



## NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW INSTITUTE

PROTECTING, ENFORCING & ADVANCING VICTIMS' RIGHTS

In 2012, Lizzi Marriott, a young college student, was brutally strangled, murdered and raped. In the months prior to the trial of her offender, many claims were made about her alleged sexual history. Ultimately, the New Hampshire trial court, relying on rape shield laws, ruled that the allegations were irrelevant and inadmissible.

Defendant was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. For a brief moment, there was hope that the victim's family could move to the next chapter of surviving.

But this past spring, nearly four years after her murder and rape, Lizzi's family confronted anew the attacks on her privacy and dignity. During defendant's appeal, the New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled that the documents discussing the allegations were to be made available to the public. The state objected, but the court ruled that rape shield protections do not apply on appeal.

This ruling was a blow; it represented a dramatic departure from decades of well-developed privacy law, returning us to a time when invasive questions and allegations about a victim's behavior take center stage over a defendant's conduct.

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On Lizzi's 23rd birthday, the New Hampshire Supreme Court decided to unseal Lizzi's private life. We had questions but no answers: Why is this happening? How do you fight the Supreme Court? Luckily we were introduced to the National Crime Victim Law Institute. NCVLI was able to join our team and bring to bear the resources that we needed to fight for Lizzi. We got the result that we needed because the NCVLI team was there when we needed them.”

*Bob Marriott, Lizzi's father*

NCVLI received a call from partners and, together with co-counsel, we intervened on behalf of the family and began an unprecedented fight for the victims' rights. Together we argued that the victims' privacy and dignity rights and interests did not disappear on appeal. In September, the court ruled in the victims' favor, holding that the records would remain sealed.

In the words of co-counsel, Cyrus Rilee, “In this appeal that attacked the very foundation of rape shield laws, and challenged the fundamental privacy rights of victims of sexual violence across the United States, I have been honored to co-counsel with NCVLI whose legal team worked tirelessly to tackle these complex issues.”

Sadly, the fight is not over; defendant challenged the decision. So we fight on.

**We need your help.** No grants and no foundations prioritize victims' rights litigation. What happens when the next victim needs a legal team?

**Help us answer that call. Visit [www.ncvli.org](http://www.ncvli.org) to donate online.**



Sincerely,

Meg Garvin,  
Executive Director



NCVLI's legal team invested **300+ hours** in this case, translating to more than **\$21,000**. It was only possible because of donors like you!

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- ☐ **\$10,000** Funds an NCVLI amicus brief in support of a victim
- ☐ **ANY AMOUNT** Ensures victims have access to caring and committed professionals

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Snapshot of 2016

"I wouldn't have made it without NCVLI."  
*Survivor*

**137** Legal Matters

"The level of **professionalism** and **authenticity** that is brought to NCVLI's work by the individual staff members is incredibly impressive and very helpful."  
*Victim 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 the NCVLI provided an amicus in our case. **Outstanding.**"  
*Victim Attorney*

**3,050** NCVLI attorney case hours

"The information was **exceptional**. I can't remember the last webinar where I was actually **engaged** from start to finish."  
*Investigator*

**14** amicus curiae briefs

"[NCVLI's Conference] is almost like going to the **Oscars for victims' rights**. And I hope and pray that your work spreads across the United States because you guys are so supportive and extremely understanding and empathetic to what victims need."  
*Survivor*

**3,000+** people trained

**96%** of trainees gained improved victims' rights knowledge

Legal work in **36** jurisdiction

"It is the most productive organization that identifies and addresses critical issues at the **forefront of the victims' rights movement.**"  
*Victim Attorney*

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