



Victim Rights Law Center

October Newsletter

Dear Friends,

October reminded us why this work matters.

We kicked off the month with our annual Shining Star Celebration, raising essential funds to support our direct services and training programs. Our community of pro bono attorneys, donors, survivors, and partners showed up with incredible generosity. Amid funding cuts and uncertainty, we were reminded that we're surrounded by people who believe in and fight for victim services.

We also had the honor of hosting 225 advocates and attorneys from across the country in Chicago for the National Sexual Violence Law Conference! Despite the funding freezes, a government shutdown, and an increasingly hostile legal landscape, these fierce advocates brought warmth, enthusiasm, and hope to every session.

Scroll down to see some of the faces and moments from an incredible month.

With deep gratitude,
Stacy

NATIONAL TRAINING

Advancing Justice at NSVLC 2025

Hundreds of advocates and attorneys joined us in Chicago last week for VRLC's [2025 National Sexual Violence Law Conference](#) (NSVLC). Together, we tackled topics including privacy, safety, immigration, and education while promoting our shared goal of best supporting survivors through an ever-evolving legal landscape.

Thank you to all who presented, participated, and supported NSVLC! Because of you, we have returned from Chicago reinvigorated as we continue this critical work together. Check out more photos from these two inspiring days in Chicago [here](#).







NEWS

VRLC Speaks Out in The New Yorker

THE NEW YORKER 100



When the Government Stops Defending Civil Rights

For months, we've been sounding the alarm about the dismantling of the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the devastating impact on students and survivors.

Now, the government shutdown has further paralyzed the OCR's ability to protect students, and the administration and its supporters continue to dismiss its mission.

VRLC Deputy Director of External Affairs Amanda Walsh spoke to *The New Yorker* in an article

published this week that shares stories of children and families facing discrimination without an OCR to guide and protect them.

"Access to feeling safe in an educational setting is not a partisan issue," she said. "Sexual assault is not a partisan issue. The clients that we serve are both Democrats and Republicans, and most of them are kids and students. I think the safety of our kids in K-12 schools and of students in university settings is one of the few

values a lot of people can agree on.”

Read the full story from the New Yorker [here](#).

DEVELOPMENT

Elves Wanted: VRLC's Holiday Gift Drive

As the holiday season approaches, VRLC clients already tasked with rebuilding their lives following sexual assault will now face increased uncertainty as a result of discontinued access to SNAP benefits during the government shutdown.

VRLC's [2025 Holiday Gift Drive](#) offers the opportunity to give comfort and hope, both fulfilling holiday wishes and ensuring access to food and essentials for survivors in Massachusetts.



Sponsor a wish list. VRLC staff will provide an Amazon wish list or lists for a family or child based on your budget. Each gift, big or small, helps brighten someone’s holiday. Email khogan-daly@victimrights.org to learn more.

Give gift cards. Gift cards are especially needed this year to help families purchase food and other necessities through the holiday season and beyond. Shop and help support survivors and their families now [here](#).

EVENTS

Spotlight on Shining Star Celebration

Shining Star Celebration was a night to remember! We are grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and attendees. Your unwavering commitment to justice and the work we accomplish together deserves celebrating. Check out some of the evening's memorable moments below and find our full photo gallery [here](#).





Calling All In-House Counsel

**VRLC In-House Counsel
Pro Bono Focus Group
Thursday, November 13
11:00 AM EST**

We're expanding our national



pro bono program, and we want to hear from you!


Join us for a virtual focus group exploring how in-house attorneys can bring their unique expertise to support survivors of sexual assault. Together, we'll discuss opportunities, address challenges, and help develop a pro bono program that works both for survivors and the attorneys who serve them.

Interested in joining? Learn more and register today [here](#).

DONATE

Thank You to our Sponsors!



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