



## National Crime Victim Law Institute

The **National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI)**, established in 2000 at Lewis & Clark Law School, is dedicated to protecting, enforcing, and advancing victims' rights. Its mission is to promote a fair and balanced criminal justice system through legal education, legal scholarship, legal information resources and legal advocacy. NCVLI is the only national organization in the United States working to enforce victims' rights in criminal courts.

Over the last decade, there has been an interest in the rights of crime victims, leading to a flood of victim state and federal legislation and state constitutional amendments. There has, however, been little academic attention paid to this rapidly growing area of the law. At present, most law school graduates have little to no understanding of crime victim law. NCVLI is working to change this by incorporating crime victim law into law school curriculum through its Crime Victim Litigation Clinic.

NCVLI advances victims' rights by participating as *amicus curiae* and providing technical assistance in victims' rights cases filed in courts nationwide. Sample issues NCVLI has worked on include: keeping a rape victim's education, counseling, and medical records confidential; defending the victim's right to attend the entire trial; securing a "re-do" of a sentencing when the first sentencing hearing was conducted in violation of the victim's right to be heard; litigating the victim's right to timely disposition; and fighting for full and timely restitution for all victims, including victims of human trafficking. The victims whose rights we fight for most often are stalking, sexual assault, domestic violence, homicide, fraud, and child victims.

### Law Student Opportunities

Lewis & Clark law students are able to participate in several facets of NCVLI. Opportunities for involvement include enrolling in a victim law course, participating in the NCVLI Crime Victim Litigation Clinic, volunteering to assist with legal research and writing, organizing victims' rights educational events, attending the annual Victim Law Conference held in Portland, Oregon (students are encouraged to submit papers to become presenters), joining the National Alliance of Victims' Rights Attorneys (a bar association that allows student members), or applying for one of NCVLI's paid or unpaid intern positions. Students can begin volunteering with NCVLI during their first year of law school.

### The National Crime Victim Law Institute projects and services include:

#### NCVLI Crime Victim Litigation Clinic

Lewis & Clark clinical law students learn about the role of the crime victim and crime victim's attorney in asserting individual rights in the criminal justice system from both a practical and theoretical perspective. Clinic students support crime victim attorneys nationwide through legal research and writing that is used in a variety of ways. These include supporting lawyers nationwide who are directly representing crime victims in criminal cases; helping NCVLI write *amicus curiae* briefs that are filed in trial and appellate courts nationwide; helping NCVLI strategically anticipate and prepare for future litigation at both the trial and appellate levels; and drafting model law and policy papers for submission to advance the law.

## **Crime Victim Law Conference**

In June 2002, NCVLI presented the first ever conference in the nation dedicated exclusively for the training and education of lawyers about crime victim rights in the criminal process. The conference is now held annually. Attendees include state and federal judges, prosecutors, and victims' rights litigators and activists, law professors, and students from across the United States and abroad.

## **National Alliance of Victims' Rights Attorneys (NAVRA) [www.navra.org](http://www.navra.org)**

NAVRA is an alliance of lawyers, advocates, victims, and law students involved in victim litigation, legislation and/or policymaking. Membership in NAVRA provides members the opportunity to share ideas concerning cases, points of law and legal strategies. Membership also allows members access to the resources of the NCVLI through a members only website.

## **National Enforcement Efforts through Partner Clinics**

NCVLI has established victim pro bono legal clinics in eleven jurisdictions in the United States (AZ, CO, DC, ID, MD, NY, NJ, NM, OR, SC, and UT). These clinics provide direct legal representation to crime victims in state and federal trial and appellate courts as they seek to assert and enforce their rights. NCVLI trains these clinics and provides ongoing technical assistance to the clinic attorneys as they litigate this new area of law.

## **NCVLI Faculty and Staff**

**Meg Garvin**, is the executive director of NCVLI and a clinical professor of law. Ms. Garvin is recognized as a leading expert on victims' rights. She regularly presents on victims' rights and participates in national forums to develop policy on victims' rights. She has testified before Congress and the Oregon Legislature on the current state of victim law. She serves on the Legislative & Public Policy Committee of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, and co-chairs the Oregon Attorney General's Crime Victims' Rights Task Force. She served as co-chair of the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section Victims Committee from 2005-2010, and has served as a member of the board of directors for the National Organization of Victim Assistance. Prior to joining NCVLI, Ms. Garvin practiced law in a private firm in Minneapolis, Minnesota and clerked for the Honorable Donald P. Lay of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. She received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Puget Sound, her master of arts degree in communication studies from the University of Iowa, and her juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota.

NCVLI has six staff attorneys, each with an impressive array of experience in criminal law and advocacy work. For more information on the NCVLI staff, please refer to our website: [www.ncvli.org](http://www.ncvli.org).

Lewis & Clark Law School professor **Doug Beloof** was NCVLI's founder and now serves on the Board of Directors. Professor Beloof has been cited by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee as a leading expert on crime victim law. As former Director of the Multnomah County Victim's Assistance Program, he established procedures to assist victims of crime, including a domestic violence program and multidisciplinary teams to deal with child abuse. Prior to joining the Lewis & Clark Law School faculty, he was a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney.

For more information:

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