



Victim Rights Law Center

April Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Every April, we recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) by uplifting the stories of survivors, raising awareness about the prevalence of sexual assault, and honoring the resilience of those we serve. This year, we are encouraged to see bipartisan recognition of the women who experienced sexual abuse perpetrated by Representatives Swalwell and Gonzales.

Sexual violence persists because our systems and our culture protect those in power and continue to fail those who come forward. “Believe Survivors” is more than a rallying cry during SAAM. It is a commitment that we must reinforce through our words and our collective action in response to harm.

Today, throughout SAAM, and every day beyond, we believe those who have shared their stories. We recognize the courage it takes to come forward, and we honor that courage by insisting on accountability and working toward a future where our systems offer survivors the justice they deserve.

In solidarity,
Stacy

NEWS

Vanity Fair: VRLC Calls for Survivor Protections



Attorney General Pam Bondi speaks at a news conference on November 19, 2025, alongside Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche (L) and FBI Director Kash Patel (R). All three backed the Epstein files' release until they didn't. GETTY IMAGES.

POLITICS

“An Abomination”: How the Epstein Files Exposed Victims Instead of Perpetrators

President Trump's Department of Justice shielded banks and billionaires while exposing Epstein's alleged victims in the release of six million files. Now some survivors have filed suit against the federal government.

BY DANIELLE POWELL COBB

MARCH 30, 2026

The Justice Department's failure to protect the privacy of Epstein survivors while still shielding powerful individuals named in the files is a major betrayal of trust and revictimizes survivors.

“We're weakening the public's trust in these systems that are supposed to help victims and are supposed to keep our society safe,” VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone told Vanity Fair in an article published last month examining disparities in how Epstein survivors and those with wealth and influence named in the files were treated. “It perpetuates this cycle of abuse and trauma over and over again.”

Protections like rape shield laws exist to safeguard survivors' privacy and dignity. Ignoring these protections in the name of transparency harms both survivors and the systems intended to protect them.

Read the full story from Vanity Fair [here](#).

Stand Up, Speak Up Blog

In our most recent blog entry, VRLC Assistant Director of Training and Consultation Maura Crossin examines how attorney representation can significantly improve survivors' experiences while navigating the criminal justice system.



She highlights several positive ways attorney involvement can benefit survivors, including strengthening communication, enhancing safety, and helping them feel validated and supported throughout their cases and beyond. Learn more and read the full blog entry [here](#).

NATIONAL TRAINING

Building Stronger Teams Together



Ten attorneys from domestic violence and sexual assault programs around the country joined VRLC in Boston recently to discuss their personal supervision strengths, building and retaining sustainable teams, and to raise emerging issues in their legal programs.

Thank you to Dechert and former VRLC Board Member Brenda Sharton for hosting this group.

Where We've Been Lately



- VRLC staff attended [Reproductive Equity Now's](#) Breaking Barriers Gala in Boston, joining partners and advocates from across the region to celebrate progress in advancing reproductive healthcare access. The event also honored REN's 2026 awardees, including outgoing president Rebecca Hart Holder, who was recognized for her leadership and longstanding commitment to reproductive justice. Congratulations, Rebecca!
- VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone spoke virtually to UMass Amherst pre-law undergraduate students about her career path as a survivor, lawyer, and nonprofit executive. Students described the conversation as deeply impactful and inspiring, with one noting, "You were so incredibly powerful and meaningful. I was moved by your passion."
- VRLC Attorney Kiah Murphy joined a panel at the [Massachusetts Society for a World Free of Sexual Harm by Youth](#) (MASOC) conference, sharing insights on survivor-centered, restorative approaches to sexual harm.

Register Now: NSVLC 2027

National Sexual Violence Law Conference

March 9 - 10, 2027
Sheraton, New Orleans

Registration is open now! Join us March 9–10, 2027, at the [Sheraton New Orleans Hotel](#) for two days of connection, learning, and collaboration designed to share critical tools for strengthening legal supports for survivors of sexual violence.



Network with leaders in the field from across the country while taking in the iconic culture, historic streets, and unmistakable spirit that make New Orleans an unforgettable destination.

[Book your room](#) and register today [here!](#)

MISC./FUN NEWS

Support Survivors in Style

VICT/M RIGHTS LAW CENTER

Every day is a good day to believe survivors.

It's a good day to BELIEVE SURVIVORS


100% of proceeds support VRLC

Every day is a good day to believe survivors—especially during Sexual Assault Awareness Month!

Believe survivors. Share your support. Browse our merchandise [here](#) and help sustain critical legal services for survivors.

All proceeds support VRLC's mission to provide legal representation, help rebuild lives, and advance justice for every survivor of rape and sexual assault.

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