



Victim Rights Law Center

March Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We are navigating uncertain times. Our funding is in jeopardy. Our clients feel silenced. Our federal agencies are being gutted. But, more than ever, I am connecting with state and national partners, seeing old friends in the movement, and remembering the collective wisdom we have in our community.

After the election, we had to decide how to approach our communications. As a federally funded organization, we see the risks of speaking out and the ways we may be retaliated against, but after representing over 20,000 survivors who faced this same crossroads, we know what bravery looks like. It is critical that those outside of our community understand the impact some of these federal actions will have on the safety of our communities locally. You can hear more from us in this [Boston Globe article](#).

We look forward to connecting with many of you throughout April - Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

In solidarity,
Stacy

IN THE NEWS

Meet our 2025 Shining Star Awardees



Victim Rights Law Center is proud to announce our 2025 Shining Star Awardee, Anthony Mirenda, Esq.! Partner at [Foley Hoag](#) and Co-Chair of its White Collar Crime and Government Investigations Practice. As a committed advocate for survivors' rights, Tony has been a dedicated volunteer with VRLC for over two decades, making a profound impact on privacy rights. He has played a pivotal role in shaping legal arguments

through multiple VRLC amicus briefs advocating for the protection and confidentiality of survivors' medical, therapy, and personal digital records. In collaboration with Foley Hoag's pro bono counsel, he has overseen numerous VRLC pro bono cases, ensuring survivors receive critical legal support. Through his unwavering leadership, guidance, and advocacy, Tony has established himself as a dedicated champion for survivors. We are so grateful for Tony's continued contributions to VRLC and our clients, and look forward to this opportunity to highlight his service during our 2025 Shining Star Celebration. Join us Thursday, October 9 (6:00 - 8:30 p.m.) at Artists for Humanity EpiCenter, Boston. Celebrate Tony, our other awardees, and this vital VRLC event [here](#).

Stand Up, Speak Up



VRLC Senior Attorney Charissa Flege explores the connections between gender-based violence and disability in our latest Stand Up, Speak Up - A VRLC blog entry.

"The intersection between sexual violence and disability cannot be ignored," she writes. "We, as lawyers and service providers, need to better understand the full range of disability experience and invest deeply in providing access and dismantling disability biases.

If we do not make this investment, survivors will continue to be excluded from and harmed by our survivor support services." Read the full blog post on our website [here](#).

NATIONAL TRAINING

Don't Miss the NSVLC Early Bird Rate

Don't miss out on the early bird registration rate for our 2025 [National Sexual Violence Law Conference](#)! The deadline to [register](#) with this special offer is April 7th.

Join us, along with new and experienced attorneys, legal

professionals and victim advocates as we gather in the iconic city of Chicago!

Connect with members of our national network of anti-sexual violence professionals and explore alternative and innovative responses to sexual violence, emerging issues in our field, important legal updates, and more.

When: October 21-22, 2025

Where: [The Palmer House Hotel](#), Chicago, IL

Early Bird Registration Rate: \$400.00 per person through April 7th.

Learn more and take advantage of our special early bird registration rate [here](#).

Save the Date: SAAM Legal Insights Panel



Legal Insights 2025: Key Issues in Sexual Violence Law
Tuesday, April 29, 12:00 pm ET

Save the Date! In recognition of the 2025 Sexual Assault Awareness Month theme, "Together We Act, United We Change", Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) invites you to connect with a national audience



for an engaging virtual panel exploring current key issues and updates in sexual violence law.

This 60-minute discussion will delve into current developments in sexual violence law. There will be a 15-minute Question & Answer session with panelists following the discussion. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with experts navigating this ever-evolving legal landscape! Learn more and register today [here](#).

MISC/FUN NEWS

Finding Joy Together



Our Massachusetts-based team gathered together with VRLC's Board Chairs at Puttshack to take a break, celebrate a new addition to one of our staff member's families, and find *joy* in the work. As our team navigates the difficulty of maintaining survivor rights under the current administration, we remain dedicated to supporting each other and our partner organizations so that we can sustain in this work.

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