



Dear Friends,

Summer is underway! VRLC staff kicked it off with the first of our two annual closure weeks. Every year, but especially one as hard as this, we prioritize taking care of ourselves and each other so we can sustain in this work. While we know the demand for our services continues, it is important that we remain healthy and ready to advocate for the clients we serve. I hope all advocates, attorneys, and allies have the same opportunity to recharge this summer because we owe that to survivors.

That doesn't mean the work took a pause. We are proud to be standing in solidarity with the field as we continue to resist this administration. Read on below to hear more about our advocacy efforts

Wishing you all a restful and celebratory summer,
Stacy

NEWS

Support Worth Celebrating



VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone was honored to join [Cummings Foundation](#) co-founder Joyce Cummings and fellow nonprofit leaders at last month's Cummings Foundation Grant Winner Celebration.

As one of this year's 150 grant recipients, VRLC is honored to be among the nonprofits sharing in \$35 million in funding across Greater Boston. We are so grateful for the Cummings Foundation's investment in our work and the survivor communities we serve.

VRLC Before Congress



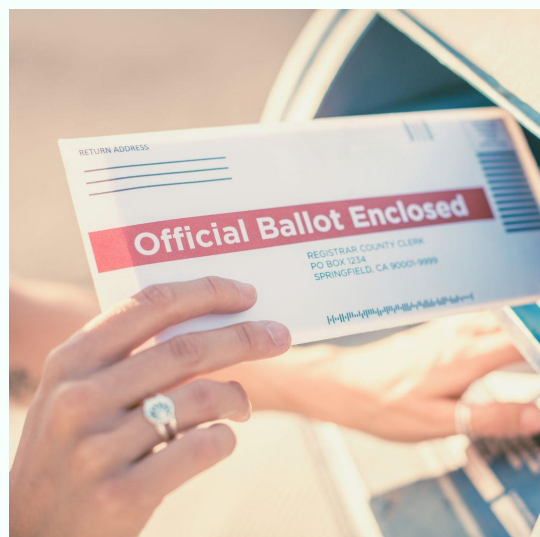
On June 23, VRLC Deputy Director of Operations Stephanie Holt provided in-person testimony at a congressional briefing in Washington, D.C., before Senator Cory Booker, his staff, and other congressional staff. The briefing addressed harmful proposed Department of Justice grant conditions, delayed funding opportunities that threaten continuity of services, and federal restructuring efforts that could significantly impact the Office on Violence Against Women.

Stephanie shared how abrupt changes to federal funding requirements create significant administrative burdens, disrupt the stability of survivor-serving organizations, and threaten survivors' access to critical services. Her testimony highlighted the real-world impact of these policy changes and the importance of sustaining the resources survivors rely on every day.

Standing up for Voting Access

VRLC recently joined a coalition of domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking survivor-serving organizations submitting a comment that urged the United States Postal Service to withdraw a proposed ballot mail rule that could make voting less safe and less accessible for survivors.

Together, the coalition voiced concerns that these proposed changes could create new barriers to participation and undermine protections that help survivors safely exercise their right to vote.



The organizations emphasize that voting by mail has long been a secure and reliable way to participate in elections and that any changes affecting millions of voters must comply with federal law while protecting the rights and safety of vulnerable communities.

Learn more [here](#).

Protecting Medical Privacy



Earlier this month VRLC partnered with [McGrath Kavinsky LLP](#), taking action to protect the private medical records of hundreds of women accusing a former California physician of sexual abuse.

Through an amicus brief filed in support of the survivors, VRLC called on the California Court of Appeals to protect survivors' privacy rights and ensure they are not forced to

choose between seeking accountability and protecting personal medical information.

The court's decision could have far-reaching implications for survivor privacy and access to justice in California and beyond.

Read more on this from *National Law Review* [here](#).

NATIONAL TRAINING

Share Your Expertise at NSVLC

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Innovators and experts, join us at NSVLC 2027 in New Orleans March 9-10!

VRLC's [National Sexual Violence Law Conference \(NSVLC\)](#) is now accepting proposals from attorneys, advocates, researchers, and experts interested in presenting at the country's only conference dedicated to sexual violence law.

Priority will be given to proposals focused on:

- Accessibility & Inclusion
- Sustainability in the Work
- Alternative & Innovative Responses
- Emerging Issues

Proposal deadline: August 21, 2026

Selected trainers will be notified by September 8, 2026.

Learn more at victimrights.org/conference and submit your proposal [here](#).

A Refresher on Immigrants Rights

On June 16, VRLC provided a vital virtual training for Massachusetts advocates and attorneys working with immigrant survivors.

Funded by the Massachusetts Bar Association, the session hosted over 90 registered advocates to learn about site preparedness, including front-desk



protocols for handling immigration enforcement. Participants also focused on family emergency planning and core Know Your Rights information.

This training provided actionable scripts and caregiver safety tools to help attendees working with immigrant survivors confidently navigate a shifting enforcement landscape and better protect the survivors they serve.

MISC./FUN NEWS

Turning the Page with Purpose

Last month, VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone joined author Nancy Bernhard at Porter Square Books in Cambridge for a conversation about Bernhard's novel, *The Double Standard Sporting House*.

Set in 19th-century New York, the novel explores healing, justice, survival, and accountability in ways that remain relevant today.

Thank you to Porter Square Books for donating 20% of the evening's sales to VRLC, and to Nancy Bernhard for inviting us to engage with her work and creating an opportunity to reflect on challenges that have impacted generations of survivors.



Thank You to our Funding Partners!



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Victim Rights Law Center
11 Beacon Street, Suite 520
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: (617) 399-6720
Fax: (617) 399-6722



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