



Victim Rights Law Center

July/August Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you not just *well*, but joyful, relaxed, and moving at a slower pace this summer. Decades of work in the anti-sexual violence field has taught me that finding joy is key to sustaining ourselves. It is important that we pause, acknowledge the weight of our work, our family commitments, and the tremendous heaviness of our world so that we can be open to basking in the light of what brings us joy. This summer I found joy in welcoming two phenomenal women to VRLC's Board, participating in the [Women2Women International Leadership Program](#), and planning for VRLC's [Shining Star Celebration](#). You can learn more about all of this and hear from our passionate group of summer interns about what brought them joy below!

In gratitude,
Stacy Malone
Executive Director

NATIONAL TRAINING

Supporting Future Leaders



VRLC's Executive Director Stacy Malone spoke at the [Women2Women International Leadership Program](#) at Emerson College last week. More than 80 young women, ages 15-19 hailing from 19 different countries, shared their personal experiences and discussed taking action to make change in their communities during the program's "Women's Rights ARE Human Rights" workshop. Participating as a speaker in this 10-day program has been a highlight of Stacy's summer for many years. She is inspired by the young women's courage to speak openly about their personal experiences and by their hopefulness that they can and will make a difference in their home countries. We are grateful for the opportunity to support this extraordinary group of future leaders.

IN THE NEWS

New Board Members Recognized

VRLC was fortunate to add two inspiring new members to our board of directors recently. This summer both were profiled by publications for significant contributions in their fields.

Kristen Gibbons Feden was honored as one of CIO Views Magazine's Top 10 Most Influential Leaders Making an Impact in the Legal Industry, 2024! Kristen, (right) receiving our 2018 Shining Star Leadership Award from

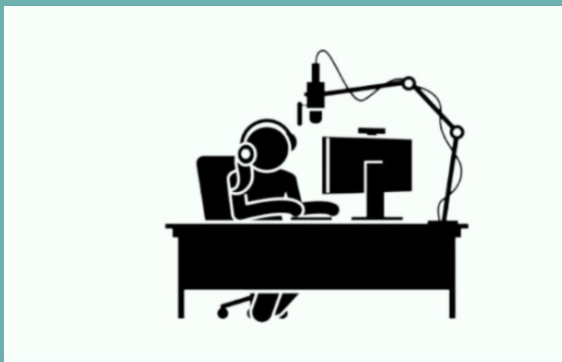


Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, is a longtime advocate for survivors' rights, played a critical prosecution role in the trial conviction of Bill Cosby, and is a nationally acclaimed litigator, speaker and legal analyst. Learn more about her most recent distinction [here](#).

Kate Murtagh was profiled in the June issue of FORUM, Cornell Law School's alumni magazine. Kate, former partner at Goodwin Procter and current Compliance Officer for Harvard Management Company, is a valued addition to VRLC's Board of Directors. "She's someone who wants to help the underdog. For a woman like Kate, who is so successful, to align their volunteer work with an organization that serves sexual violence survivors says something about how special she is. She's taking a stand on a really important social issue and bringing hope to impacted girls and women," VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone told FORUM. Read the article in full [here](#).

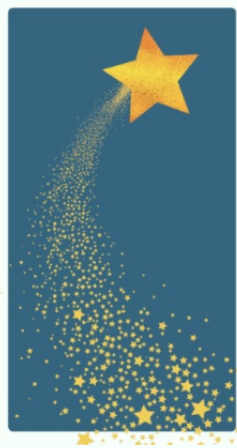


Stand-Up, Speak-Up Blog



Uplifting Barrier Breakers

In our most recent blog entry, VRLC Senior Attorney Nora Grais-Clements uses her guest appearance on the [Break Into Law School](#) podcast to examine the importance of holding space for marginalized communities and continued self-examination in anti-racism work. Read her thoughts in full [here](#).



SHINING STAR CELEBRATION

Tickets Coming Soon

Tickets for our [Shining Star Celebration](#) go on sale Monday, August 19! This year's event will be held on Thursday, October 10th from 6-8pm at [Artists for Humanity EpiCenter](#) in Boston.

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

All proceeds raised help sexual assault survivors access free legal assistance. Find more event info [here](#).

New Look, Same Mission



[Check out our new VRLC booklet](#), introducing our vision, impact, and testimonials from those who know us best. It's a call to action for donors, detailing how we use donations to fight for justice for sexual assault survivors. Shout out to the talented [Just Giving Communications](#) and [Kate Misail design](#) for creating this powerful piece. Take a look, and [be inspired!](#)

MISC NEWS/FUN STUFF

Intern Spotlight

This year, we were grateful to welcome law school interns in both Massachusetts and Oregon, as well as an undergraduate development intern to our team. VRLC law school interns supported our efforts by doing everything from conducting legal research to direct client representation. Our development intern played an instrumental role in fundraising efforts supporting our Shining Star Celebration. We want to thank all of our interns for bringing their passion and energy this summer! We're excited to showcase

a few of our amazing interns.

We asked each of them to introduce themselves and share how they found joy this summer. Join us in welcoming them to VRLC and showing gratitude for their contributions.



Alexis Serra, a rising 2L at Western New England University School of Law and Vice-President of the Black Law Students Association, found joy this summer by marrying her best friend and biggest supporter and spending time with loved ones in safe spaces. Congrats to Alexis and thank you for all your work for VRLC this summer!

Jasmine Aguilar, a rising 3L at the University of Oregon School of Law, grew up in Eugene, OR and loves the diverse activities and opportunities available to her living in the Pacific Northwest.



3L at New England Law Boston Agripino Kennedy, found joy this summer by spending time with loved ones, reading - and finally getting some downtime from law school to play video games! They look forward to attending The Lavender Law Conference in Washington, D.C., and squeezing in a beach day before summer's end.

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