



VRLC
Victim Rights Law Center

May 2026

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Last month, in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we focused on raising awareness about the realities survivors face when accessing their legal rights. This month, we are turning that momentum into collective action.

We joined over [360 organizations and individuals](#) to demand the release of last year's Office on Violence Against Women grant funds and the posting of this year's funding opportunities. Three of VRLC's grants are set to end in September, including funding that allows us to mentor attorneys handling their first education case, equip legal directors with strong onboarding and training tools, and support universities developing more just and trauma-informed sexual misconduct policies. The delay in these grants has real consequences. These funds establish and sustain programs our communities rely on and collectively, we must ensure that they continue. Because, as the great civil rights leader John Lewis reminds us, "If not us, then who?"

In solidarity,
Stacy

NEWS

Act Now: Help Preserve Victim Services

**FUNDING FOR
VICTIM SERVICES
IS AT STAKE.**

A nearly \$500,000 potential reduction to VRLC's Massachusetts legal services grants could leave more than 300 sexual assault survivors without access to vital support.

In our most recent [blog](#), Executive Director Stacy Malone outlines the serious impacts proposed funding cuts could have on survivors across Massachusetts.

Please reach out to your state representatives today and tell them to preserve victim services. Read more about the challenges facing survivor services and learn more about how you can help protect access to justice in Stacy's full blog post [here](#).

Meet Our 2026 Shining Star Awardees

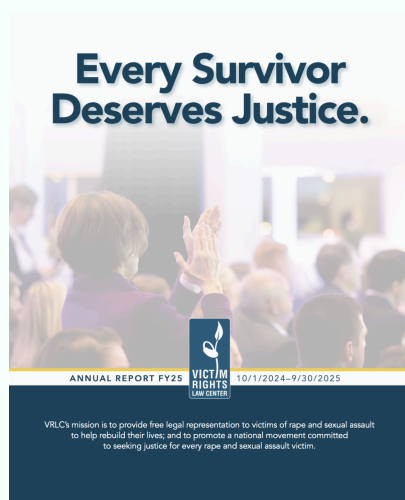
Check out our inspiring lineup of 2026 Shining Star awardees below. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about their significant contributions to VRLC's mission and the sexual violence law movement.

Celebrate this year's Shining Stars and the collective impact of our community at VRLC's [2026 Shining Star Celebration](#) on October 1 (6:00–8:30 PM) at Artists for Humanity EpiCenter in Boston.

Ticket information and event details are coming soon. Check out our website for sponsorship opportunities and updates [here](#).



FY25 Annual Report Now Available



VRLC's FY25 Annual Report is now available online [here](#).

From legal advocacy to national training, FY25 showcased VRLC's continued leadership in supporting survivors. In Massachusetts, we assisted 469 survivors with 1,128 separate legal matters. Nationally, VRLC trained 4,196 individuals across all 50 states, three U.S. territories, and the Navajo Nation.

The report also highlights VRLC's efforts to defend Title IX protections and preserve the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil

Rights. Check out more on our achievements, challenges, and ongoing advocacy efforts for FY25 [here](#).

NATIONAL TRAINING

Connecting with Colleagues



There is something special about being surrounded by colleagues who understand both the weight and the joy of this work.

VRLC recently wrapped up another round of training with OVW Legal Assistance for Victims programs. This group of professionals from throughout the country brought so much care and support to the space and to each other.

Thank you to Morgan Lewis for hosting us in your Boston office!

Join us in NOLA for NSVLC 2027

National Sexual Violence Law Conference

March 9 - 10, 2027

[Sheraton, New Orleans](#)

Now is the time to make your plans to join us for VRLC's 2027 [National Sexual Violence Law Conference](#) (NSVLC).

NSVLC creates space for attorneys, advocates, and legal professionals from across the country to exchange ideas, strengthen legal advocacy for survivors of sexual violence, and foster connections across the movement.



Set against the vibrant backdrop of New Orleans, NSVLC features two days of learning, collaboration, and community-building in one of the country's most dynamic and culturally rich cities.

Registration is open now! [Reserve your spot today](#) and [book your hotel room](#) here.

MISC./FUN NEWS


Where We've Been Lately



- VRLC Deputy Director of Operations Stephanie Holt and Executive Director Stacy Malone (above) attended [Jane Doe Inc.](#)'s Spring Into Action event on May 5 at the Artists For Humanity EpiCenter. The event brought together survivors, advocates, and community partners in support of the ongoing work to prevent sexual and domestic violence and build safer communities across Massachusetts.
- Stacy also joined a panel for a Congressional briefing hosted by think tank [Third Way](#). She served as the on-the-ground expert on how new federal grant conditions are negatively impacting nonprofits, survivor services, and public safety.
- VRLC staff recently gathered at [Flight Club Boston](#) in the Seaport for a fun team outing and an opportunity for friendly competition and connection outside of the office.
- Late last month, we joined [Boston Area Rape Crisis Center's](#) 20th Annual Walk for a Change (pictured below). The event gathered hundreds of attendees together to show support for survivors and spread awareness of the critical services BARCC and other partners offer to assist those impacted by sexual violence.


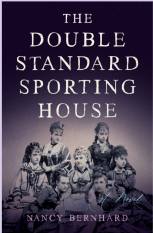




Turn the Page with Purpose



Book Talk: Accountability for Sexual Assault

Wed June 17, 7 PM
Cambridge, MA


Mark your calendar for a conversation with VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone and author Nancy Bernhard.

Join us at [Porter Square Books](#) in Cambridge, MA on Wednesday, June 17th at 7:00pm for a discussion of Bernhard's book, *The Double Standard Sporting House*.

Porter Square Books will donate 20% of sales made from 6:30-8:30 PM that evening to Victim Rights Law Center.

RSVP via email to events@portersquarebooks.com to receive event updates and a reminder the day before.

DONATE

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