



Victim Rights Law Center

January Newsletter

Dear Friends,

New year, same mission, but renewed energy for 2026! The anti-violence movement is resistance. We could choose to do so many other jobs at so many other places, but we choose to be here. We choose to advocate for sexual assault survivors and to focus on making this world safer for everyone. Our work is activism.

Here's what I'm focusing on as we head into the new year:

- **Continue to center survivor voices and experiences.** This means providing robust legal services for those who come to us, but also exploring who we aren't seeing and understanding why. Our services may be free, but barriers to accessing legal help continue to exist for many survivors, and it is our job to identify and address as many as we can.
- **Remain a leader in the national conversation.** Our direct services are local, but our impact is national. We spent 2025 linking arms with organizations across the country, and coalition-building will be central to our continued resistance to the attacks from this administration.
- **Be brave.** As a legal organization, we are uniquely positioned to advocate for victim services for all. Sometimes this means being out in front whether that is speaking out in the media or joining litigation. That doesn't mean it isn't scary, but being scared hasn't stopped us yet.

Looking ahead together,
Stacy

NATIONAL TRAINING

Where We've Been Lately



- VRLC Deputy Director of Operations Stephanie Holt joined the **National Criminal Justice Association's** monthly brown bag lunch to provide an overview of the lawsuits affecting DOJ grant programs and survivor-serving organizations.
- Members of VRLC's TA team welcomed new Legal Assistance for Victims Grantees at the **Office on Violence Against Women's** New Grantee Orientation, providing trainings on the distinctions between legal information and legal advice and creative strategies for supporting student-survivors in K-12 settings.
- VRLC's Deputy Director of External Affairs, Amanda Walsh trained Rhode Island nurses as part of the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam course, discussing the legal needs of sexual assault survivors and the role SANEs may play in campus sexual assault cases.
- VRLC's Deputy Director, Amanda Walsh, also participated in the January **ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence** meeting after VRLC joined as a liaison. We're thrilled to work alongside incredible national organizations and experts to support the Commission's work.

NSVLC to New Orleans

Save the Date!

VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER

NSVLC

NATIONAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE
LAW CONFERENCE

Sheraton, New Orleans | March 9-10, 2027

Registration Opens Spring 2026!

SAVE THE DATE! VRLC's [National Sexual Violence Law Conference](#) (NSVLC) is heading to New Orleans in 2027.

Join us March 9–10 at the [Sheraton New Orleans Hotel!](#) Connect with and learn from colleagues and experts against the backdrop of a city known for its vibrant culture, incredible food, rich history, and unmatched energy.

Registration opens Spring 2026! We can't wait to see you and experience NOLA's spirit of strength, resilience, and celebration alongside this powerful community. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

DEVELOPMENT

Save the Date to Celebrate!

Mark your calendar for VRLC's [2026 Shining Star Celebration!](#) Save the date to celebrate the courage of sexual assault survivors and those who fight for justice alongside them.



DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2026

TIME: 6:00–8:30 PM

LOCATION: [Artists for Humanity EpiCenter](#), Boston

100% of event proceeds support VRLC's mission to provide free legal representation to sexual assault survivors and to promote a national movement committed to seeking justice for survivors.

EVENTS

Honoring Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Legal Insights 2026

Key Legal Issues in Sexual Violence Law

April 15, 2026
12:00 - 1:00 pm EST



This April, we mark [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#) (SAAM) with our annual online panel. We hope that you will join us on Wednesday, April 15 (12:00–1:00 pm ET) as we host Legal Insights 2026: Key Issues in Sexual Violence Law. This virtual panel discussion will explore critical legal issues and updates in sexual violence law in the current political climate.


The 2026 SAAM theme “25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward,” recognizes the resilience of survivors, the progress made by advocates, and the continued commitment to ending sexual assault, abuse, and harassment. We look forward to a conversation that honors how far this work has come while also offering insights that help carry us forward together.

More details, including panelists and registration information, will be available on our [website](#) soon.

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