

Every Survivor Deserves Justice.



ANNUAL REPORT FY25



10/1/2024–9/30/2025

VRCLC's mission is to provide free legal representation to victims of rape and sexual assault to help rebuild their lives; and to promote a national movement committed to seeking justice for every rape and sexual assault victim.

Dear Friend,

In a year of increasing national disruption, we are deeply proud of all that Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) accomplished in FY25.

Faced with previously unimaginable funding threats, shuttered federal offices, questionably legal executive orders, and waves of challenges to civil rights, VRLC not only continued our work uninterrupted, but stood our ground by fighting back.

Early in the new White House administration, we recognized that a **fundamental decision** was upon us: Do we protect ourselves by staying out of the fray, laying low, and focusing on our core services? Or do we raise our heads and call out injustices as we see them?

The answer became clearer with each day. Many of the laws and regulations that we rely on in our legal cases are being threatened. Without them, we lose **priceless tools** that help us secure justice for survivors of sexual assault. We must protect them.

Despite the enormous risk—87% of our budget is from federal sources—we made the difficult decision to **not remain silent**.

We have filed and supported lawsuits against the federal government challenging new policies and structures that would make it harder for survivors to access their rights. We co-facilitate what has now become a **weekly resource-sharing effort** with peer organizations in the anti-violence field to protect ourselves from federal threats. We speak openly about the dismantling of survivors' civil rights and the importance of the fight.

FY25 also brought the difficult decision to close our Oregon office. Funding instability made it clear that we could not continue to guarantee the level of quality and consistency in direct legal services in that location. In its 10+ years of operation, our Oregon team represented **1,282 survivors with 3,226 legal matters**. Though we no longer offer legal representation there, a smaller in-state team continues to provide training and consultation to sexual assault providers and legal service organizations in Oregon.

The overlay of anxiety in our nation has made already emotionally challenging jobs even harder. Our 16 attorneys and intake specialists work every day with survivors who share the violence and abuse they experienced. Vicarious trauma is a well-known effect of this work, and in the current climate, VRLC has doubled down on **supporting our team**. We've expanded our staff wellness program and supplemented it with in-person group activities so we sustain that critical human connection.

Opportunities to celebrate are more important than ever. We began the fiscal year by honoring **Evelyn Yang** with our Leadership Award at the October **2024 Shining Star Celebration**. Yang was an influential advocate for New York's Child Victims Act and Adult Survivors Act. CNN Anchor and Chief Political Correspondent **Dana Bash** joined us to present Yang with the award. Bash described her 2020 interview with Yang as one of the most impactful in her career. It was in that interview, in the midst of her husband's presidential campaign, that Yang publicly disclosed the sexual assault she endured from her OB-GYN while she was pregnant. Her voice was instrumental in holding that doctor accountable for the hundreds of women he abused over the course of decades.

As we write this in FY26, our **energy and optimism** are fueled by new opportunities that await us, and by every survivor who stays in school, their job, or their home because our services still exist.

Thank you to those who have supported survivors through VRLC this past year. Whether it's your dollar, your expertise, or your voice, you make it possible for us to help survivors find justice.



Stacy Malone, Esq.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Rebecca Chasen
CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Krista Green Pratt, Esq.
CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Every Survivor Deserves Justice.



LEGAL SERVICES

MASSACHUSETTS



950 individuals called the MA intake line

469 rape, sexual assault, and stalking survivors were assisted with **1,128** separate legal matters

46% of clients identified as Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color

21% identified as immigrants

16% had limited English proficiency

7% were experiencing homelessness

39% disclosed a disability

20% identified as LGBTQ

AGE	0-11	2%
	12-18	15%
	19-24	19%
	25-39	33%
	40-64	22%
	65+	2%
	Undisclosed	7%

OREGON



219 individuals called the OR intake line

106 rape, sexual assault, and stalking survivors were assisted with **212** separate legal matters

69% of clients identified as Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color

53% identified as immigrants

42% had limited English proficiency

4% were experiencing homelessness

22% disclosed a disability

12% identified as LGBTQ

AGE	0-11	3%
	12-18	10%
	19-24	22%
	25-39	30%
	40-64	28%
	65+	0%
	Undisclosed	7%

"You have truly helped me find peace."

- VRLC CLIENT

"(My VRLC attorney) was able to help me get what I needed in order to keep my family and myself safe."

- VRLC CLIENT

NATIONAL TRAINING AND CONSULTATION

52 trainings delivered	Trainees from 50 states, 3 U.S. territories, and the Navajo Nation	794 hours spent providing consultation
4,196 people trained	840 technical assistance interactions	111 resources developed

Topics included:

- Restorative Justice on Campus
- The Campus Conduct Process and Dating, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking
- Informal Resolutions on Campus
- Students Responsible for Sexual Misconduct
- Questioning Skills for Investigators
- K-12 Student Survivors
- Legal Services for Trans Survivors
- Legal Services for Survivors with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities
- Privacy and Confidentiality for Survivors
- Safety Planning, Stalking, Trafficking, and Trauma-Informed Practice
- Designing and Implementing Informal Resolutions: Key Considerations for Colleges and Universities
- Safety Planning: For Students Responsible for Sexual Misconduct on Campus
- Conduct Resolution Training Requirements: Intersections of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Campus Grant Program, Title IX, and the Clery Act
- Legal Advocacy Basics: short-form videos for advocates
- School Discipline FAQs for 33 jurisdictions (states)

We created several 5-minute videos that answer some of the most frequent questions we receive from advocates around the country. This is yet another way we make it easy for busy advocates to get assistance from our team of experts.



"There is no way you can quantify how someone's support has impacted your life, but VRLC has impacted mine forever."

- LEGAL ADVOCATE

"Your expertise is so invaluable." - LEGAL SERVICES ATTORNEY

PRO BONO PROGRAMS

VRLC's 16 staff attorneys and paralegals depend on the time and expertise that dozens of private attorneys and firms donate annually. Our impact is vastly enhanced by these generous contributions.

In addition to providing direct representation to survivors in FY25, firms have offered invaluable legal research to support our national training programs. This includes jurisdiction-specific legal research for each state, populated territory, and the District of Columbia on civil protection orders, campus-based sexual misconduct protections, and statutory and case law.

Training

VRLC offers trainings and mentorship to our pro bono attorneys. This year, Goodwin hosted us for a training on protective orders and WilmerHale welcomed VRLC and Saheli, a fellow nonprofit, for a training on representing survivors seeking new or renewed restraining orders. Saheli staff brought their expertise working with South Asian and Arab immigrant survivors and their children to this collaborative training.

In-House Counsel

Most of our pro bono attorneys are with private law firms, yet we've received interest from many who serve as in-house counsel in a variety of industries.

In September, we held our first forum to help us develop a pro bono program that can best meet the needs and interests of in-house attorneys. The result is a new initiative that recruits and trains in-house attorneys to assist VRLC with legal research related to our clients and relevant to our national training programs.

"In a process that often feels dehumanizing and retraumatizing for survivors, (my VRLC pro bono attorney) made me feel heard, protected, and never alone." - VRLC CLIENT

PRO BONO FIRMS

Foley Hoag LLP
Goodwin Procter LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Mazow McCullough, PC
McDermott Will & Schulte
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,
Glovsky and Popeo, PC

Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Robinson & Cole LLP
Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP
Sinclair Law LLC
Sullivan & Worcester
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale
and Dorr LLP

PRO BONO HOURS:

1,356

hours to local
direct representation
projects

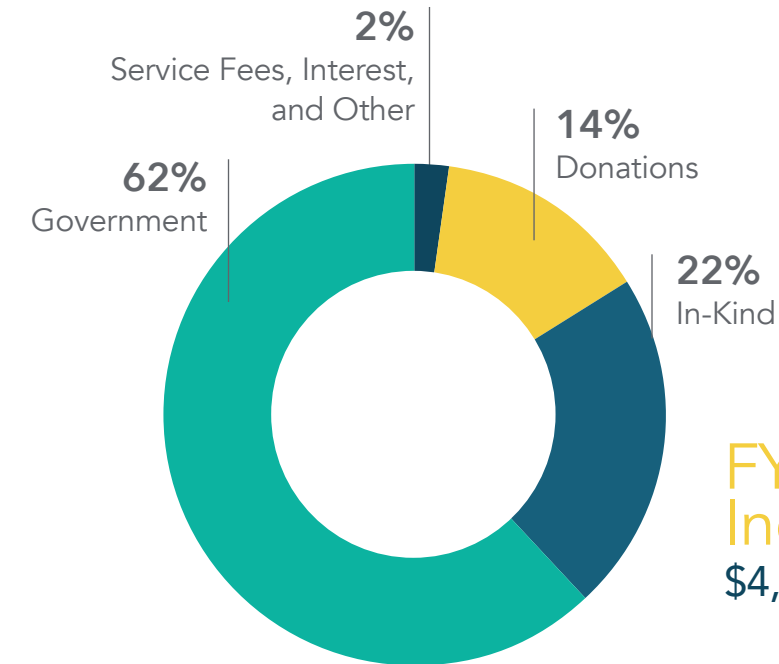
2,547

hours to national
projects

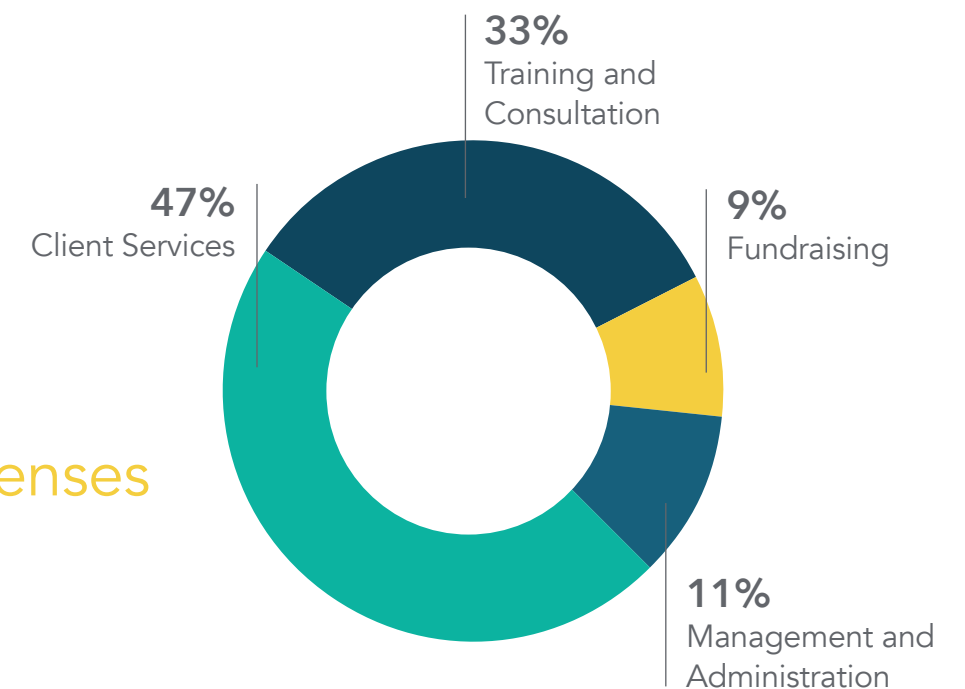
FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR 25

36% of our annual support comes from charitable donations. Our impact wouldn't be possible without our supporters' generosity.



**FY25
Income/Support
\$4,497,729**



**FY25 Expenses
\$4,247,279**

"I would never even have had the bravery to step foot into this arena ... without (VRLC's) support and your belief in me."

- LEGAL SERVICES ATTORNEY

Every Survivor Deserves Justice.



NOTEWORTHY

OREGON OFFICE CLOSURE

In July 2025, we made the very difficult decision to wind down our direct services practice in Oregon. With cuts to our funding, we were no longer able to commit the significant resources required to operate offices on both the east and west coasts.

Over 10 years, we provided legal services to **1,282 survivors in Oregon with 3,226 legal matters**. We helped these survivors obtain civil protection orders, stabilized their education in both K-12 and college campus settings, and helped immigrant survivors secure legal status.

Although VRLC no longer provides direct legal representation in the state, we continue to offer training, technical assistance, and mentoring to other Oregon providers who work with survivors. Through these services, we can help ensure that survivors in Oregon still have access to timely and relevant legal information that can be so critical to rebuilding their lives.

As we close this chapter, we thank the generous donors who made our decade of service in Oregon possible. And we recognize our remarkable Oregon direct services staff and pro bono attorneys whose commitment and dedication to survivors saved lives.



VRLC's Portland, OR staff gathered to celebrate over a decade of work on behalf of sexual assault survivors in Oregon.

SHINING STAR CELEBRATION

On October 10, 2024, VRLC gathered for the Shining Star Celebration in Boston. It was an evening filled with networking, community building, and motivating remarks from sexual assault survivors and those who inspire others to help find justice.

We honored **Evelyn Yang** for her remarkable courage and persistence in pursuing justice after experiencing sexual assault. In the midst of her husband's 2020 Presidential campaign, Yang used her national platform to disclose her victimization by her OB-GYN and the failures of the doctor's employer and the criminal justice system to protect patients from continued abuse. Yang has actively supported numerous bills to support survivors, including the Child Victims Act and the Adult Survivors Act.

CNN Anchor and Chief Political Correspondent **Dana Bash** introduced Yang, noting that a highlight of her career was their 2020 interview in which Yang revealed the abuse.

Executive Director Stacy Malone, Awardee Evelyn Yang, Deputy Director Stephanie Holt, and speaker Dana Bash

Leadership Awardee

Evelyn Yang

Shining Star Awardee

Noah Kaufman, Esq., of Morgan Lewis, for his pro bono contributions to survivors

Champion Awardee

Dechert LLP, for its pro bono support of VRLC

Courage Awardee

a VRLC Client, for her resilience and bravery



CALLS TO ACTION

Following the November 2024 presidential election, many in our community were alarmed about the future of survivor rights under the incoming administration. Those concerns proved accurate with dramatic policy shifts and attacks on nonprofits, including those serving survivors of sexual violence. In response to the fear and sense of powerlessness, VRLC used digital platforms and even highway billboards to remind survivors that they are not alone, and to encourage everyone to remain active in fighting injustice.



Survivors with disabilities are among the most vulnerable members

Kelsey Worline, Esq., Managing Attorney, VRLC

OUTFRONT Media asked how they could help and generously posted VRLC's message up and down roadways throughout Massachusetts. Billboards supporting survivors could be seen in Salisbury, Canton, Norton, Rehoboth, and Plainville.



4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT BACK:

1. Call out threats when you see them - to your elected officials and your community
2. Examine how political proposals might affect survivors
3. Keep sexual violence in the public dialogue
4. Volunteer, attend events, and donate to survivor-centered organizations



"We have spent 20 years building momentum to shift the culture on sexual violence. The recent Presidential election is the single most devastating backlash for this issue. But we refuse to go back."

- VRLC FOUNDER SUSAN VICKERS, ESQ.

STRONGER TOGETHER

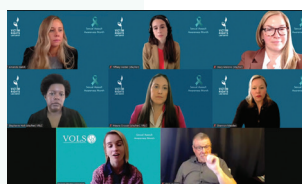
In response to the confusion and fear caused by the President's administration issuing a flurry of Executive Orders and chaotically terminating grants for nonprofits, VRLC collaborated with other movement leaders* to begin co-facilitating a weekly **National Collaboration Call** for lawyers and advocates in the gender-based violence field. Each call draws 50 or more participating organizations to share updates, identify trends, and provide a supportive community. The virtual Town Halls on immigrant survivors and the False Claims Act capped out at 500 attendees each.

From the start, it was clear that legal research and analysis were needed by gender-based violence programs to understand and navigate the swiftly changing landscape putting services for survivors at risk. As the leading organization in sexual violence law, VRLC recognized the importance of stepping into this role. Our legal expertise and long-standing partnerships with law firms* enable us to provide peer organizations with essential research and key insights. Every week, we hear from participants how vital this shared space is for them.

**Note: Names of programs and law firms are intentionally excluded in order to protect them from retaliation.*

VIRTUAL PANEL

Legal Insights 2025: Key Issues in Sexual Violence Law



More than 350 attorneys, legal advocates, survivors, and allies joined VRLC for our second annual virtual Legal Insights panel on April 29th, 2025. VRLC attorneys and Keighly Rector, Esq., of the Immigration Project at Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) presented:

- **Surviving the Storm: Supporting Survivors Amid Funding Uncertainty**
- **Safeguarding Immigrant Survivors: Navigating an Increasingly Hostile Landscape**
- **Image-Based Sexual Abuse and the Rise of Deepfakes in Technology-Facilitated Violence**
- **Title IX Advocacy in the Era of Department of Education Cuts**

"I am so appreciative of your leadership, your endless education and training for our work. You brighten my screen in what seems like the darkest of times!"

- NONPROFIT LEADER



NOTEWORTHY

FEDERAL LAWSUITS

With the majority of our funding coming from federal sources, it is not an easy decision to file suit against the U.S. government. And yet, when we recognize harm being done to our clients and all survivors because of new policies, funding decisions, or protocols, we don't hesitate to use the power of the law to fight for justice.

Each of these lawsuits helps slow efforts to gut survivors' rights.

TITLE IX

Together with a brave survivor, we filed a motion in February 2025 to intervene in a lawsuit to fight for the 2024 Title IX rule protections. The 2024 rule had been struck down and the regulations from the first Trump administration were reinstated. These regulations create harmful barriers to reporting sexual assault, which we have witnessed firsthand in our clients' cases. VRLC is grateful to be represented by a brilliant team at National Women's Law Center, Mehri & Skalet, and Gatlin Voelker.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

In April, after the U.S. Department of Education shuttered half of its regional Offices for Civil Rights (OCR) and slashed its staff, VRLC sued to fully staff OCR in order to meet its legal mandate to promptly investigate and resolve civil rights violations in schools across the country. OCR has been critical to protecting students who experience sexual assault. Without it, student survivors are at greater risk of repeat victimization and dropping out of school. With the support of our attorneys at Public Justice and Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes, we obtained a preliminary injunction pausing the reduction in force. While it was ultimately overturned, the injunction delayed the staffing cuts until October when they became effective during the government shutdown. In November 2025, Congress passed a law cancelling all reductions in force carried out during the shutdown and OCR staff were sent back to work.



Leaving the federal courthouse with our attorneys from Public Justice and Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes.

HOLIDAY DRIVE

Dozens of generous friends donated to make the 2024 holiday season a happy one for many of our clients. 46 donors gave toys, educational items, clothing, and gift cards to 36 of our clients and their families, including 68 children and six adult survivors with intellectual/developmental disabilities. While the children loved the presents, for the parents, the gift was the joy on their children's faces and the knowledge that they are not alone.

"With all I've been through this year with my son, I wanted to close out this year with a sense of normalcy. Thank you for thinking of him and understanding that's there's so much more that is still going on behind the scenes once the dust settles."

- VRLC CLIENT

DONOR LIST

Donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations enable VRLC to extend our efforts, advocate for improved policies and laws, pilot new initiatives, and provide a range of free educational and information services to the community.

We thank the generosity of our supporters in FY25.

“Having two more people in my life who saw me for who I was

and everything I could be rather than just a victim made all the difference in the world.” - VRLC CLIENT

\$50,000+

The William H. Donner Foundation
Kate Murtagh

\$25,000+

Deloitte
Michele and Howard Kessler
Georgia Murray and Mark Maloney
Brenda and Rick Sharton

\$10,000+

Birch Hill Investment Advisors LLC
Rebecca and Allan Chasen
Dechert LLP
Philip C. Ingerman 2023 Revocable Trust
Janika and George LeMaitre
Levin, Riback & Adelman
Stacy Malone and Al Tringali
Deb and Steve Marcus
McDermott Will & Schulte
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Karen O'Malley and Michael Feldman
Kevin and Vanessa O'Malley
Ropes & Gray LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Sincere Foundation
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

\$5,000+

Anonymous
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Biogen
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Anne E. Borghesani Community Foundation
Marybeth Burke and Sam Lambroza
CFG
Susan Estrich
Feldman Geospatial
The Fierberg National Law Group, PLLC
Foley Hoag LLP
FTI Consulting
Rebecca Hart Holder and Molly Holder
Robert Insolia
Knuuttila Law, LLC
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
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\$2,500+

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Christopher B. Price
Rich May, PC
Santoro & Gray, LLC
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Gould Grieco & Hensley
Town Fair Tire Foundation

\$1,000+

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Mary and Keith Barber
Gary Belowich and Julie Rosen
Scott and Risa Burgess
Carolyn S. Daley, Power Rogers, LLP
DocketBird

Chris and Karen Erikson
Tim and Lisa Fagan
Janet and Michael Frazier
Elizabeth Shea Fries
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Brenda Hansen
Hecker Fink LLP
Erin Higgins and Doug Rosner
Impact Trial Consulting, LLC
Carol and Dennis Kanin
Courtney Keller and Kyle Murray
Paul Kim
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Erika and Bojan Rajkovic
Janice and Kevin Roden
Sandra Dee Shugart Fund,
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Joan Sapir and Joel Ristuccia
Callie Schneider
Karoline Shair
Smith, Sullivan & Brown
Anne and Bill Tobin
The Tow Foundation
Jason Traue
Rebecca Tulman
Susan Vickers and Clint Fondo
Vista Equity Partners
Evelyn and Andrew Yang
Wendy and Jong Yang

In-Kind \$1,000+

Artistic Blossoms
Boston Harbor City Cruises
Gordon Lower PR
Janika LeMaitre
Mallory Portraits
The Sleepy Baker
Susan Vickers and Clint Fondo
Von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort

“Having support in this matter is new to me and I feel like I can finally breathe again.” - VRLC CLIENT

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"You gave me a microphone for my voice and you used your expertise to guide me through the legal system that in this case worked to protect us from harm."

- VRLC CLIENT

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FY26 SNEAK PEEK



In next year's report, we'll share more about our 2025 Shining Star Leadership Awardees, **Antoine Camus and Stéphane Babonneau**. They represented survivor **Gisèle Pelicot**, whose case in France drew international attention.



We'll give a rundown of our **National Sexual Violence Law Conference** (October 21-22, 2025), the only conference of its kind.

And we'll share more examples of VRLC in the **national press**.

THE
NEW YORKER



VANITY FAIR

Every Survivor Deserves Justice.



SHINING STAR CELEBRATION



Every Survivor Deserves Justice.



11 Beacon Street, Suite 520, Boston, MA 02108

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