

Founded in 2000, the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) is the only national organization focused on enforcement of victims' legal rights. NCVLI actively promotes balance and fairness in the justice system through crime victim centered legal advocacy, education, and resource sharing. We do this to achieve our vision of a society in which:

- Every crime victim has comprehensive and meaningful legal rights and can access a knowledgeable attorney for representation in the justice system;
- Every crime victim's attorney has access to education, training, and technical support from a community of experts;
- Everyone in the justice system is knowledgeable about and respects the legal rights of crime victims;
- Crime victims' rights are routinely enforced to facilitate meaningful participation in the justice system; and
- Every right of every crime victim is honored in every case.

Working for Military Survivors

Since 2011, NCVLI has partnered closely with the United States military to address the unique challenges military crime victims face when navigating military and civilian justice systems. The effort began with a call from the United States Air Force.

Then - Judge Advocate General of the United States Air Force General Harding contacted NCVLI for guidance in responding to sexual assault and legal expertise to address challenges survivors face in the military justice system. In his words,

"We've been looking for game-changing ideas...We needed to reach out to folks outside the military, and [NCVLI] is right at the top when it comes to victims' rights."

—Gen. Richard Harding

NCVLI immediately responded to the call for service:

- Advising leadership on legal counsel program design, victims' rights enforcement, and training curricula.
- Training the very first cohort of 60 Air Force JAG Special Victim Counsel on victims' rights and continuing to train each class thereafter.
- Providing case technical assistance within two months of program launch and continuing ever since.
- Filing 2 *amicus curiae* briefs with military courts in the first year of the program, including in the precedent setting case *Airman First Class (E-3) LRM v. Lieutenant Colonel Kastenber*. This case is the case explaining that sexual assault victims have standing to argue for rape shield protections.

"I was utterly lost and afraid for almost a year until I was assigned my SVC. I did not feel like I had anyone on my side, until my SVC showed up. She was an exceptionally good legal representative. She even stood up for me in regards to issues I was having with my chain of command. My SVC did everything possible to ease the burdens associated with reporting sexual assault. I would recommend my SVC to most if not all sexual assault victims."

—Military Sexual Assault Survivor

Trusted Partner: Legal Resources & Technical Assistance

One year after the telephone call in fall of 2011 every branch of the military had created their own Special Victim Counsel or Victim Legal Counsel Program modeled in large part on NCVLI's vision. NCVLI regularly provides assistance to military attorneys and advocates in the form of legal research, educational writing and resources to assist with representation of victims and legal case support. Specifically, in recent years NCVLI has provided legal technical assistance in more than 40 cases, providing legal research, writing and strategic litigation materials and advice. Technical assistance is augmented by more than 40 military-specific legal resources available through databases on the [NAVRA website](#), NCVLI's membership alliance, including case summaries, sample pleadings, and amicus briefs.

"The assistance we received [from NCVLI] was great. We were new to victims' rights issues, and had a tight turn to get our filings in [time]. We were provided over the phone strategic help, brief writing help, samples, and the NCVLI provided an amicus in our case."

- *Military Victim Attorney*

Expanding & Increasing Knowledge: Education & Training

NCVLI regularly trains military attorneys and advocates on victims' rights, and trains civilian attorneys and advocates on military processes and rights in its effort to build the capacity of the field to provide effective, trauma-informed advocacy services to military victims.

- This means that over the past eight years, 550 military attorneys, advocates and paralegals have been trained.
- NCVLI's [Crime Victim Law Conference](#), the only national conference focused on victim law, includes sessions tailored toward rights' enforcement in military settings. In fact, in the past five years of the Conference, there have been 13 sessions, including 4 plenaries, and nearly 250 military personnel have attended.

Changing Culture: Advocating for Victim-Inclusive Policies

NCVLI is dedicated to advancing policies and systems that guarantee substantive rights for victims and mechanisms to protect those rights. Key involvement includes:

- Service on the U.S. Department of Defense's Victim Services Subcommittee, of the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crime Panel
- Testimony before the U.S. Department of Defense's Judicial Proceedings Panel
- Service on the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigations, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces