



Victim Rights Law Center

January Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We are so grateful to you for supporting survivors and the VRLC throughout 2022, and look forward to sharing many exciting moments in 2023. This year is the VRLC's 20th anniversary! To mark that milestone and continue our mission, we will honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a virtual community event in April, hold our Shining Star Gala in September and relaunch the only National Sexual Violence Law Conference in October. There will be additional opportunities to volunteer and support the VRLC during this special anniversary. We hope you join us in a year filled with celebration, awareness, and activism.

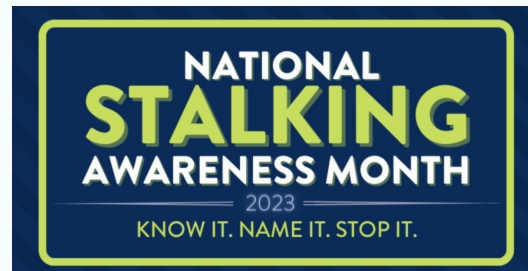
Before closing, I wanted to note that this past Sunday would have marked the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Last year, when the Court issued Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, overturning Roe, they gave permission to the government to police women's bodies and to criminalize compassionate workers assisting those in need of critical reproductive options. As you know from our programming throughout 2022, rape and reproductive rights are intrinsically linked. As the VRLC fights for the rights of rape and sexual assault survivors every day, we will just as passionately fight for control over their own bodies.

In solidarity,
Stacy Malone
Executive Director

In the News

National Stalking Awareness Month

January is National Stalking Prevention Awareness Month. As part of efforts to raise awareness of the intersections between sexual violence and stalking, the Stalking Prevention Awareness & Resource Center (SPARC) has gathered information and resources outlining the connections between stalking and sexual assault. According to their research:



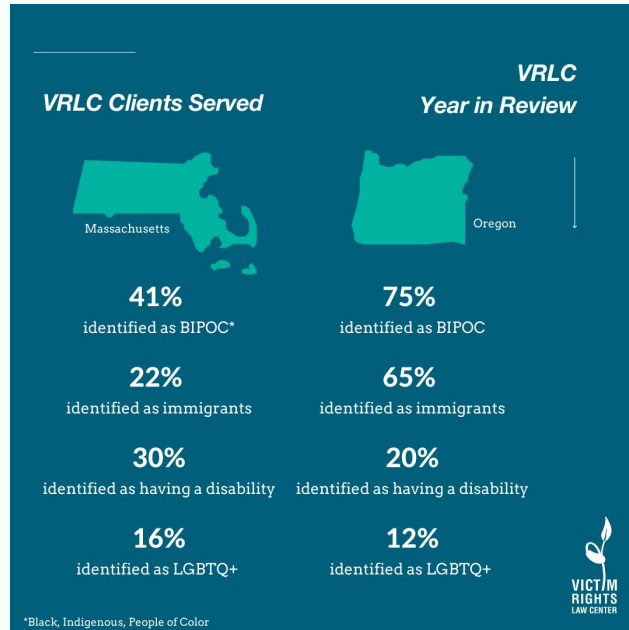
- Nearly half of sexual assault survivors age 18-24 also experienced stalking.
- Nearly 1 in 3 women who experienced sexual assault by an intimate partner were also stalked by that partner.
- Women who were stalked after retaining a protection order are 9x more likely to experience sexual violence than those who did not experience stalking.

Visit SPARC online [here](#) for additional information supporting the concurrence of stalking and sexual assault, as well as free education and training resources.

Direct Services

2022 VRLC Year in Review

The VRLC provides free, trauma-informed, comprehensive legal assistance for sexual assault survivors in Massachusetts and Oregon.



Thanks to the contributions of our donors, staff and volunteers, this past year the VRLC achieved significant action toward our goals of rebuilding the lives of survivors and promoting a national movement seeking justice for every rape and sexual assault survivor.

We trained **4,000 attorneys, advocates and campus administrators** across the United States, navigated **1,600 legal matters** on behalf of clients and fielded **1,300 intake calls** in Massachusetts and Oregon.

We remain committed to building upon these efforts into 2023 and beyond. We appreciate your continued [donations](#) in support of our mission.

National Training and Technical Assistance

Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education Training

While restraining orders can offer survivors a level of protection against unwanted contact that would otherwise impair their ability to safely live their everyday lives, they can also be used by perpetrators as a form of retaliation.

VRLC experts recently led a training at Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education helping area attorneys navigate restraining orders, how to get them, and what to expect when arguing both for and against them.

Check out the recorded training [here](#).

VRLC Webinar Training

Thanks to partner El Programa Hispano Católico and legal advocates in attendance at our recent interactive webinar, Safety Planning with Survivors of Non-Intimate Partner Sexual Assault.

Discussion included survivor safety issues and potential remedies, working with survivors from underserved and marginalized communities and practical examples and tools for crafting an effective safety plan.

Are you a legal advocate but not an attorney? Do you work for a community-based organization that is eligible to receive funding through the Office on Violence Against Women? Check our [website](#) for future training opportunities like this one.

Events

2023 National Sexual Violence Law Conference

Save the Date: October 25 - October 26; Chicago, IL

Join us for the nation's only National Sexual Violence Law Conference, Wednesday, October 25 and Thursday, October 26 at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Lawyers and advocates interested in using the civil legal justice system to better respond to the needs of sexual assault survivors are encouraged to attend this in-person event. Strengthen your expertise in legal practice areas such as privacy, safety, housing, immigration, education and employment.



Registration opens in April. See more details on our website [here](#).

Get Involved

VRLC Merchandise



Show your support and help spread awareness of the important work we do on behalf of survivors at the VRLC. Purchase our official VRLC T-shirts [here](#).

100% of proceeds go to supporting survivors.

[Join Our Team](#)

[Become a Pro Bono Attorney](#)

[Volunteer](#)

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](#).

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