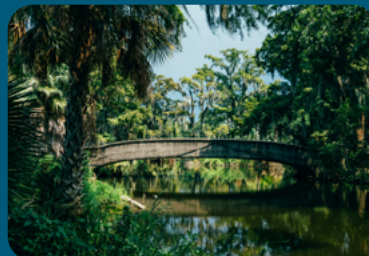


VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER

NSVLC

NATIONAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE
LAW CONFERENCE

March 9–10, 2027
New Orleans, LA





Victim Rights Law Center is delighted to invite you to the

National Sexual Violence **LAW CONFERENCE**

March 9-10, 2027

As the only national conference focused on the legal needs of sexual violence survivors, NSVLC provides a unique opportunity for attendees to learn, network, and find community with others doing this work. In the words of a past attendee:

“There is so much information; the thing that sticks in my head is that we are fighting for justice and also fighting for joy.”

The conference will bring together lawyers and advocates from across the country who utilize the civil legal justice system to better respond to the needs of sexual assault survivors. Those interested in strengthening their expertise in legal practice areas key to serving sexual assault survivors such as privacy, safety, immigration, education, and employment are encouraged to attend. The conference is an opportunity to explore emerging issues alongside a national network of lawyers and advocates.

When: March 9-10, 2027

Where: The Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA

Who: Both new and experienced lawyers, legal professionals, and victim advocates working with survivors of sexual violence

Registration \$575.00 per person standard

Rate: \$475 per person non-profit/government

Note: A reduced rate has been secured at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, located steps from the historic French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Refund & Cancellation Policy: Cancellation requests must be received by February 10, 2027, after which we will not issue any refunds. Cancellation and refund requests must be provided in writing and must be e-mailed to VRLC. An administrative fee of \$200 applies to all cancellations made at any time, including prior to February 10, 2027. Refunds will be processed within 30 days following your request.

Register Now!



Agenda

2027 National Sexual Violence
LAW CONFERENCE



Tuesday, March 9 7:30am-6:30pm

- Registration
- Remarks & Opening Keynote
- Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Lunch on Your Own (90 minutes)
- Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Networking Reception

Wednesday, March 10 8:30am-5pm

- Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Lunch on Your Own (90 minutes)
- Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Remarks & Closing Keynote

Sessions

Beyond the Ban: Navigating Abortion Access After Sexual Violence

Morgan Lamandre, President & CEO, **Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response (STAR) Center**

Through an interactive simulation, participants will navigate the legal, financial, geographic, safety, and practical barriers sexual assault survivors may face when seeking abortion care. The workshop will then explore legal remedies and advocacy strategies attorneys and advocates can use to protect survivor autonomy and improve access to care.

Bridging the Gap: Improving Access to Protective Orders Through Data, Policy, and Practice

Amanda Elkanick Oder, Chief Advocacy & Education Officer, **Bronwyn Blake**, Chief Legal Officer, **Texas Advocacy Project**

Protective orders are among the most powerful legal tools available to survivors of violence, yet access to these life-saving protections varies widely across jurisdictions. Drawing on Texas Advocacy Project's Protective Orders in Texas: A 2025 Update on Policies, Practices, and Survivor Access, this workshop will explore statewide findings on policies, court practices, and barriers to access while offering data-driven insights and practical strategies to strengthen system responses and advance equitable access for survivors of family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

Building Better Boundaries to Prevent Burnout

Sarah A. Ford, Legal Director, **South Carolina Victim Assistance Network**

Victim service work is emotionally demanding and deeply personal, making healthy boundaries essential for both sustainability and effective advocacy. This one-hour training will guide providers through key strategies for recognizing boundary gaps, setting clear limits, and managing burnout.

Creative Pathways to Justice for Workplace Sexual Misconduct

Laura Feldman, Of Counsel, **The Prinz Law Firm**

Survivors of sexual assault in the workplace are often unaware of civil remedies and other legal tools that can provide them greater leverage. Participants will explore the acute risk of violating these lesser known laws and how their protections maximize case outcomes.

De-Escalation Skills

Meg Stone, Executive Director, **IMPACT Boston**

Experiential practice helps you think fast and maintain calm under stress. In this workshop, instructors demonstrate realistic scenarios and model strategies for maintaining calm and safety during challenging interactions with client survivors. Participants learn and practice skills with an instructor who plays the role of the escalated client.

Defending VAWA and Defining the Future

Micaela Deming, Esq., Policy Director, **DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

The Violence Against Women Act has served as a solid foundation and tool to advance the recognition and understanding of gender-based violence, survivorship, and best practices. Explore the efforts to defend VAWA, the limitations of those strategies, and how to meaningfully move towards a future beyond the changing federal landscape.

Digital Danger: Preventing and Combatting Cyber Sexual Abuse

Elizabeth Payne, Legal Director **Deborah Hogan**, Managing Attorney, **Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation**

Learn about the current legal landscape in cyber sexual abuse, including criminal and civil laws and recent developments at the state and federal level. Hear two attorneys discuss real-life creative approaches to combat cyber abuse and practical tips for protecting privacy and preserving evidence.

Enhanced Safety Planning Strategies for Advocates and Organizations Serving Immigrant Survivors

Katharina Dechert, Policy & Advocacy Manager, **Tahirih Justice Center** | **Cristina Velez**, Legal & Policy Director, **ASISTA Immigration Assistance** | **Cecilia Friedman Levin**, Director, **Alliance for Immigrant Survivors**

Current policies are heightening risks for immigrant survivors of sexual assault. This training equips advocates and organizations with trauma-informed tools to address these risks including enhanced individual and organizational safety planning approaches, and strategies for navigating the legal systems that shape survivors' path to safety and justice.

Family Law, Parental Rights, and Children Conceived by Sexual Assault

Ruthie Withers, Supervising Family Law Attorney **Kiosha Fowlkes**, AmeriCorps Legal Advocate, **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**

This workshop examines the legal landscape surrounding children conceived as a result of sexual assault, exploring existing state and federal protections—and gaps—that determine whether a perpetrator can claim parental rights. It will provide a 50-state overview of how states handle parental rights termination in these cases, discuss how the “best interest of the child” standard factors into these matters, and analyze legislative trends regarding automatic termination of parental rights upon proof of sexual assault.

Financial Wellness as a Survivor Right

Sarah Dohoney Byrne, Partner, **Moore & Van Allen PLLC**

Sexual exploitation leads to significant losses for survivors – physically, psychologically and financially. This session will address the extent of those losses, the costs associated with recovery, the laws providing compensation and the financial wellness tools necessary for survivors to thrive.

How to Integrate Forensic Psychology into Sexual Abuse Cases

Judie Saunders, Sexual Abuse Litigator, **ASK LLP** | **Dr. Seyi Amosu**, Clinical Psychologist

This workshop uses a de-identified case study - a teenage male student athlete groomed and sexually abused over two years by a female teacher at his private school - to present culturally competent framework for developing sexual abuse cases involving male survivors and non-stereotypical perpetrators. Presented jointly by the plaintiff's attorney and the forensic psychologist who evaluated the survivor, the session examines how gender stereotypes and the adultification of a male youth delayed the survivor's own recognition that he had been victimized, and how that same bias shapes how juries, adjusters, and legal teams assess credibility.

Inclusive Access to Justice: Vacatur Relief for Survivors of Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking, Citizens and Noncitizens Alike

Michelle Carey, Directing Attorney, **Survivor Justice Center**

Nagwa Ibrahim, Legal Director, **Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking**

This panel examines vacatur relief, the legal process of vacating criminal convictions incurred as a result of victimization, as a critical but often inequitably created and accessed remedy for survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking. The panel will explore how systemic inequities affect survivors from underserved communities, citizens and noncitizens alike, namely under-identification as survivors and unjust criminalization for conduct connected to the victimization.

Informal Resolution in College Sexual Assault Cases

Shannon Masden, Assistant Director of Training & Consultation **Kiah Murphy**, Staff Attorney, **Victim Rights Law Center**

Informal Resolution (IR) is an increasingly available, yet often underutilized, approach to addressing college sexual assault cases. By offering alternatives to traditional investigative and adjudicative processes, IR can create opportunities for resolutions that more directly reflect a survivor's needs, priorities, and goals. This session will examine the range of IR processes that may be available in college sexual assault cases and consider how these approaches can respond to the distinct needs and priorities of survivors.

Litigating the Distant Past: Overcoming Hurdles in Delayed-Discovery and Revival Civil Childhood Sexual Abuse Cases

Kristi Schubert, Civil Litigation Attorney, **Lamothe Law Firm**

This session offers practical advice on building and trying decades-old childhood sexual abuse claims when memories have faded, witnesses have died, and records are lost. Attendees will learn evidentiary strategies for historical cases, how to use FRE 415 to introduce other-acts evidence while protecting victim privacy, how to prove institutional liability, how to reframe delayed disclosure for a modern jury, and how to minimize re-traumatization of the client.

McAssault: Sexual Assault at America's Largest Child Employer

Troy D. Chandler & Devin McNulty, **Chandler McNulty LLP**

This presentation will focus on the lapses in protection at America's largest employer of children.

Outpaced: AI-Enabled Sexual Abuse, the Harms the Law Hasn't Caught Up To, and the Fight to Preserve What Little Protection Exists

Mary Liu, Attorney, Victim Rights Law Center Board Member | **Alexandra "Cookie" Eschner-Rasmussen**, Attorney, LMHC

AI is expanding the reach and scale of sexual abuse through fake sexual imagery and sexualized chatbot interactions with children, causing serious and distinct harms to survivors. This workshop examines those harms, gaps in existing law, emerging litigation and legislation, and creative legal and policy approaches to accountability.

Sexual Assault and Rideshares

Quentin Brogdon, Partner, **Crain Brogdon, LLP**

We were all taught it is dangerous to hitchhike with strangers. Yet that is exactly what we do when we use Uber or Lyft to summon a ride.

Surviving Helping Survivors as a Survivor

Grant C. Boyd, Attorney, **O'Brien Law Firm**

This seminar focused on the ins, outs, ups, and downs of helping survivors given from the perspective of a childhood sexual abuse survivor and, now, victim advocacy attorney.

What Are We Willing to Risk?

Laurie A. Watkins, Strategist, Author, Former Pentagon Policy Official & Survivor, **LFW Strategies**

What if the greatest risk isn't speaking up, but staying silent because we're afraid of what might happen if we do? Laurie A. Watkins opens the conference with a radically honest conversation about risk, courage, silence, and power, asking what we are willing to lose, what we are willing to fight for, and what becomes possible when we decide fear doesn't get the final say.

What K-12 Schools Get Wrong About Title IX

Tiffany Hester, Senior Education Attorney, National Training and Consultation, **Victim Rights Law Center**

After experiencing sexual violence in an educational setting, a student-survivor should be able to rely on their school to respond proactively and appropriately. While many higher education institutions are well trained and equipped to fulfill their Title IX response obligations, that is typically not the case with many K-12 schools. Because of staff shortages and budget restraints, K-12 schools often lack the training and personnel needed to effectively implement a Title IX response. This session will examine several of the most common mistakes that K-12 schools make in Title IX processes and identify resources and strategies that students' attorneys and advocates can use to counteract those mistakes.

When Survivors Speak: Defamation, Retaliation, and the Emerging Movement to Protect Survivor Speech

Victoria Burke, Attorney & Architect, **Speak Your Truth Act Nationwide Movement**

Anne Marie Hauben, Co-Founder, **Survivors' Solidarity March**

Survivors are told to speak up, but what happens when speaking the truth leads to a defamation lawsuit? This workshop explores the Speak Your Truth Act Nationwide Movement, a growing effort to protect survivors from weaponized defamation litigation, and examines the legal reforms and practical strategies that can help ensure survivors do not have to choose between speaking their truth and risking financial ruin.

Presenters



Dr. Seyi Amosu, a Licensed Psychologist, is an Associate Consultant at Lorio Forensics. She received a Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Georgia; a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Southern Illinois University; and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Southern Illinois University, where she specialized in sexual trauma, gender based violence, and identity development during her generalist training. Dr. Amosu has extensive experience in her private practice in the areas of vocational therapy, youth group work, and addiction counseling. She has published academic research on the carceral system, culture, gender, and the relationship between at-risk populations and mental health services, and served as a lecturer at Morehouse College and Southern Illinois University. Dr. Amosu has consulted with legal teams across the country on a variety of cases.



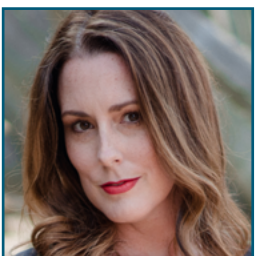
Bronwyn Blake, UT Law '05, is the Chief Legal Officer of the Texas Advocacy Project and the Founder of their Teen Justice Initiative, a program that advocates for teen victims of dating violence. Blake was awarded the first UT Faculty Fellowship in Public Interest Law from the William Wayne Justice Center to start this valuable work. In 2016, Blake was awarded the Texas Access to Justice Commission's James B. Sales Boots on the Ground Award for her legal services work. She has served as an officer on the board of Girlstart, an organization that empowers girls in science, technology, engineering, and math and as the President of the Balcones Hills Women's Club, the oldest neighborhood association in Austin. She is an adjunct professor at UT Law teaching "Domestic Violence and the Law."



Grant Boyd is a plaintiff's attorney based in St. Louis, Missouri, committed to standing up for those whose lives have been shattered by violence. With years of experience navigating high-stakes litigation against powerful institutions and individuals, Grant has earned a reputation for his fearless approach in the courtroom and his ability to hold wrongdoers accountable. He focuses his practice on representing victims of sexual abuse, violent crime, wrongful death, and other personal injury cases. To date, he has secured more than \$500 million for crime and sexual abuse victims. Behind his strength is genuine compassion and an understanding that legal action is about more than compensation; it helps survivors reclaim power and find hope for the future.



Quentin Brogdon is a former president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association and has practiced law for nearly 40 years. As a prosecutor, Brogdon handled sexual assault prosecutions and, after leaving the prosecutor's office, worked as a defense lawyer on a docket consisting entirely of cases involving corporations sued for rapes, robberies, and murders that occurred on their premises. Since becoming a plaintiffs' lawyer in 1998, Brogdon has consistently represented victims of sexual assault, including many cases in recent years involving rideshares. Brogdon has testified before the Texas Legislature against Uber's efforts to limit its responsibility for sexual assaults and has authored three published articles on Uber's and Lyft's legal responsibility for sexual assaults in rideshares.



Victoria Burke is an attorney, law professor, survivor, and nationally recognized legislative advocate whose work focuses on protecting survivors of sexual violence from legal retaliation. Drawing on her own experience as a survivor, Burke is the architect and original drafter of California's landmark Speak Your Truth Act (AB 933), now codified at California Civil Code § 47.1. She has since led efforts to expand similar protections nationwide, working with lawmakers, advocates, and survivor organizations across the country to protect survivors from retaliatory defamation litigation. Bringing the perspective of both an attorney and a survivor to her work, Burke speaks about the intersection of sexual violence, defamation, survivor speech, anti-SLAPP protections, and legislative reform. Her work and advocacy have been widely featured in national and regional media outlets.



Sarah Byrne is a partner with Moore & Van Allen PLLC in Charlotte, N.C., where she leads the firm's Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project, representing survivors of sex trafficking, forced labor and child sex abuse, and assisting organizations with human trafficking prevention and compliance programs. At the national level, Sarah is a frequent conference speaker and advocate for legislative change in support of trafficking victims. She is a founding member of the National Survivor Law Collective, a national network of trauma-informed lawyers providing legal aid to survivors. With a unique focus on the intersection of human trafficking and the financial sector, she works with both survivors and banks on the Survivor Inclusion Initiative, a United Nations-originated program that increases survivor access to financial freedom.



Troy Chandler is a nationally renowned trial lawyer with experience in a number of practice areas, particularly cases involving the representation of crime victims. He has amassed hundreds of millions of dollars in jury verdicts and is regularly invited as a guest lecturer on successful trial and litigation strategies. Troy credits the foundation of his success to the discipline and motivation he gained as a United States Marine starting at the age of 17. Troy served six years in a US Marine Corps rifle platoon and was honorably discharged in 1992.



Michelle Carey is a Directing Attorney with the Survivor Justice Center, formerly known as the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, a non-profit in East LA dedicated to securing justice for survivors. She has represented low-income survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and human trafficking in their immigration matters for over 20 years. Michelle testified on behalf of the nation's first statewide U Visa certification bill and was a principal drafter of AB 1261, which made important amendments to that CA law. She was also instrumental to the passage of AB 2169, a bill that ensured full protection to immigrant survivors seeking vacatur. Michelle received her B.A. from Cornell University and her J.D. and M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA. She completed the Public Interest Program and graduated with a concentration in Critical Race Studies.



Katharine Dechert leads the advancement of Tahirih's Houston and Texas advocacy campaigns to change the laws and policies that prevent immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence from accessing safety and justice. Before stepping into this role, she worked on Tahirih's legal team as a legal advocate, and represented survivors before USCIS as a DOJ Accredited Representative. Prior to joining Tahirih, Katharina worked as a human rights observer in Guatemala and has a Master of International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland.



Micaela Deming, Policy Director, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, leads the Coalition's policy and systems change strategy and team, working with member programs and allies to develop policy positions, and representing the Coalition with lawmakers and local leaders. Micaela has worked extensively in direct services as a victim advocate and trial and appellate attorney for survivors; on systems change locally as a technical assistance provider, trainer, and advisor. Micaela also has experience drafting policy, responding to bills, and developing strategic plans to pursue necessary funding and support for survivors and the programs that serve them. Micaela is passionate about using the law to improve the lives of survivors individually and collectively by imagining and implementing better systemic responses.



Amanda Elkanick Oder is the Chief Advocacy and Education Officer at Texas Advocacy Project, a statewide nonprofit law firm providing free legal and social services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. A nationally recognized leader in the movement to end abuse, Amanda brings over 20 years of experience in program development, public policy, and systems advocacy. She leads statewide training initiatives, advances legislative strategies, and builds enduring cross-sector partnerships to expand access to justice. Amanda regularly presents at national and statewide conferences and serves on multiple task forces focused on legal reform, systems advocacy, coordinated community response to violence, and maternal health equity.



Alexandra "Cookie" Eschner-Rasmussen is a leading voice on mental health, trauma-informed advocacy, and well-being in the legal profession and has spent her professional career working on mass tort cases at Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis, and Overholtz and counseling those who seek inpatient treatment for substance use and alcohol addiction. She holds a unique perspective and provides a trauma-informed, client-centered approach to her work, prioritizing trust and clear, compassionate communication with clients and survivors throughout the legal process. Her mass tort experience spans pharmaceutical, medical device, addictive product, and sexual assault cases. She is a National Certified Counselor trained in EMDR therapy and has published, taught, and presented extensively on trauma-informed practices and legal professional well-being.



Laura Feldman specializes in investigating and litigating claims of workplace sexual misconduct, gender and pregnancy discrimination, and whistleblowing. At the federal U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, she honed a trauma-informed approach to advocacy as a trial attorney on cases involving discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. With 17 years' experience practicing employment law, she regularly goes up against Fortune 500 companies and has served as an expert. Now Of Counsel at The Prinz Law Firm, she makes workplaces better by representing employees and conducting highly sensitive, often high-stakes investigations. Laura's compassionate yet strategic approach helps clients find peace in their paths forward.



Sarah A. Ford is an attorney and consultant dedicated to advancing justice through trauma-informed lawyering, advocacy, and education. She serves as Legal Director for the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network, where she leads a statewide legal team providing direct services to crime victims and guiding policy and systems reform. Sarah is also the Co-Founder of The Ford & Ford Group where she advises organizations and agencies on trauma-informed practices, nonprofit strategy, and community partnership development. Sarah's leadership has earned recognition including The State's "20 Under 40" and Furman University's Riley Fellowship. A graduate of the Charleston School of Law and Columbia College, Sarah continues to champion equitable access to justice and empower professionals serving survivors and marginalized communities.



Kiosha Fowlkes is in her second year of service as an AmeriCorps Legal Advocate with South Coastal Counties Legal Services in the Family Law Unit. She works on family and immigration matters affecting survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. She graduated from Dartmouth College in 2025 with a B.A. in Sociology and Hispanic Studies and a minor in International Studies. During her undergraduate career, Kiosha interned and volunteered with a variety of social justice organizations, including legal aid organizations, agencies serving individuals experiencing homelessness, and organizations supporting immigrant communities.



Cecilia Frieman Levin is the Director of the Alliance for Immigrant Survivors. Prior to this position, Cecelia worked as a policy analyst with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, focusing on humanitarian immigration protections. Cecelia has also served as Policy Director at ASISTA, a national non-profit focusing on training, technical assistance and advocacy related to immigration protections for survivors of violence. She also has provided legal representation to survivors as an attorney with non-profit agencies in the Washington, DC area. She holds a B.A. in International Studies and Women and Gender Studies from American University, and a J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law.



Annemarie Hauben is a survivor, advocate, and founder of Amplified Voice Healing, where she shares her story and supports other survivors of sexual violence. She has provided both written and in-person testimony in support of the Speak Your Truth Act, including testimony before the Massachusetts and Connecticut statehouses, lending her lived experience to advance legislative protections for survivors. Hauben's advocacy work extends beyond legislative testimony: she is a co-founder of the Survivors Solidarity March, a national day of action bringing together survivors of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment in a show of solidarity and collective advocacy. Through her advocacy, Hauben works to ensure that lawmakers and the public hear directly from survivors themselves, and to help other survivors know they are not alone.



Tiffany Hester joined Victim Rights Law Center in early 2024 as a Senior Attorney on the Training and Technical Assistance team. She provides national training and consultation on serving survivors' legal needs that arise in K-12 school settings. Tiffany also specializes in confidentiality and privilege and the privacy rights of survivors who are minors. Before joining VRLC, Tiffany worked for the Kansas State Department of Education, where she provided support, training, and technical assistance to K-12 staff, parents, advocates, and attorneys regarding special education law. She earned her J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law and her B.A. in justice studies from Fort Hays State University.



Deborah Hogan, Managing Attorney at the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, is an experienced attorney with over 20 years of civil litigation experience. After a successful career as a commercial litigator, Deborah transitioned to pro-bono and volunteer work on behalf of domestic violence victims and immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. Deborah currently represents survivors pursuing civil claims for damages and injunctive relief in state and federal courts, including employment claims, Illinois Gender Violence Act claims, and claims for non-consensual dissemination of intimate images. Deborah also provides Victims' Rights Representation to survivors as they interact with the criminal justice system in connection with the investigation of the crimes committed against them and in connection with any criminal proceedings against their perpetrators.



Nagwa Ibrahim is the Legal Director at the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (Cast) where she leads a team of attorneys providing direct legal services to the largest number of survivors of human trafficking in the United States as well as training and technical assistance on human trafficking cases nationwide. She also leads a team of lived experience experts and trainers providing trainings for audiences nationwide on human trafficking of youth. Prior to joining Cast, Nagwa was in private practice for 10 years with a focus on immigration law and criminal defense. Additionally, she has worked as a civil and human rights attorney, where she handled Guantanamo cases and other prisoner rights cases. Nagwa graduated from University of California Los Angeles, School of Law with a specialization in Critical Race Studies.



Morgan Lamandre is the President and CEO of Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response (STAR), a Louisiana nonprofit providing advocacy, trauma therapy, and legal services to survivors of sexual violence. A Louisiana attorney, Morgan has worked in the sexual violence field for nearly two decades and founded STAR's Legal Program in 2015. Her work focuses on survivor rights, civil legal advocacy, public policy, and building survivor-centered systems. She has received the Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Service Excellence in Advocacy Award and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Visionary Voice Award.



Mary Liu is a California and Florida attorney whose career has focused on representing survivors of sexual violence in complex civil litigation and advancing institutional accountability. In 2018, she founded and built the sexual assault litigation department at Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz, establishing a survivor-centered practice dedicated to pursuing meaningful civil remedies. Her experience includes service on plaintiff steering committees, firm leadership, and board service with survivor-centered organizations. Mary remains committed to survivor advocacy and to addressing emerging legal issues, including AI-enabled sexual abuse, technology-facilitated exploitation, and access to civil justice.



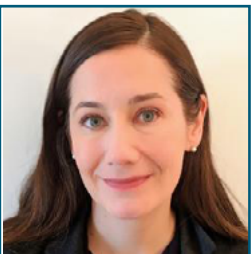
Shannon Masden, Assistant Director of Training & Consultation at Victim Rights Law Center, has a background in social work, community organizing, civil rights investigations, and violence prevention work. She has worked on multiple college campuses overseeing responses to discrimination and harassment, focusing on gender-based harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and disability-based harm. Her work included policy development and implementation, conducting and overseeing investigations, hearing board oversight, alternative resolution procedures, campuswide training, and implementing state and federal regulations. As a community organizer, she worked on a variety of campaigns including initiatives to end police brutality and predatory lending, workers' rights, national immigration reform, LGBTQ equality, and healthcare reform.



Devin McNulty began his legal career as a prosecutor. Working with law enforcement and making his community safer is a passion of his and he carried these principles from the District Attorney's Office forward into his transition into his private practice, which is 100% focused on serving injured families against wrongdoers. He believes deeply in service to others and spent a year teaching law school at the Universidad de Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Mexico. In his pro bono (no cost) private practice he won political asylum for Togolese democracy activist. Later he served his neighbors and fellow citizens as a judge for the City of Houston. Devin is often a featured speaker at national conferences for trial lawyers and regional training conferences for law enforcement personnel. He has been published in national and international legal journals on civil trial law, international law and criminal law.



Kiah Murphy is a Staff Attorney at Victim Rights Law Center, where she focuses on survivor-centered advocacy and Title IX. She supports survivors navigating complex systems related to sexual assault, dating violence, and university disciplinary proceedings, while also advancing anti-racism initiatives. Prior to joining VRLC, Kiah worked in the nonprofit sector on gender-based violence issues. Her interests include alternative forms of justice and intersectional approaches to feminism.



Elizabeth Payne is the Legal Director at the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), a nonprofit legal services agency for survivors of sexual assault, sex trafficking, and cyber sexual abuse. CAASE's legal services include crime victims' rights representation, criminal records relief, civil lawsuits, employment law, educational advocacy, cyber sexual abuse, and protective orders. Elizabeth is a Lecturer in Law on gender violence at The University of Chicago Law School and was previously a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the Special Victims Bureau of the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, where she prosecuted sexual assault and the sexual and physical abuse of children.



Judie Saunders leads ASK LLP's Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Department. Judie has more than twenty years of experience litigating cases involving sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and discrimination. Judie has represented and counseled numerous high-profile clients including Olympians, NCAA Division I student athletes and elite gymnasts, seeking redress for injuries sustained due to abusive coaching practices. An established thought leader on the intersection of law, policy, and human rights, Judie frequently writes, speaks, and is quoted on these issues for major publications such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Bloomberg News, Forbes, and Good Morning America. She is a co-author of "A War on My Body: A War on My Rights" and serves as a Sexual Misconduct Title IX Advisor to colleges and universities, an Advisory Board Member, and a New York University Guest Lecturer in the area of Sports and Ethics.



Kristi Schubert is a civil litigator in New Orleans Louisiana. For the past 10 years, her practice has focused exclusively on advocating for sexual abuse and exploitation survivors involved in civil lawsuits. She has obtained multiple million-dollar settlements and verdicts on behalf of sexual abuse survivors she has represented. Ms. Schubert played a prominent role in the litigation surrounding the constitutionality of the Louisiana “Lookback Window” statute which revived all previously time-barred childhood sexual abuse claims in Louisiana. She was also the lead trial attorney in the first Lookback Window case to be tried to a jury in Louisiana. There, she obtained a \$2.4 million dollar verdict for a 70 year old man who had been sexually abused at age 11 by a religious figure while attending a summer camp.



Meg Stone has been with IMPACT since 2002 and became Executive Director in 2005. She has created customized safety training programs for schools, community groups, workplaces, and activists. She has led organizational abuse prevention initiatives in schools, disability services, sports, and performing arts. She has authored two books, *The Cost of Fear: Why Most Safety Advice is Sexist and How We Can Stop Gender-based Violence* and “Don’t Fight Back” and *10 Other Myths About Crime, Personal Safety, and Gender-based Violence*. Meg is a recipient of the Visionary Voice Award from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and aided in the development of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards for preventing sexual abuse in youth-serving organizations. Her writing has been published in Huffington Post, Newsweek, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Dame, and Ms.



Cristina Velez is the Legal & Policy Director at ASISTA, a national non-profit focusing on training, technical assistance and advocacy related to immigration protections for survivors of violence. She previously worked at the National Immigration Project engaging in advocacy on behalf of detained immigrants, and spent over a decade providing direct legal representation to immigrant survivors in non-profit agencies in New York City. She holds a B.A. in Politics and Women’s Studies from Oberlin College and a J.D. from Cornell Law School.



Laurie A. Watkins is a strategist, author, and former Obama policy advisor whose career has spanned more than two decades at the intersection of public policy, national security, advocacy, and leadership. She has served in the U.S. Congress and at the Pentagon, advised leaders and organizations in the United States and abroad, and built a career around navigating high-stakes environments where courage, credibility, and voice matter. Her writing, speaking, and media commentary focus on women, justice, and equality, and on what becomes possible when women refuse to stay silent simply because speaking carries a cost. Her work challenges us to consider not only what it takes to find and use our voices, but who benefits when we don’t. Watkins is the Principle and Chief Catalyst Officer of LFW Strategies. Across her work runs a belief that courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision that something matters more.



Ruthie Withers is a Supervising Family Law Attorney at South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS), where she has supervised the organization’s domestic relations practice throughout the Southeast region and Cape Cod since 2023. She was the founding partner of Withers Law Group, PLLC, in North Attleboro, where she focused on domestic relations matters involving domestic violence survivors. Previously, Ms. Withers was a Partner at Coogan Smith, LLP, as well as a Clinical Instructor at Harvard Law School’s Family and Domestic Violence Law Clinic. She began her career in 2005 with Community Legal Aid in Worcester in their Family Law Unit. She is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law (2005) and George Washington University (2000), where she graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Spanish Language and Literature and a minor in Paralegal Studies.