

For Immediate Release  
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Today, the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) announced that the Oregon Crime Victim Law Center (OCVLC) would be the recipient of the inaugural Voices for Justice Award. "With this award NCVLI seeks to recognize and honor those Oregonians who amplify the voices of crime victims who are far too-often silenced in the justice system," said NCVLI Executive Director, Meg Garvin.

OCVLC was founded in 2009 to meet the need for attorneys and advocates to educate victims about their rights in criminal proceedings and to assist them in seeking enforcement of those rights. OCVLC's founders understood the importance of defending and advancing victims' rights as a way to ensure a fair and balanced criminal justice system that promotes respect, dignity, and meaningful participation by crime victims, particularly vulnerable victims who have challenges that make it difficult for them to effectively advocate for themselves. To date, OCVLC has served nearly 600 crime victims throughout Oregon.

When asked about receiving the award, OCVLC Legal Director Rosemary Brewer said "OCVLC is honored to accept the Inaugural Voices for Justice Award. We strive to provide effective legal representation to crime victims throughout Oregon, to give victims a voice in the criminal justice process, and to provide support and assistance to those who find themselves in terrible circumstances. Protecting the rights of victims gives us all a more balanced legal system, and we are grateful to be recognized for our work."

"When we thought about who should be recognized with this inaugural award, it was clear," Garvin said. "From the day it opened its doors OCVLC has been leading the way in Oregon, ensuring that victims are a part of the justice equation. We are privileged to have the chance to recognize their work."

OCVLC will formally be presented the Award at the Inaugural Voices for Justice Reception on January 27, 2015 in Portland, OR. This event will celebrate how Oregon is leading the way in victims' rights nationally. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum will be the featured speaker and former Chief Justice Paul De Muniz will emcee. For more information about NCVLI visit [www.ncvli.org](http://www.ncvli.org). For tickets to the event, visit [www.tinyurl.com/voicesforjustice](http://www.tinyurl.com/voicesforjustice).

*Founded in 2000, the [National Crime Victim Law Institute](http://www.ncvli.org) is a national resource for crime victim lawyers and advocates to support the assertion and enforcement of victims' rights in criminal and civil processes. NCVLI continues to be the only national organization whose mission is focused on enforcement of victims' rights in the courts.*