



December 2013

Victimization happens every day to family, friends, and neighbors. Many victims and their families will be thrust into a foreign and frightening justice system that may cause them further harm. It doesn't have to be this way.

NCVLI works with survivors and other partners to create a more just world. We provide crucial services for victims nationwide, including referrals for direct legal representation; training attorneys and advocates; substantive technical assistance in the form of intense legal research, writing, and strategic advice in cases and public policy debates; and participation as amicus curiae in trial and appellate courts. We do this work every day all across the country to ensure victims are empowered and justice is enhanced.

Let me tell you about just one case we have been working on since 2009:

When she was eight and nine years old Amy was raped by her uncle. Her uncle was arrested and prosecuted, but not before distributing photos on the Internet that he had taken of her abuse. Since 2006, Amy has received victim notices in more than 1800 criminal cases involving images of her rape. Amy has sought restitution from defendants in a total amount of \$3.4 million to cover her lifetime of psychological counseling, lost income, and other expenses. But some trial courts determined that because it is too hard to say how much harm any single defendant caused her, Amy will receive little or no restitution. Through her attorney, Amy sought appellate review of one such a court decision in *Paroline v. United States*. Fortunately, the appellate court agreed that the perpetrators should bear the cost of victimization and awarded restitution. But, yet again that was not the end of the case for Amy. The United States Supreme Court accepted review this past year.

We are working to ensure that the Supreme Court knows the vast implications of this case for Amy and every other crime victim. Oral argument in the case is set for January 2014. This will be the first case in which the United States Supreme Court will hear a victim directly on her victims' rights and you can learn more about the case on our website at www.ncvli.org.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

- ❑ **\$50** ensures that staff can respond to a victim's call
- ❑ **\$200** supports emergency legal research to make a difference in a victim's case
- ❑ **\$500** distributes the latest law to advocates and attorneys
- ❑ **\$1,000** provides online training for attorneys and advocates
- ❑ **\$2,500** provides a week's worth of legal expertise for victims
- ❑ **\$5,000** provides cutting-edge victims' rights legal publications to the country
- ❑ **\$10,000** supports NCVLI standing beside a victim as amicus curiae in appellate courts
- ❑ **ANY AMOUNT** ensures victims have access to caring and committed professionals



“This was about justice for my daughter . . . Having an attorney made all the difference. She was able to give a voice to my daughter.” – *A mother of homicide victim who NCVLI paired with a pro bono attorney*



While we celebrate that Amy’s case is before the Supreme Court, every day victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, kidnapping, trafficking, stalking, homicide, and fraud face a justice system that treats them more as evidence than as human beings with rights. Amy’s fight is about restitution but each day there are other victims’ rights battles – battles over the rights to be notified, present, and heard at critical stage hearings; over whether a victim’s diary, Facebook page, or mental health records can be protected or will land in the hands of the defendant; over whether a vulnerable victim has to face the perpetrator in court without support.

As the only national organization focused on victims’ legal rights, NCVLI is leading the way for Amy and all victims to have a voice in justice. In 2012-2013 we conducted 43 trainings reaching nearly 2,200 individuals. These trainings are not isolated moments; we provide continued assistance after training, providing technical assistance last year in 183 matters in 30 different jurisdictions and filing 14 amicus curiae briefs in 7 jurisdictions. By working closely with attorneys and advocates, we ensure that the very best arguments are made for victims all across the country.

This work changes lives. But, we cannot do it on our own. We rely on generous supporters like you to keep our doors open and crime victims thriving. Together we have helped thousands of individuals move from victim to survivor to thriver over the years but there are so many more that need our help. I hope you will choose to support victims this holiday season by supporting NCVLI. A gift of any amount makes a difference.

Visit www.ncvli.org to donate online.

From all of us at NCVLI, we wish you and your family a peaceful and joyous end of 2013.

With gratitude,


MEG GARVIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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OUR IMPACT

“Your presentation definitely impacted me, making me aware of the very issues of victim’s rights and the possibility of actually being able to assist in small ways. . . Before your presentation, I would have shied away from any involvement [in criminal side of case] . . . however, I realized how critical it is for victims to participate and be included in the criminal process. . . . I felt confident and prepared in advocating for my client’s right to be included and heard in the criminal process. . . . [T]his is one of the most meaningful pro bono efforts I have had in my career.”

– *A civil attorney*

“The assistance we received was great. We were new to victims rights issues, and had a tight turn to get our filings in timely. We were provided over the phone strategic help, brief writing help, samples, and NCVLI provided an amicus in our case. Outstanding.”

– *A new victims’ rights attorney*

THANK YOU

Your gift invests in a better future for crime victims!

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CONTRIBUTION

- ☐ \$5,000
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