



# Victim Rights Law Center

July Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We hope you are enjoying a wonderful and restful summer! We are preparing for an exciting fall, and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

In September, our community will come together at our annual [Shining Star Gala](#) to celebrate the VRLC's 20th Anniversary! It's been an impactful twenty years of serving survivors. We are excited to hear [Attorney Robbie Kaplan](#) accept VRLC's Leadership Award. Attorney Kaplan's innovative lawyering throughout E. Jean Carroll's defamation and sexual abuse lawsuit against a former U.S. President gives us hope that survivors can prevail.

We will be in Chicago October 25-26 hosting the only [National Sexual Violence Law Conference](#). We have an impressive lineup of speakers! We are eager to be in a room of 250+ passionate lawyers and advocates to learn, strategize and build community. For [Office on Violence Against Women Legal Assistance for Victims](#)-funded and -eligible attorneys, there is also an opportunity for you to apply to participate in a special educational cohort and join us a day early in Chicago.

Details on upcoming events are included below, on our [website](#) and all our social media platforms (@VictimRightsLaw). We wish you a beautiful summer and we can't wait to see you in the fall!

My best,

Stacy Malone  
Executive Director

## IN THE NEWS

### VRLC Weighs in on Defamation Post #MeToo

As the cultural landscape evolves our work remains vital for supporting the most vulnerable survivor populations as they navigate the varied fallouts of the violence they experienced. Without resources to defend themselves, survivors telling their stories in the wake of the #MeToo movement - even if not doing so in pursuit of legal justice - can be vulnerable to legal retaliation. VRLC weighed in on this phenomena as ***The Intercept*** explores the legal



backlash that some victims have encountered after publicly naming their perpetrators.

"People always think, 'If I'm telling the truth, this will all be OK for me,'" Holt said. "They underestimate how much time, effort, and emotional damage that a defamation suit can do."

Read the full article [here](#).

## NATIONAL TRAINING & TA

### Virtual & In-Person Opportunity



VRLC is excited to open applications for our next [cohort training](#) for attorneys new to practice or new to anti-sexual violence work. Session topics include the neurobiology of trauma, confidentiality, holistic intakes and interviewing, vicarious trauma, safety planning, and civil and criminal legal remedies.

Participants will meet virtually three times (approximately every other week starting in September) before gathering in-person in Chicago on October 24. Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV)-funded and -eligible attorneys may apply for the cohort [here](#).

## EVENTS

### Leadership Awardee "Eats Bullies for Breakfast"

VRLC is honored to present the 2023 Leadership Awardee to Attorney [Roberta "Robbie" Kaplan](#) for her recent triumph leading the legal team representing writer E. Jean Carroll in her sexual abuse and defamation lawsuit against a former U.S. President. This victory is a vital step in building a culture of accountability and belief for survivors.

Hailed by the [Washington Post](#) as a "crusader for



underdogs who has won **almost every legal accolade imaginable**," Attorney Kaplan's long list of notable courtroom conquests include Charlottesville white supremacists, Hollywood power players, the Defense of Marriage Act, and even a former U.S. President.

On VRLC's 20th Anniversary, we are excited to recognize Attorney Robbie Kaplan as our 2023 Leadership Awardee. At a time when perpetrators are weaponizing systems to retaliate against victims, E. Jean Carroll's

defamation and sexual abuse lawsuit against a former U.S. President was a big win for survivors.

Our **2023 Shining Star Gala** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20 (6:00 - 8:00pm) at **Artist for Humanity EpiCenter** in Boston. Ticket information is coming soon. Find more details and sponsorship opportunities **here**.

## Disability Pride at NSVLC

Thirty percent of VRLC clients in Massachusetts and 20% in Oregon self-identify as having a disability. During July's Disability Pride Month and every month, the VRLC is committed to providing inclusive and accessible legal services to survivors with disabilities.

Attorneys and advocates interested in further supporting clients with disabilities are invited to join VRLC staff Katrina Eberly, Esq. and Kelsey Worline, Esq. at our upcoming **National Sexual Violence Law Conference** to learn more. Featured workshop **Accessible Practices: Representing Survivors with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

discusses barriers to legal and support services for survivors in these communities and explore strategies and tools for improvement. Learn more about this and other offerings at NSVLC 2023 **here**.

**KATRINA EBERLY, ESQ.**  
Victim Rights Law Center

*Workshop Spotlight*

**Accessible Practices:  
Representing Survivors  
with Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities**

**KELSEY WORLINE, ESQ.**  
Victim Rights Law Center

## MISC/FUN NEWS

VRLC Staff enjoyed a day of paddle boarding, peddle boating and kayaking during our recent staff outing on the Lakes District of the Charles.

What a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the outdoors - and an unexpected, but

welcome, encounter with like-minded friends at **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** enjoying their own outing event! Thank you, **Paddle Boston!**



*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](#).*

Massachusetts Office  
11 Beacon Street, Suite 520  
Boston, MA 02108  
Phone: (617) 399-6720  
Fax: (617) 399-6722

Oregon Office  
610 SW Broadway, Suite 308  
Portland, OR 97205.  
Phone: (503) 274-5477  
Fax: (503) 715-2183



Victim Rights Law Center | 11 Beacon Street, Suite 520, Boston, MA 02108

[Unsubscribe vrlc@victimrights.org](mailto:vrlc@victimrights.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [vrlc@victimrights.org](mailto:vrlc@victimrights.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!