



**2022 Impact Report**

# TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION



# ASK FOR RIGHTS

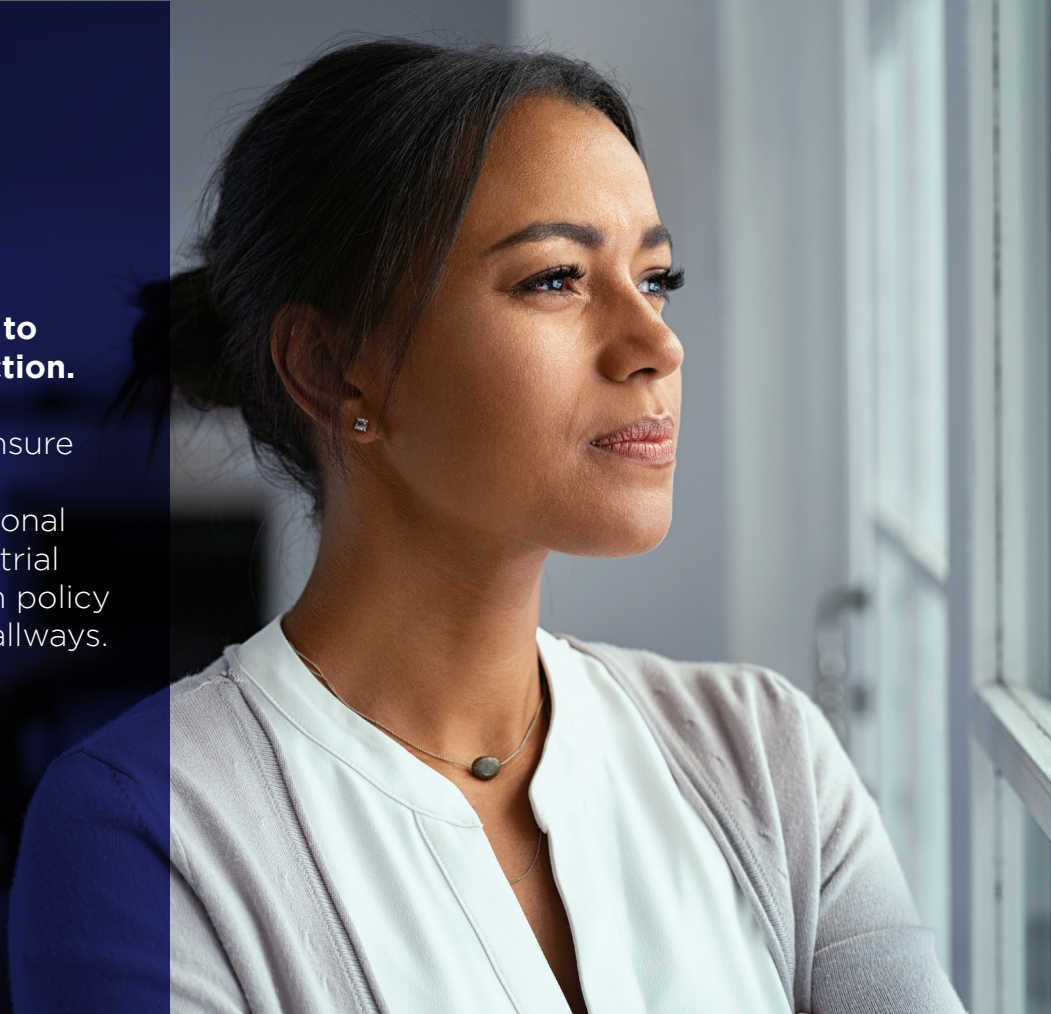
**2022 was a year dedicated to Turning Knowledge Into Action.**

We focused 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.

▷ **Training & Education**

▷ **Legal Advocacy**

▷ **Public Policy**



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Letter From the Executive Director & Board President

| 03

---

Training & Education

| 04

---

Legal Advocacy

| 06

---

Public Policy

| 08

---

Looking Ahead

| 10

---

Thank You to Supporters

| 11

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Dear Friend,

As we reflect on 2022 and our accomplishments, we want to thank you for supporting the National Crime Victim Law Institute. Over the past year, our Ask for Rights Campaign – an effort to build national momentum so that every person knows their rights and knows how to ask for them – made great strides. Truly, we are amazed and grateful for how much we achieved together.

Our team turned knowledge into action by empowering victim attorneys, prosecutors, judges, lawmakers, advocates, allied professionals, and survivors to identify gaps in policies and practices, and to help remedy those gaps to advance victims' rights in the justice system.

We worked across the country with partners to effect change through training & education, legal advocacy, and public policy efforts. Whether it was in the courtroom or around policy tables, our work reinforced that it's our collective responsibility to ensure that victims' rights are afforded.



### **We enhanced 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.



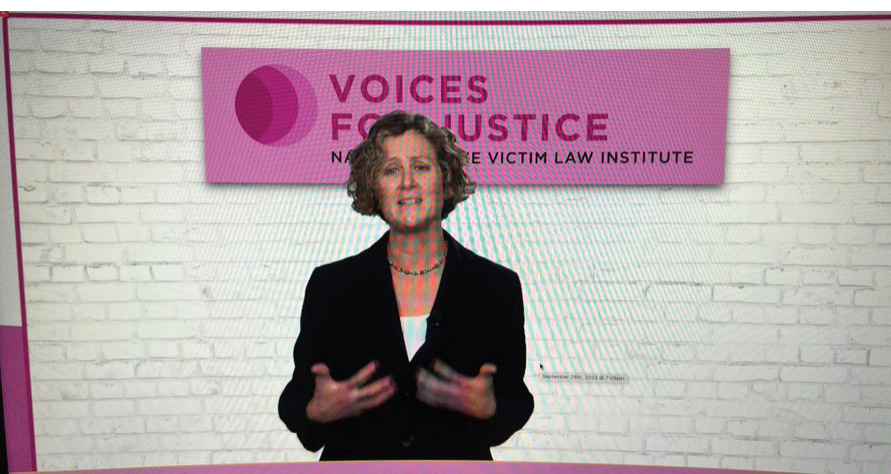
### **We showed up in policy debates**

to ensure that survivor voices were present.

Throughout 2022 we built a foundation of action that makes us excited for the future. We encourage your continued input as we work together to ensure that each and every survivor can access their rights.

MEG GARVIN  
Executive Director

SEAN RIDDELL  
Board President





# TRAINING & EDUCATION



"I anticipate we will be filing more motions on behalf of victims [because of this training]!"

Kathy Buckley  
Training Organizer and Director  
Office of Victims' Services, PA Commission on  
Crime & Delinquency

## Making Rights More Than Words on Paper

The work of advancing victims' rights doesn't end with passage of a new law. Knowing this, and recognizing that Pennsylvania had just passed a new law providing a clear path for victims to assert and seek enforcement of their rights, we presented virtually for 3 days to help ensure the new law had its intended impact.

We trained on what rights victims have, how advocates and attorneys can help assert those in courts, and how to seek appellate review when a right is denied.

229 attorneys and advocates attended and walked away more empowered to help survivors!



ON AVERAGE NCVLI HOSTED

**4 TRAININGS PER MONTH IN 2022**

ELEVATING THE KNOWLEDGE  
AND SKILLS OF MORE THAN 30  
VICTIM SERVICE PROFESSIONALS  
PER MONTH



“The content will be useful in providing more resources and specific information that will help enforce victims’ rights at all levels.”

Attorney speaking about a core training: Essential Motions for Victims’ Rights Enforcement Training.

**Spotlight:**

## Crime Victim Law Conference

The 21st annual Crime Victim Law Conference, which included an intensive Pre-Conference Institute on litigating victims’ rights, was hosted in June 2022. 250 attendees from more than 30 states attended and participated in 23 different sessions!

The Pre-Conference Institute and Conference will return June 5-7, 2023 in Portland, Oregon. The Pre-Conference Institute will be in-person only; the Conference has options for both in-person and virtual attendance.

For more information, visit [ncvli.org/crime-victim-law-conference/](https://ncvli.org/crime-victim-law-conference/)

100% OF  
CONFERENCE  
RESPONDENTS SAID  
THEY AGREE THAT  
“THE INFORMATION  
[THEY] RECEIVED  
WILL HELP [THEM]  
BETTER SERVE CRIME  
VICTIMS.”

100% SAID THEY  
“WOULD RECOMMEND  
TO A COLLEAGUE  
THAT THEY ATTEND”  
THE CONFERENCE.



# LEGAL ADVOCACY



## Litigating in the Highest Courts

In *State v. Fisk*, an Ohio jury convicted the defendant of felonious assault. At sentencing, despite the victim's state constitutional right to restitution, the court refused to order restitution for unpaid medical bills equaling \$177K. The state appealed; on appeal the court held that while the constitution allowed the state to assert victims' rights in the trial court; it did not afford the state standing to do so on appeal and therefore the court refused to address the victim's restitution right. The state sought further review in the Ohio Supreme Court.

This is when NCVLI, together with the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center, filed an amicus curiae brief. We argued that the appellate court's ruling was not only contrary to law, but also disparately treated victims, differentiating those who have the ability to hire an attorney to appeal erroneous restitution orders and those who do not.

In December 2022, the Ohio Supreme Court recognized that the appellate court erred; it noted that Ohio's victims' rights afford victims the ability to assert their rights on their own, through a representative, or through the attorney for the government (upon request) in trial courts, and to seek appellate review on their own or through a representative.

The Court held, however, that the victims' rights provisions did not answer the question of whether the state had independent standing to seek review of the sentencing error. Noting that leaving the state without standing to appeal was needlessly broad and inconsistent with the purposes of the victims' rights amendment, the Court remanded the case for determination if there is other authority for the state to appeal the restitution order.

**NCVLI strives to ensure no survivor pays for their own victimization.**

▶ **NEARLY 10**  
EXPERT LEGAL  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE  
RESPONSES EACH  
MONTH

▶ **AN AMICUS  
CURIAE BRIEF**  
FILED ON  
PRECEDENT  
SETTING CASES  
NEARLY EVERY  
MONTH



100% of respondents who received legal technical assistance “strongly agreed” that they were satisfied with the overall quality of the assistance provided.

In their words:

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“The assistance is always on point. I’ve referred other service providers as well.”

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“So helpful! Can’t thank you enough.”

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“It assisted us in making strategic decisions related to our appellate brief.”

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## Spotlight: NAVRA

The National Alliance of Victims’ Rights Attorneys & Advocates (NAVRA) has more than 3,000 active members hailing from every state; more than half of whom are attorneys.

Over the past year, NAVRA training topics ranged from promising practices for seeking restitution to intersectional topics such as the intersection between victims’ rights and disability rights and the specific challenges immigrant victims face.

NAVRA’s Victims’ Rights Pro Bono Portal continues to grow! Community organizations, law enforcement, state and federal government attorney offices, military branches, and healthcare organizations are all now enrolled and are posting cases with victims in need and attorneys from 16 different states raised their hands to volunteer to serve!



# PUBLIC POLICY

## Victim Voices are Essential

For more than a decade NCVLI has worked alongside the victims of Jeffrey Epstein and their attorneys as they fought to make their rights meaningful in federal trial and appellate courts.

Unfortunately, in February of 2022 the battle in the courtroom ended when the United States Supreme Court declined to review the Eleventh Circuit's decision, which had held that – despite the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act – the government can negotiate and enter into non-prosecution agreement without notifying or conferring with the victims.

But the fight is not over. Working with many partners and taking the lead from the survivors, we advocated for and supported the introduction of the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act of 2022, introduced in Congress in December 2022. If passed this Act will not only ensure victims' rights attach pre-charging but will also authorize funds for victim legal assistance.

Rights are only meaningful when they are clear in law and there are attorneys to help victims assert them – make that happen by getting involved!



## LOCAL SUPPORT

SUPPORTING MORE THAN  
**20 LOCATIONS**

DEVELOP OR ENHANCE  
THEIR COORDINATED  
COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Spotlight:

# Connecting to Strategically Advance Rights

NCVLI launched its quarterly “Community Conversations”, virtual state-specific conversations facilitated by NCVLI to help identify promising practices as well as gaps in policies and the practice of victims’ rights enforcement. Each conversation looks at national and state trends in legislation and litigation, introduces new NCVLI resources, and ends with a discussion of challenges and needed support.

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WE LAUNCHED IN 5 STATES AND, OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, 15 CONVERSATIONS WERE FACILITATED.



OREGON



CALIFORNIA



NEW  
MEXICO



NORTH  
CAROLINA



TEXAS

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More than 40 attorneys, prosecutors, law makers, advocates and allied professionals participated. This work set the stage for 2023 during which we will be expanding! We have already hosted conversations in North Carolina, Texas and New Mexico, with 30 participants over the 3 sessions. If you are looking to collaborate with NCVLI to launch and begin having conversations in your state, contact us today!



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

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# LOOKING AHEAD

Oftentimes legal systems, particularly the criminal system, can ignore individualized victim needs. This becomes increasingly pronounced when the system intersects with marginalized communities. That's why in 2023, we are focused on elevating victim agency, equity, and dignity.



**VICTIM  
VOICE.  
VICTIM  
CHOICE.**

All victims – no matter their identities or backgrounds – have unique experiences and needs when navigating criminal justice processes. Every victim deserves to have their rights afforded, their voices heard, and to be treated with dignity. It's our collective responsibility to ensure that we recognize, acknowledge, and provide the opportunity for victim voice and choice. By providing legal expertise we can ensure that individual victims may make informed decisions about how to exercise their rights.

## 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.