you.

Today, It might feel dangerous to go on a date or dress up because people you trust have told you that the assault was your fault.

I believe you.

Today, you may cry tears. You might not even know why.

I cry with you.

You are not alone.

*With All My Heart,*

Stacy



**Survivor Love Letter** was founded by Tani Ikeda in 2012 as a movement for survivors of sexual assault and their allies to publicly celebrate their lives. Please join us in standing by the side of survivors today and every day.

## IN THE NEWS

### Victory for E. Jean Carroll

Congratulations to E. Jean Carroll, and her Attorney Robbie Kaplan and the legal team for the recent success of a \$83.3 million defamation lawsuit! It is inspiring for survivors to see that perpetrators can be held accountable in civil court. VRLC presented Robbie Kaplan with the 2023 Leadership Award in September. E. Jean Carroll gave an exciting introduction and Robbie did not disappoint as she guided the audience step-by-step through her legal theories of their first successful



Pictured Above: VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone and E. Jean Carroll during our 2023 Shining Star Celebration.

## DIRECT SERVICES

### Book Club Shares Black History Month Picks

Over the last four years, VRLC staff across the organization have met twice each month for the Anti-Racist Book Club. The staff reviews materials focused on a theme and engage in a robust discussion. Each February, in recognition of Black History Month, the book club's facilitators also lead our All Staff meeting. Shout out to Joelle and Izabella for continuing the tradition of facilitating these important conversations. Stay tuned to our socials through the remainder of February for our staff's favorite recent and favorite reads from Black authors.



## NATIONAL TRAINING & TA

Join us at EJC2024

# Registration is Open!

== 2024 EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE ==

May 9-11, 2024 PRE-CONFERENCE MAY 8

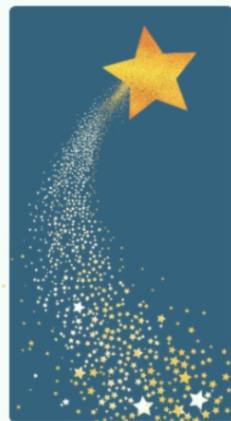


Legal services and public interest advocates! Join VRLC's Assistant Director of Training and Consultation Maura Crossin at the 2024 Equal Justice Conference as she co-presents on trauma-informed organizations with [ABA Commission of Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) and [Tahirih Justice Center](#). The conference is scheduled for May 9-11 in Detroit, MI. Find registration information and more [here](#).

## EVENTS

**Save the Date!**

VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER'S



# SHINING STAR CELEBRATION

THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 10, 2024  
6-8 PM

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

Save the date to celebrate VRLC! Mark your calendar today to join us for our Shining Star Celebration, Thursday, October 10 (6-8 PM) at Artist for Humanity Epicenter, Boston! Further details, including awardee and speaker announcements, will be shared in the coming months. Check our website [here](#) for updates and email [development@victimrights.org](mailto:development@victimrights.org) to get involved!

## MISC/FUN NEWS

### Celebrating Brenda Sharton's Service

VRLC's Board of Directors gathered together in Wayland, MA this month to celebrate the service of long-time Board member **Brenda Sharton**, one of VRLC's first-ever pro bono attorneys. As a Board member, Brenda has represented individual sexual assault survivors, represented the organization to protect survivors' records, led amicus briefs to establish critical law, and hosted Board meetings, strategic retreats, and video filming for national training projects.



Pictured Above: VRLC Founder Susan Vickers, VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone, VRLC Pro Bono Attorney and Former Board Member Brenda Sharton

## GET INVOLVED

### Host a Pro Bono Training

Shoutout to [Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP](#) for hosting VRLC's first Massachusetts pro bono attorney training of 2024! During these trainings, pro bono attorneys learn how to help survivors secure restraining orders and protect their privacy. These hearings require a limited number of hours, but make an enormous impact in a survivor's life. Thank you to Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and the hundreds of pro bono attorneys who have participated in VRLC's training and represented survivors throughout VRLC's 20 years. If you or your firm's pro bono

director are interested in hosting a training or discussing representation options further, please contact [probono@victimrights.org](mailto:probono@victimrights.org).



Pictured Above: VRLC Deputy Director Stephanie Holt and Staff Attorney Kayla Hogan-Daly presented at the Weil pro bono training.

*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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