



Victim Rights Law Center

June Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate Pride this month, we honor the diversity and strength of the LGBTQIA+ community. LGBTQIA+ individuals face an increased risk of rape and sexual assault. VRLC remains committed to representing and advocating on behalf of survivors of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Throughout the month, we embrace the opportunity to elevate incredible resources, articles, and partners, such as:

- [The Trevor Project's resource](#) focused on supporting LGBTQ+ sexual violence survivors reminds us to celebrate survivors' resilience and "celebrate their victories — no matter how small."
- Fenway Health's [#ustoo campaign](#) was established to raise awareness about LGBTQ+ survivors and because "all too often [LGBTQ+] experiences and voices are left out of the larger narrative and the services available for survivors are designed for heterosexual and cisgender people."
- Our book club facilitators invited the staff to explore this [GO Magazine](#) article, "[Black & Queer: What It Means To Celebrate Juneteenth And Pride In The Same Month](#)," and we invite you to do the same.

Pride is a protest *and* a celebration. We consider more critically the ways we can help center LGBTQIA+ individuals' narratives in conversations about survivors. We also celebrate the progress LGBTQIA+ survivors have experienced in their paths to justice, accountability and healing.

In gratitude,
Stacy Malone
Executive Director

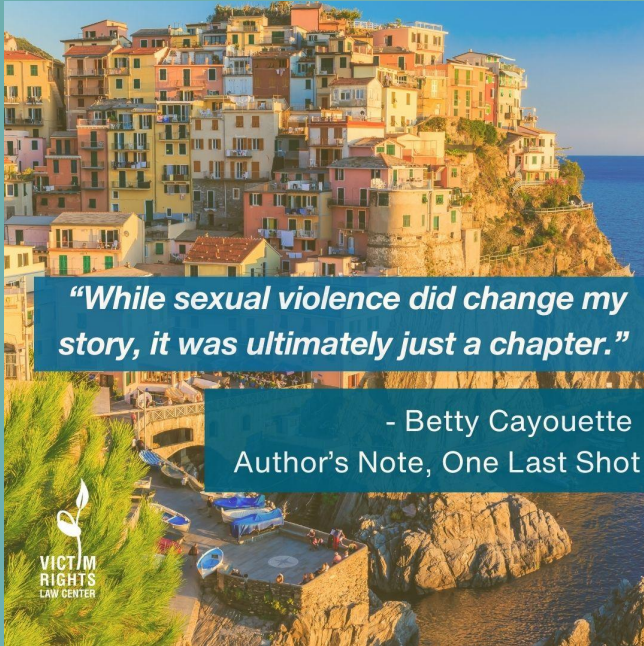
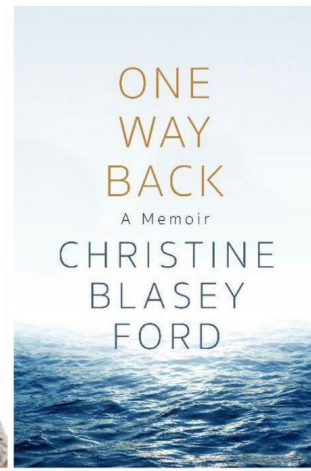
NATIONAL TRAINING

Strengthening Support for Student Survivors

VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone shares her recommendation of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's recent book, *One Way Back: A Memoir*. Hailing Ford as an American hero, Stacy examines how Dr. Blasey Ford's experiences mirror the harsh inequities that too many survivors experience while navigating the legal system and the need for continued scrutiny of standards for representing survivors of sexual assault. Read the blog in full [here](#).



Photo credit: Jim Gensheimer



"While sexual violence did change my story, it was ultimately just a chapter."

- Betty Cayouette

Author's Note, *One Last Shot*

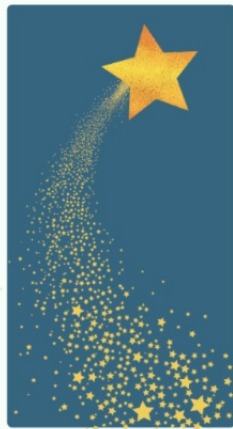


ONE LAST SHOT By Betty Cayouette

In her author's note, former VRLC client Betty Cayouette explains that while sexual violence isn't on the page in *One Last Shot*, it remains a part of the protagonist's story as a complex piece of her past. Betty writes, "I hope that reading this book and seeing the wonderful lives of characters who have been impacted by sexual assault makes listeners who have experienced any type of sexual harassment or violence feel seen and optimistic - because while sexual violence did

change my story, it was ultimately just a chapter." Add *One Last Shot* to your summer reading list and check out Stacy's thoughts on this fun read [here](#).

DEVELOPMENT



SHINING STAR CELEBRATION

Save the Date & Celebrate!

Save the Date for our [Shining Star Celebration](#) on Thursday, October 10th from 6-8pm at [Artists for Humanity EpiCenter](#) in Boston. Be on the lookout next week for our 2024 Leadership Awardee announcement - you won't want

to miss it!

Sponsorship opportunities for individuals and businesses are now available [here](#). We have revamped our sponsor benefits. [Check out our new levels and year-long sponsor benefits!](#)

We need your donations for our popular [Mystery Box Raffle!](#) Generous businesses donate the amazing collection of gift cards, items, and experiences that help create this fun surprise raffle - you never know what exciting surprise awaits you in those shiny little boxes! Please contact development@victimrights.org to learn how you can help contribute much-needed raffle items to this highly-anticipated offering!

All proceeds raised help sexual assault survivors access free legal assistance.

EVENTS

Grazing for a Good Cause



Sending an extra helping of gratitude out to all who joined our Grazing Board Class with [Formaggio Kitchen](#) in Cambridge on Saturday, June 8th. Attendees gathered in support of VRLC enjoyed tasty bites prepared by Formaggio gourmets and learned insider tips and tricks to elevate their summer entertaining. Thank you to Formaggio Kitchen for hosting this engaging evening!

IG Live with VRLC

More than 250 viewers joined for the VRLC instagram live event with former client, author and viral content creator Betty Cayouette!

VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone and Betty Cayouette discussed the impacts of sexual assault and chatted about Betty's debut novel, *One Last Shot*.

Special thanks to Betty for partnering with us, and to all those who tuned in for this special online opportunity.

Find Betty on Instagram and across social platforms at [@bettysbooklist](https://www.instagram.com/bettysbooklist).



MISC NEWS/FUN STUFF

Fight Funding Cuts



Let's take action together! Join our community on Thursday, June 27th on the steps of the Massachusetts State House (Beacon Street) at 11:00 am for VOCA Bridge Day of Action.

VRLC and other community organizations are facing significant funding cuts. This will mean cuts in critical services for sexual assault survivors and other victims of crime. Learn more about funding cuts [here](#). Find additional information about VOCA Bridge Day of Action [here](#).

Dream Team



Staff members in Massachusetts put their teamwork to the test successfully escaping the Mystery Mansion experience at our most recent staff outing held at Breakout Games in Marlborough, MA.

[DONATE](#)

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