MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Over the past year, we have imagined what a more just world can look like. It would be a world in which victims have comprehensive and meaningful rights and access to well-trained, no cost attorneys to assist with protection of those rights; it would include a justice system that honors rights and respects survivor voices at every turn. As we imagined this world, we dared ourselves to take steps to create it. Using our tools of education, litigation and legislation we made great strides! This report highlights some of our recent progress. We are so grateful to our many partners with whom we have worked. We are not done; standing together, we know that the world we imagined is not far away!

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The National Alliance of Victims’ Rights Attorneys & Advocates (NAVRA) is NCVLI’s membership alliance. NAVRA is increasing the availability of expert services for crime victims by providing myriad resources to advance the professional development of its members.

NCVLI’s Conference . . . was a life-changing experience. . . . It gave me connections and inspiration.”

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"I can’t tell you enough times how grateful I am for your leadership... and the work you all do. It is the difference between feeling totally alone in the ocean vs. knowing you have a safe harbor and defenders within reach."

"We are so fortunate to have access to a legal think tank that can provide research, answer questions, and help us make the best policy choices for victims and survivors of crime."

"Words cannot express how deeply grateful [we are] for your hard work. Your research and memo will help many of our clients. Thanks so much."

"I can’t tell you enough times how grateful I am for your leadership... and the work you all do. It is the difference between feeling totally alone in the ocean vs. knowing you have a safe harbor and defenders within reach."
Arizona. A child-victim’s attorney sought to protect the child from harassing examination at the hands of a pro se defendant, but found herself facing a court ruling that she did not have standing to assert and fully argue for the child’s rights. When the victim sought appellate review, NCVLI filed an amicus curiae brief in the Arizona Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals affirmed that victims can have privately retained counsel to assert and seek enforcement of their rights in court!

Victory!

Colorado. After a trial court granted defendant’s request to access the victim’s home for pretrial investigation, NCVLI joined the victim’s attorney to fight the order in the Colorado Supreme Court. Together we argued that the victim’s rights, together with defendant’s failure to show he needed access, mandated reversal. The court ruled in favor of the victim, reversing the order granting access!

Victory!

Louisiana. When a victim was subjected to a multitude of invasive subpoenas, including one seeking a pretrial interview and one seeking her medical records unrelated to the assault, NCVLI worked with the victim’s attorney to fight for the victim’s privacy and dignity. The invasive subpoenas were quashed!

Victory!
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