



VRLC

Victim Rights Law Center

October 2026
NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Over the last month, stories like Jane Doe's and Kendall Francis's have brought more public awareness to campus sexual assault. While these stories have drawn attention beyond our field, they are not isolated incidents. They are reminders that there is work to be done to ensure that all students can learn in safe, equitable environments. That goal, and protecting the rights of all survivors, is at the center of VRLC's work every single day.

I had the honor of speaking at the rally on Boston Common in support of campus survivors. Below is an excerpt from my remarks, which are linked in full [here](#).

"When survivors distrust systems, those systems must reckon with why. Survivors have watched institutions betray the survivors who came before them. And still, survivors are speaking. To friends. To families. To us. They are finding each other and demanding that institutions answer for their failures. Our responsibility is to stand with them and turn that courage into change."

In solidarity with every Jane Doe,

Stacy

NEWS

From the Blog: The Cornell Conversation



If the Cornell case has left you feeling angry, helpless, or both, we understand.

VRLC Deputy Director of External Affairs Amanda Walsh calls us to direct that anger into a deeper understanding of campus sexual assault response and into collective action we can all take to protect student survivors.

Read the blog [here](#).

VRLC IN THE NEWS

**“The problem doesn’t go away,
but the conversation does.”**

THE BOSTON GLOBE

**“You see a lot of students navigating a
highly legal process during a time where
they’re incredibly traumatized, without
any legal adviser.”**

BLOOMBERG GOVERNMENT

AMANDA WALSH

VRLC DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[The Boston Globe](#), [The Guardian](#), [MassLive](#), and [Bloomberg Government](#) recently discussed the impacts student survivors face when pursuing accountability, the Trump administration’s dismantling of Title IX protections, and the perpetuation of a culture of disbelief and victim blaming on college campuses and beyond.

As VRLC Deputy Director of External Affairs Amanda Walsh told *The Boston Globe*, “The problem doesn’t go away, but the conversation does.” VRLC remains committed to sustaining that conversation and demanding lasting change.

Check out all of VRLC’s recent media coverage [here](#).

NATIONAL TRAINING

NSVLC 2027 Workshop Spotlight

WORKSHOP SPOTLIGHT

Sexual Assaults & Rideshares



Quentin Brogdon
Crain Brogdon, LLP



Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
March 9 - 10, 2027

While rideshares have become a vital part of modern transportation, old concerns about the dangers of accepting rides from strangers remain. The integration of rideshare services into our everyday life raises serious questions about safety and accountability.

Join us in New Orleans, March 9–10, for VRLC's 2027 National Sexual Violence Law Conference (NSVLC) for Sexual Assaults and Rideshares. In this workshop, accomplished trial lawyer and Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers Quentin Brogdon brings significant experience in personal injury litigation to this conversation on sexual assault in the context of services like Uber and Lyft.

Come together with colleagues and thought leaders from across the country for a lineup of workshops that explore critical issues in sexual violence law. Connect with and learn from experienced advocates and attorneys from across the field while enjoying the inviting culture and history of New Orleans.

Register today [here](#).

Supporting Survivor Confidentiality

Prosecutors can be important partners in protecting survivors' private mental health records.



Last month VRLC Senior Attorney Katrina Eberly led a training for the Northwestern District Attorney's Office staff. The training focused on Rule 17 Dwyer/Lampron hearings, which address requests for access to confidential medical records in criminal cases.

DEVELOPMENT

A Shining Success

We are still basking in the afterglow of VRLC's October 1st Shining Star Celebration and the joy of coming together to celebrate all we can accomplish!

See below for some great photos of the inspiring people we're grateful to work alongside and have in our corner at this event and all throughout the year - and keep an eye on our [website](#) for more photos and video coming soon!



Photo: Steph Stevens Photo



Photo: Steph Stevens Photo



Photo: Steph Stevens Photo



Photo: Steph Stevens Photo

Help Make the Holidays Brighter

Help brighten the holiday season for survivors and their families!

Join VRLC's 2026 Holiday Gift Drive and bring comfort, joy, and everyday essentials to households across Massachusetts impacted by sexual assault.

Sponsor a holiday wish list. VRLC staff will provide an Amazon wish list for a family or child based on your budget. **Email** Kayla Hogan-Daly by Wednesday, October 28 to get started.



Give Gift Cards. Gift cards are especially needed this year to help survivors access food and essentials through the holidays and beyond. Shop our gift card registry now **here**.

Thank you to our Funding Partners!



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