

For Immediate Release  
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The National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) filed a brief urging that domestic violence charges against U.S. Women's National Team goalkeeper Hope Solo be reinstated. In the brief filed last Friday in King County Washington Superior Court, NCVLI argued that a lower court erred in dismissing the charges and that the dismissal violated victims' rights.

The case arose from domestic violence charges against Solo filed in Washington state court. The charges alleged that Solo assaulted two relatives in June of 2014 at a home in the Seattle area. In January of 2015, a judge dismissed the charges, and prosecutors appealed to King County Superior Court.

The brief, filed with Paul Cassell of the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah and Rebecca Roe of Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, argued that the dismissal should be overturned. In the brief NCVLI explained that the trial court had improperly based its dismissal on the crime victims' refusal to answer questions about medically privileged issues. More broadly, the brief argued that domestic violence victims should not be compelled to waive confidentiality and privilege when they seek criminal prosecution.

"If the trial court's decision stands, it means the price of accessing justice is the loss of victim privacy despite confidentiality and privilege laws; that price is simply too high," said Meg Garvin, Director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute and Clinical Professor of Law. Garvin went on to praise the work of attorneys Paul Cassell and Rebecca Roe, noting "NCVLI fights for victims across the country but without amazing partners like these two lawyers we simply couldn't do our work."

A full copy of the brief can be found [here](#).

*Founded in 2000, the [National Crime Victim Law Institute](#) 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.*