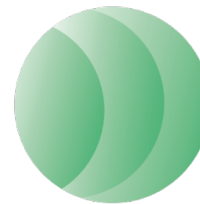


NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS ATTORNEYS & ADVOCATES

A project of the National Crime Victim Law Institute



Reflecting on 20 Years of the Federal Crime Victims' Rights Act

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. (PST)

FACULTY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Paul Cassell is the Ronald N. Boyce Presidential Professor of Criminal Law and Distinguished University Professor of Law at the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. He is a leading scholar on crime victims' rights and has taught at the University of Utah since 1992.

Professor Cassell received a B.A. from Stanford University in 1981. He then graduated Order of the Coif from Stanford Law School in 1984, serving as President of the *Stanford Law Review*. In 1984-85, he clerked for then-Judge Antonin Scalia when Scalia was on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the following year for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1992, Professor Cassell began teaching at the S.J. Quinney College of Law, publishing widely in leading academic journals on crime victims' rights and other criminal justice issues. He has filed briefs and orally argued on behalf of crime victims and allied organizations in the United States Supreme Court and other federal and state courts around the country.

In 2002, Professor Cassell was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Utah. While on the District Court, Professor Cassell wrote many opinions that attracted significant attention, including several on crime victims' rights issues. He resigned his position in 2007 to return to law teaching and advocating for crime victims.

Professor Cassell currently teaches crime victims' rights, criminal law, and other courses at the College of Law at the University of Utah. Along with Doug Beloof, Meg Garvin, and Steve Twist, he is a co-author of *Victims in Criminal Procedure*, the only law school casebook on victims' rights. He had also written a number of substantial law review articles on issues related to crime victims' rights, including issues concerning defining "victim" in victims' rights enactments, the importance of victim impact statements, and victims' rights to attend trial. According to HeinOnline (May 2020), Cassell ranks as one of the Top 250 most-cited law scholars of all time.

Cassell has also testified several times before congressional committees on crime victims' rights issues, as well as before state legislative committees in Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and here in Utah.

Professor Cassell maintains an active pro bono crime victims practice and has represented many crime victims in cases around the country. In 2014, Professor Cassell argued for a crime victim before the United States Supreme Court in *Paroline v. United States and Amy*. The case involved the question of how restitution for victims of child pornography crimes should be awarded. This was the first time that a crime victim had appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court to protect her own rights in a criminal case

filed by a prosecutor. From 2008 to date, he has also represented victims sexually abused by Jeffrey Epstein in an effort to obtain criminal prosecution of those responsible. In 2020, Professor Cassell successfully argued to the Utah Supreme Court in *State v. Lopez* that child victims of sexual assault should not be forced to testify in person at preliminary hearings in criminal cases. In December of 2021, Professor Cassell filed a challenge for fifteen families who lost loved ones in the crashes of two Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, challenging a secret deferred prosecution deal reached between the Justice Department and Boeing. In October 2022, the judge handling the matter found that the families rights had been violated. But in February 2023, the judge concluded no remedy could be awarded. Professor Cassell has sought review of that issue in the Fifth Circuit and argued the appeal in July 2023.

In October 2020, Cassell received the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award – National Crime Victims’ Service Award, from the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (Oct. 2020).



Mariam El-menshawi is a victims’ rights attorney and Professor of Law. She is currently the Director of Legal Services at the California Victims Legal Resource Center and an Adjunct Professor of Law at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She is the former Executive Director of the California Victims Resource Center . She led the CVRC for over a decade and helped spearhead many of its cutting-edge projects including launching one of first victims’ right and services informational podcasts and mobile application. Mariam has trained thousands of victim service providers in California on victims’ rights.

Mariam received her joint JD - MBA degree from McGeorge School of Law. She was drawn to victims’ rights as a law student, where she worked directly with victims and conducted research on victims’ rights. Mariam has dedicated her career to helping victims of crime understand their rights and assisting them in navigating and enforcing their rights in the criminal justice system. She serves on numerous committees, including the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Victims of Crime Act Steering Committee, CalOES Violence Against Women Act Steering Committee, and the U.S. Attorney’s Hate Crime Task Force. Mariam was honored with the “2016 Legal Advocacy Award” by the National Crime Victim Law Institute, and the 2019 “Local Hero Award” by SafeQuest Solano, and the 2023 “Adjunct Professor of the Year” award.



Meg Garvin, MA, JD, Mst, is the Executive Director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) and a Clinical Professor of Law at Lewis & Clark Law School. Professor Garvin is recognized as a leading expert on victims’ rights. She has testified before Congress, state legislatures and the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military. In her expert capacity she serves on the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces, the Victims Advisory Group of the United States Sentencing Commission, and is a Member of the Council on Criminal Justice. She previously served on the Victim Services Subcommittee, of the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crime Panel of the United States Department of Defense, as co-chair of the American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section Victims

Committee, co-chair of the Oregon Attorney General’s Crime Victims’ Rights Task Force and as a member of the Legislative & Public Policy Committee of the Oregon Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Task Force. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her work, including in 2012 Crime

Victims First-Stewart Family Outstanding Community Service Award; in 2015 the John W. Gillis Leadership Award from National Parents of Murdered Children; in 2020, the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section's Frank Carrington Crime Victim Attorney Award, and in 2021, the Hardy Myers Victim Advocacy Award from the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center. Prior to joining NCVLI, Professor Garvin practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota and clerked for the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Puget Sound, her Master of Arts degree in communication studies from the University of Iowa, her JD from the University of Minnesota, and her Masters in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University.

Pamela Paaso is an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon where she prosecutes violent crimes on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and child exploitation cases throughout the district. She previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in Harris County, Texas prosecuting violent crimes and environmental crimes and representing the state of Texas in habeas proceedings.



Alonzo Robertson, Esq. serves as a Senior attorney and Training attorney for the Md Crime Victims' Resource Center. In this capacity, he is the Statewide Coordinator for services to family members of homicide victims and chief lecturer of victim rights. He lectures on victim's rights at police academies, State's Attorney training programs, and community organizations throughout the State. He has served on several Board's including the Maryland Governor's Victims Advisory Board, the Center for Local Policy Analysis, and the Education Foundation of the Kappa Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Prior to joining MCVRC, Mr. Robertson served as Law lecturer at Bowie State University, chief legal counsel for the Intelligence Committee of the House of Representatives, and senior counsel for several Executive Branch agencies including the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. While in Federal service, he led several agency initiatives, including the evaluation and rewrite of government procedures pertaining to the protection of the civil rights of US citizens, and NSA's oversight of the U.S. government's domestic surveillance program. In 2002, he was selected to serve as investigator and counsel to the Congressional inquiry into the Terrorist Attacks of 9/11. In 2010, he was voted the Attorney of the Year by the General Counsels of the U.S. Intelligence Community. His interest in victim's right actually derives from his experience on the U.S. Army's war crimes investigation team during his service in Operation Desert Shield. In that capacity, he investigated violations of international human rights and crafted legal arguments for military tribunals. His passion for protecting victims of crime grew out of his passion for protecting victims of war.

When Mr. Robertson joined the staff of MCVRC in 2014, he represented clients throughout the state, traveling from Western Maryland, to Baltimore City, and even over to the Eastern Shore. As the staff at MCVRC has grown, he has been able to focus his attention on two of the three most active Maryland counties, Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County. Today, he focuses on providing services to the family members of homicide victims and lecturing justice system personnel on how they can avoid taking actions that retraumatize crime victims. He is a frequent presenter at Maryland's Annual Victim Rights Week Conference and in 2024 lectured at both the Statewide Victim's Rights Conference and the National Crime Victims Law Institutes Conference on the law and practice of ensuring the protection of victims' rights.

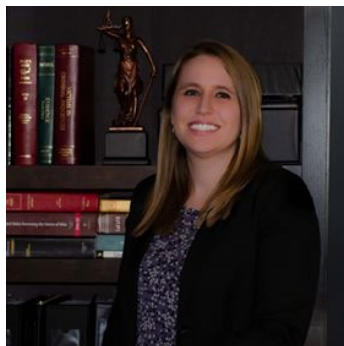
In Mr. Robertson's spare time, he is the managing partner of the Robertson Law Group, LLC, a boutique firm catering to nonprofit organizations and clients with privacy and national security concerns. He is a graduate of Morehouse College with honors in History, a merit scholar from Howard University's School of Law, and recipient of the Harvard University's Certificate in Negotiations.

He is an avid golfer and gardener. He resides in Prince George's County with his wife and dog.



Meghan Tokash is a career prosecutor and Trial Attorney at the United States Department of Justice in the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit. In this role, she assists federal prosecutors across the DOJ's 94 U.S. Attorney's Offices with the investigation and prosecution of sex and labor trafficking cases—the majority of which involve adjacent crimes of rape, sexual assault, and related offenses. Ms. Tokash also serves as the Civil Rights Division's representative on the Department's Standing Committee for Victims' Rights & Services. She is also Chair of the Division's Criminal Section's Victim Witness Working Group.

Prior to joining the Unit, Ms. Tokash was an Assistant United States Attorney who supervised the Special Victims Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of New York. Previously, she served as a Special Victim Prosecutor in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, litigating cases related to homicide, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. Since 2015, she has served as a member of the Secretary of Defense's Federal Advisory Committee on the Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces which makes annual recommendations to Congress to reform how the military investigates, prosecutes, and defends sexual assault and related crimes.



Elizabeth Well is the Legal Director at Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center.

Elizabeth graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in political science and attended Ohio Northern University for law school, where she graduated with a juris doctorate with distinction.

In her time with Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center, Elizabeth has provided assistance to hundreds of crime victims, litigating their rights in trial and appellate courts, provided training to thousands of criminal justice system officials on victims' rights in Ohio, and participated in the Marsy's Law constitutional amendment campaign, including a leading role in drafting the amendment's implementing legislation, 2022's House Bill 343.