



# Victim Rights Law Center

November Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We are faced with a historic election where one candidate who was found liable for sexual assault is on the ballot. This is a critical moment. We have an opportunity to tell survivors in our country- **WE BELIEVE YOU.**

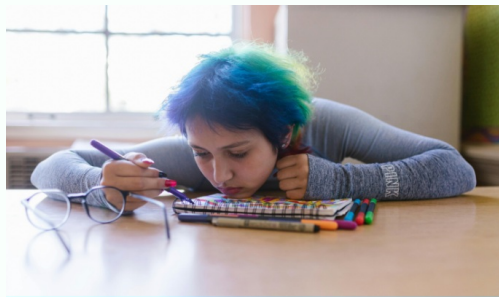
I didn't grow up talking about sexual violence. You probably didn't, either. Survivors' needs have been overlooked our entire lifetimes. But now, in 2024, people are talking... and what's more, they are listening and taking action through their vote.

Regardless of the outcome, VRLC will continue to be here for survivors as we have been for over two decades. We will walk beside clients as they navigate their path toward justice and remind them that there is a community of people who do believe them. Thank you for being a part of that community.

In solidarity,  
Stacy Malone  
Executive Director

## NATIONAL TRAINING

### Standing up for Student Survivors



**Do Better, OCR.**

VRLC recently joined 21 organizations from around the country calling on the **Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights** (OCR) to reform the system for addressing complaints involving sexual violence and sexual harassment. Many students turn to OCR after their districts and schools have failed to provide adequate support following sexual violence only to have OCR do the same. OCR's delays, communication breakdowns, and dismissals amplify the trauma and institutional betrayal that

student survivors are forced to endure. Read our joint letter [here](#) and hear more in our recent [blog](#) from VRLC Senior Attorney Tiffany Hester.

### VRLC Sponsors Virtual Conference



VRLC is thrilled to sponsor **Puzzles 2024: Solving the Campus Sexual Assault and Dating Violence Puzzle**. This three-day virtual conference, held December 10-12, will include a workshop with VRLC Deputy Director, Amanda Walsh, and Assistant Director of Training and Consultation, Shannon Masden. Conference registration is available through Thursday, November 7. Find more information [here](#).

## DIRECT SERVICES

### Partnering for ProBono Training

VRLC staff partnered with representatives from Saheli for a pro bono training at **WilmerHale** in early October. Saheli, a Boston-based non-profit, provides culturally sensitive domestic & sexual violence services to South Asian and Arab immigrant survivors and their children. The training included representing survivors seeking new or renewed restraining orders, a significant need for Saheli's client population.



## DEVELOPMENT

### Sharing Smiles at Shining Star



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent **Shining Star Celebration**. You came for the inspiration, but stayed for the laughs!

If you missed the event, you can still contribute to VRLC's continued efforts to make a difference in the lives of survivors. Donate today [here](#).





## Calling All Holiday Elves!

Help create magical memories for survivors and their families this holiday season! Sponsor a family for VRCLC's Holiday Gift Drive.

Our Holiday Gift Drive is sometimes the only source of gifts and basic necessities for survivors and their families. Participating sponsors can choose to support an entire family, multiple families, or an individual child or children. VRCLC staff will match you with an appropriate recipient wish list based on your budget. All contributions are



appreciated. For more information visit our website [here](#) or email Senior Attorney Nora Grais-Clements [here](#) by Tuesday, November 8 to be matched with a survivor family.

\* Please note for tax purposes, that these generous gifts for our clients are not donations to VRLC.

## MISC/FUN NEWS

### Staff Outing: Striking a Balance



Let the good times roll! VRLC staff enjoyed a well-earned break bowling at Bowlero in Auburn, MA. The staff outing was a success with fun to spare!



*Special thanks to our Justice partner Dechert for supporting VRLC's efforts to help sexual assault survivors rebuild their lives and pursue justice.*

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