



# Victim Rights Law Center

December Newsletter

Dear Friends,

On the morning after the election, a VRLC colleague, Carol, and I found ourselves in a room surrounded by 10 strangers. We were hosting a cohort of new, gender-based violence attorneys for a two-day training. At a time when many of us wanted to be at home, with friends, or even alone, there we were reckoning with the reality that the new President-elect was a person who had been found liable for sexual assault.

Yet, what happened over those two days is the real story. We did what anti-violence advocates and attorneys do - we became motivated. We acknowledged the impactful work we were doing across the country and how it is most important in times like these. We learned from and uplifted each other. We built community.

We didn't come to this work because it is easy. We came because we were called to fight for change alongside survivors. Thank you for fighting alongside us for what is certain to be a tumultuous four years.

With gratitude,

Amanda Walsh  
Deputy Director, External Affairs



Above: VRLC staff members gathered with other gender-based violence attorneys for training in the wake of November's election results.

## IN THE NEWS

### Nominees Not Cutting It

Whether President-elect Trump's cabinet nominees endure enough scrutiny to continue on to the confirmation process, the fact remains that the incoming President of the United States has not only been found liable for sexual assault accusations of his own, but has chosen to elevate several individuals also entangled in allegations of sexual abuse to some of the country's highest offices. What message is this sending survivors? In VRLC's latest [Stand Up, Speak Up](#) blog our Deputy Director of Operations Stephanie Holt and Managing Attorney Kelsey Worline voice these concerns, writing, "Survivors and their advocates are watching, and we will not stay silent." Read the blog in full [here](#).



### Increased Protections for Survivors

Expanded protections for survivors enacted this fall in Massachusetts have enhanced access to critical protection orders for victims of sexual assault. Learn more about



these recent changes to 209A Abuse Prevention Orders and 258E Harassment Prevention Orders in our blog from VRLC Senior Attorney Moire Balsam [here](#).

## All Roads Lead to Supporting Survivors



We've been shouting out our support for survivors up and down roadways throughout Massachusetts! Billboards in Salsbury, Canton, Norton, Rehoboth, and Plainville have featured this message of survivor solidarity. Special thanks to [OUTFRONT Media](#) for helping make this possible. You can contribute to our efforts to continue the fight to maintain survivor rights. Donate today [here](#).

## NATIONAL TRAINING

### In Our Advocacy Era

VRLC is thrilled to attend this year's [Massachusetts Conference for Women](#) at the Boston Convention and Exhibition



Center on Thursday, December 12. Come visit us at Booth #575 and check out our fun new merch designs, "In My Advocacy Era" and "Consent is my Love Language."

The mission of [The Conferences for Women](#) is to amplify women's influence, provide opportunities for connection, and inspire community. Conference organizers are committed to helping close the pay gap, eliminating gender discrimination, and achieving parity in company leadership. This year's event speakers include Oprah Winfrey and Gayle King and WNBA star Caitlin Clark.

## Present at NSVLC 2025

Present at VRCLC's 2025 [National Sexual Violence Law Conference](#) (NSVLC) October 21 - 22 in Chicago! Share your experience, recharge, and cultivate community alongside new and veteran attorneys and advocates specializing in sexual violence.

Proposals are due by Friday, February 7. Priority will be given to those focusing on accessibility and inclusion, organizational sustainability, innovative responses to sexual violence, and emerging issues impacting survivors. Submit your proposal application [here](#) or visit our conference [website](#) to learn more about NSVLC.



## MISC/FUN NEWS

### 'Tis the Season to Support Survivors

Spend with intention this gifting season! Uplift survivors while checking items off your holiday to-do list.

- Treat someone on your gift list, or even yourself, to official VRCLC merch! Our apparel and merchandise feature conversation-starting slogans highlighting VRCLC's mission and commitment to survivors. Check out our t-shirts, mugs, hoodies and more [here](#). 100% of proceeds benefit VRCLC.



- Celebrate survivor joy! Gather your loved ones and watch the powerful documentary, [Survivor Made](#). This film chronicles the resilience, innovation, and strength of survivors of gender-based violence as they build thriving businesses in Los Angeles, advocate for systemic change, and fight to prove that investing in survivors saves lives. Watch or learn more about this documentary made by survivors for survivors [here](#) and purchase holiday gifts from featured survivor-led businesses [here](#).
- Gift VRLC clients with gift cards that could help a displaced survivor access essentials like groceries, clothing or safe transportation. Donated gift cards help deliver hope to survivors in need through the holiday season and beyond. [Shop now](#).



*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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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 US

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