

2021 Impact Report

EMPOWERING THROUGH ACCESS

EMPOWERING THROUGH ACCESS 2021 was a year dedicated to **Empowering Through Access.** Here at NCVLI we focused on virtual trainings; litigated in trial and appellate courts; and partnered with experts across the country. We also looked inward through strategic planning to deepen our mission. We recommitted to actively promoting comprehensive and enforceable legal rights for crime victims, and access to knowledgeable attorneys to help protect those rights.

- Empowering Through Training & Education
 - NCVLI trainings are unique at every turn, especially in 2021.
- Empowering Through Action
 Legal advocacy is at the core of NCVLI's work. Two of our most critical efforts in this area: amicus curiae participation and legal technical assistance.
- p. 8 Empowering Together
 Our strategic alliances are crucial in achieving greater impact.
- P. 10 A Look Ahead
 The first step in any rights movement is knowledge of rights; but we are not stopping there.
- Supporters
 Our generous supporters enable us to help ensure that every victim can be empowered.

Dear Friend.

As we look back on 2021, we are amazed and grateful for how much NCVLI and our partners accomplished as we worked to **Empower Through Access**.

We spent the year enhancing resources to make certain that survivors across the country could access trained attorneys and advocates; we fought in courts to secure victories today that will also help the survivors of tomorrow; and we showed up in key policy debates to ensure that survivor voices were present.

As we continue on our mission to promote comprehensive and enforceable legal rights for crime victims, we recommit to protecting those rights through victim centered legal advocacy, education, and resources.

Beginning in 2019, NCVLI undertook strategic planning using a theory of change approach. This effort included issuing a call for national input on how NCVLI could best serve the country and collaborate with the community. Notably, throughout the process, the country has been grappling with a Pandemic and increased attention on deep racial inequities. The entire staff and Board turned toward these realities, working collaboratively to map a future direction for NCVLI.

This work culminated in 2021 and led to a re-envisioning of our mission, vision, and values; adoption of an equity statement; and re-focusing of our activities.

With these newly adopted tools in hand, and with a commitment to working toward the change we hope for, our activities are focused on three key areas:

- 1 Training and Education
- 2 Legal Advocacy
- **3** Public Policy

We are excited about the future of NCVLI and victims' rights. We encourage your continued input and support as we move forward together.





THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering to train on victims' rights ensures that national and local perspectives are present. We are so grateful to our many partners who lend their expertise and co-train with us. The partners for our 2021 Victims' Rights Across the Country were:











EMPOWERING THROUGH

TRAINING AND EDUCATION





VICTIMS' RIGHTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

As part of NCVLI's effort to ensure every victim can access a knowledgeable attorney to help protect their rights, on April 22, 2021, in honor of Crime Victims' Rights Week, NCVLI hosted *Victims' Rights Across the Country*.

This day was designed to grow the national community of lawyers ready to represent crime victims. Each hour of the day focused on a different topic and, in partnership with local practitioners, dug deeply into states' laws.

96% of the
Conference
respondents
"would recommend
to a colleague that
they attend this
conference"

The day included:



Advocating for Sexual Assault Survivors (focus on Illinois law) - 116 attendees



Victims' Rights Advocacy in Appellate Court (focus on Ohio law) - 103 attendees



Challenging State Supreme Court Precedent (focus on Arizona law) - 86 attendees



Securing Constitutional Victims' Rights (focus on California law) - 101 attendees



Realizing the Right to Restitution (focus on Oregon law) - 96 attendees

OTHER 2021 TRAINING TOPICS

Title IX
Hate Crimes
Immigration

Post-Conviction
Military
Confidentiality

Tribal Rights
Environmental Justice
Rights Enforcement

BY THE NUMBERS

More than50 TRAININGSduring the year

- Nearly 2800 attorneys, advocates, and allied professionals trained
- Hosted a hybrid Crime Victim Law Conference with attendees from

31 STATES

> 100% of Conference Respondents

agree that the information they received will help them better serve crime victims

> More than 80%

of respondents
attending the Victims'
Rights Across the
Country training
agreed that this day
of training improved
their understanding of
effective services for
victims

UPSTREAM ADVOCACY

When a victim's right is violated we take action. But we try hard to prevent victims' rights violations. That's why throughout 2021 our advocacy efforts focused upstream.

We provided legal technical assistance to law enforcement and law enforcement based victim advocates to ensure victims were informed of their rights from first contact. We researched and drafted dozens of sample pleadings, legal memoranda, and strategic arguments to ensure lawyers across the country proactively assert victims' rights.

We now have nearly 500 resources online for practicing lawyers.

An innovative example of our upstream work: When a court reached out to us for assistance determining its authority to appoint counsel for a crime victim; we provided research affirming the court's authority within 24 hours!

EMPOWERING THROUGH

ACTION





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When the law forces victims

to sit as silent observers

while the court, prosecutor

and defendant, all discuss

who gets access to the

victim's privileged mental

health records, the system

has gone horribly awry.

A CASE TO CORRECT

Child sexual abuse is a severely underreported

crime and male victims of these crimes face unique hurdles that impede disclosure. When victims do come forward we must protect

THE SYSTEM

their rights.























Yet in a Wisconsin case, the accused sought access to the privileged, mental health records of the male victim.

The victim absolutely did not want the records disclosed but when he and his attorney tried to fight for his privacy, the trial court said he didn't even have the right to be heard on the issue. The court said that only the state and the defendant could be heard.

NCVLI filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in support of the victim, arguing that because the victim's statutory and constitutional privacy rights were at stake, the victim must be heard.

We are awaiting the outcome!

Nearly 150 technical assistance responses in 34 states

BY THE NUMBERS

- > 10 amicus curiae briefs filed
- e.g. sample pleadings, briefs, legal memoranda, added to searchable legal databases available through our membership

AMICUS TEAM

alliance, NAVRA

Co-amici were Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Lotus Legal Clinic.

The victim was represented by the legal team at Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.







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SPOTLIGHT: LEGAL **AID SERVICE OF BROWARD** COUNTY

information was made website.

EMPOWERING TOGETHER



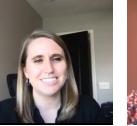




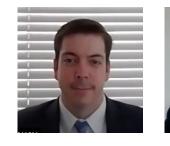












THE DIFFERENCE A

LAWYER CAN MAKE

Throughout 2021 NCVLI partnered with

to spotlight the Difference a Lawyer Can Make. We hosted monthly Facebook Live

agencies that are part of our Rights in

Systems Enforced (RISE) Project.

amazing legal teams from across the country

conversations with lawyers from our partner

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NCVLI has been instrumental in helping

our clinic provide valuable

resources to victims. We

would not be where we are today without them. We are truly grateful for their

knowledge and expertise in this area.

RISE Clinic Attorney









Arizona Voice for Crime Victims

Loyola Social Justice Law Center (California)

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Legal Aid Service of Broward County

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Montana Legal Services Association

Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

Network of Victim Recovery DC (Washington, D.C.)

BY THE NUMBERS

> NATIONAL **ALLIANCE OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS ATTORNEYS & ADVOCATES** (NAVRA)

Almost **2700 Active Members** hail from every state

8% Are Students ready to be the next generation of victims' rights lawyers

> PRO BONO **PORTAL**

20 Attornevs raised their hand to volunteer

6 New Agencies registered to post cases

LOOKING AHEAD

NCVLI's vision is of a justice system in which every crime victim has:



Comprehensive and meaningful legal rights



Access to a trained victims' rights attorney at no cost



Rights that are recognized and enforced

The cornerstone of this vision is that victims are empowered to ask for their rights.

That's why in 2022 we will be redoubling our efforts to ensure that every victim, attorney, advocate, and allied professional is ready to Ask for Rights in trial courts, in appellate courts, in policy debates, and in legislative hallways.

2021 SUPPORTERS

WE THANK YOU

From donors to volunteers, our generous supporters enable us to connect trained and supported lawyers with survivors in need so that every victim can be empowered.

Marti Anderson Valenda Applegarth Arnold & Porter Artistic Bliss Portraits Samantha Baker Being Trauma Informed Susan Bexton Katelyn Bonn Antoinette Bonsignore Rosemary Brewer Jennifer Brobst Debra Brockman **BRONCA** Adrian L. Brown Kristen Brown Bill Chin Ann Cofell Daniel Cogan Carma Corcoran Michelle Csergei Tim Curran Shelbi Day Allison Dearing Anne DePrince Steve Derene Jeff Dion Larry & Poppy Dully Gilion Dumas Laura Dunn Caitlin Egeck Randy Ellison Kristyn Falkenstern Jon Fleischman Scott Flor Sarah Ford Patricia Frobes Laura Garrison Ann E. Garvin Kathleen Garvin Michael J. Garvin Susan Garvin Alexandra Gastelum Sean Geoffrey Georgia State University Lorra Gillan

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Erin Greenawald Kimberly R. Griffith Julie Grohovsky LT Gen. Richard Harding Nicholas Hartman Claire Harwell Cliff Higby Doug Houser Kazi Houston Susan Howley Andrea Hugmeyer Brandie Imperial Leslie James Dr. Melissa Jarrell Ozymy Leah Johanson Julie Johnson Karl Johnson Karen Kalergis Tim Kassel Peter Khalil Dae Ho Kim Johanna Kononen LTC David Koon Joan F. Krey Angela Kuntz Emily La Brecque Catherine H. Lee Beatrice Leong Barbara Long Kimberly A. Lopez Thomas Lowinger Marissa Lova James Matelevich-Hoang Travis Mathew Kristen McCall Mike McDonnell Lara McKeever Joan S. Meier Meg Merrill MAJ Joshua S. Mikkelsen Leonard Miles Cheryll Miller Mississippi Pizza Pub Susan Moen Mom Shop

Rachel Monaco-Wilcox

Mike & Penny Moreau Faith M. Morse Monica Motsko Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Museum of Pop Culture Candace Newland-Hollev LCDR Alexandra Nica William Niemi Erin Olson & Karyn Vincent William O'Neill Ellen O'Neill-Stephens Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division Oregon Symphony Jason Ozier Dr. Joshua Ozymy Parnall Law Firm LLC Remla Parthasarathy Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association Kyanna Perkins Erika Petty Portland Timbers Taryn Rath Red Sauce Pizza Diana Reed Elaine Reichel-Hamburg Matt Rexroad Stephanie Richard Jennifer Riley Shainey Riley Janine Robben Katrina Rodriguez Sherree Rodriguez Barbara Romo Cara Rose Jeremiah Ross Megan Sage Goldann Salazar Laurie Schacht Richard Schmidt Cohen Seglias

Anne K. Sevmour

Heather Shanks Joel Shapiro Toby Shulruff LTC Lauren A. Shure Cari Simon Rhea M. Soni Jill M. Sorenson Rachel Sowray Kim Spencer John H. Stein Christina Stephenson Cvnthia Stinson Jennifer Storm Toni Strutz Chuck Tauman Linda & Steven Thalberg The Commerce Bank of Oregon Trisha Thompson John P. Todd Yrralarry Torrestereo Touch of Stone Design Linda Tran Ilana Turko Randall Udelman Maria Verdin Bernita R. Walker Capt. Phillip N. Walters Mary Ware Washington County District Attorney's Office Leah Watson Elizabeth Well Karen Wilhelmi Jennifer Wilhelmi Diaz Nicole Wilkes Alison Wilkinson Chris Wilson Margarita Wilson Allie Yang-Green Stanley B. Yeldell Yung-koh Yin

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MISSION

NCVLI actively promotes comprehensive and enforceable legal rights for crime victims, and access to knowledgeable attorneys to help protect those rights in every case through victim-centered legal advocacy, education, and resources.

VALUES

Empowerment.

Voice, choice, and agency.

Dignity.

Every person treated with respect and with care for their well-being.

Equity.

Victims of all identities and backgrounds have rights afforded.

Collaboration.

Part of a national community.

Innovation.

Creative legal analysis, inventive solutions, and strategic litigation.

