



VICTIM
RIGHTS
LAW CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2018, the Victim Rights Law Center enters its 15th year as the first nonprofit law center in the country solely focused on the legal needs of sexual assault survivors. It is the perfect time to reflect on the progress we have made in helping survivors, as well as the hard work ahead.

Over the past year, the issue of sexual violence was catapulted to the forefront of the national dialogue with high profile cases in the media and the momentum of both the #MeToo and TIME'S UP movements. As survivors courageously come forward to share their experiences, the need for trained and compassionate attorneys continues to grow rapidly.

From representing thousands of survivors and as national trainers to tens of thousands of lawyers and advocates, VRCLC staff attorneys have seen that justice for sexual assault survivors does not reside in the criminal justice system alone. A free, trauma-informed civil attorney by a survivor's side can help a survivor stay safely in (or leave) their home, school, or job, and sometimes even in the country.

The VRCLC provides free, comprehensive legal assistance to almost 900 sexual assault victims in Massachusetts and Oregon. Survivors' legal needs are often: privacy (protection of survivor's medical, mental health, and education records, and also online privacy consultation); safety (restraining orders and customized safety planning); education law (K-12 and campus sexual assault); housing (breaking a lease, eviction, safety housing transfers); immigration (U-visa, VAWA, DACA); employment (negotiating with the employer); and financial stability (public benefits, consumer law, social security).

Our legal team consists of 19 attorneys between our Massachusetts and Oregon offices (with more coming on board in both offices in 2018!). Each staff attorney has the unique skills necessary to help sexual assault survivors stabilize their lives following violence. In addition, our attorneys have specialty practice areas (i.e. education, housing, immigration, employment). The diversity in practice areas allows our team to provide holistic and comprehensive legal assistance to survivors.

We are deeply grateful to the many pro bono attorneys who step up to help represent VRCLC sexual assault clients. In fact, developing a well-equipped corps of legal professionals throughout the country is critical, which is why we took the next step—hosting the only National Sexual Assault Law Conference, held in January 2018 in Charleston, S.C. The VRCLC is committed to helping survivors locally and training attorneys nationwide to respond to the call when a survivor needs legal assistance.

We cannot do this alone. We are grateful to every donor and every volunteer who has helped ensure we can respond to survivors since 2003.

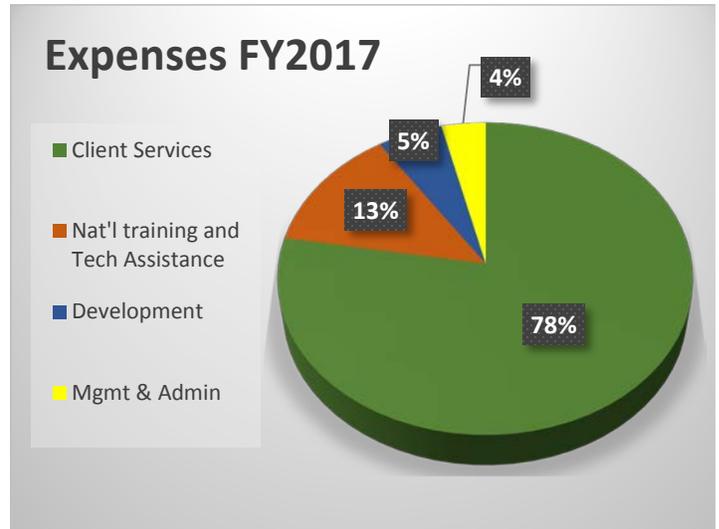
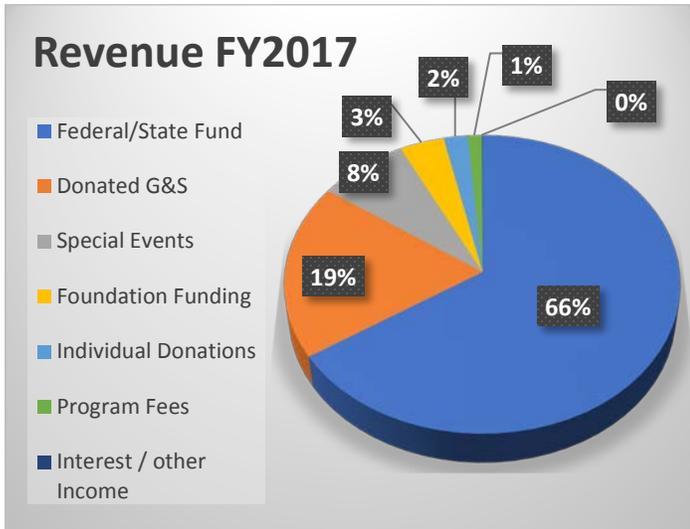
From all of us at the VRCLC, thank you for joining us in giving survivors hope!

In gratitude,

Stacy Malone

The Victim Rights Law Center's (VRCLC) mission is to provide legal representation to victims of rape and sexual assault to help rebuild their lives and to promote a national movement committed to seeking justice for every rape and sexual assault victim.

FY2017 FUNDING



REVENUE

Federal/State Funding	\$1,618,446
Donated Goods & Services	\$ 464,550
Special Events	\$ 194,558
Foundation Funding	\$ 71,600
Individual Donations	\$ 52,320
Program Fees	\$ 30,567
Interest/Other income	\$ 1,495
TOTAL	\$ 2,433,536

EXPENSES

Client Services	\$ 1,857,019
Nat'l Training & Tech Assist.	\$ 310,538
Development	\$ 132,533
Mgmt & Admin	\$ 89,988
TOTAL	\$ 2,390,078

Total Net Assets: \$589,368

A special thank you to our Pro Bono attorneys!

We are very grateful to the following law firms who provided pro bono assistance in 2017 to VRLC in **MASSACHUSETTS**:

Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP
 Foley Hoag LLP
 Foley & Lardner LLP
 Goodwin Procter LLP
 Goulston & Storrs
 Harriman Law
 Knuuttila Law LLC
 Latham and Watkins LLP
 Rich May, P.C.
 McDermott Will & Emery
 Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
 Morgan Lewis
 Prince Lobel Tye LLP
 Proskauer Rose LLP
 Seyfarth Shaw LLP
 Sinclair Law LLC
 Sullivan & Worcester LLP
 WilmerHale

We are very grateful to the following law firms and companies who provided pro bono assistance in 2017 to VRLC in **OREGON**:

Baker McKenzie
 Beaverton Law Group, LLP
 Boston Scientific
 Cambreleng Law LLC
 Engrav Law Office LLP
 Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
 Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP
 Preg O'Donnell & Gillett
 Vogt & Long PC
 Schantz Law PC

THOSE WE SERVE

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts VRLC attorneys provided **434** clients with direct legal services during FY2017 (often addressing 2-3 legal needs for each client).

“You gave me back control. You gave me back control of my life. **You helped me go from victim to victor.** I now have a new passion in life. I feel like this is just the beginning. You put me on a path and brought so much of my life together. You helped me make sense of things. I feel so bad for rape victims who have to go through this process without the Victim Rights Law Center.”



“I want to thank you for the **invaluable guidance, counsel, and support** that you have given me over the last six months. None of this would have been possible without you...the legal and logical analysis that you have consistently voiced for my case has been **incredibly empowering and clarifying**... Working with you has been one of the most important—if not the single most important—channel through which I have been able to work on my healing process as a survivor.”

MASSACHUSETTS

In 2017 our Massachusetts office received **552** calls seeking help and legal advice.

“You have helped me through this entire process, in more ways than one, and I could not be more grateful. Thank you for all your **hard work, generous words, and dedication** throughout the difficult times. I would not be standing where I am today if it wasn't for you.”



“After believing we had done everything right, step by step, regardless of what it meant for us being undocumented, it was a painful moment knowing that at the end justice was not done. It took us years of therapy, learning to cope and acceptance of each other and our situation to get to the point we are today... **Finding the Victim Rights Law Center** after being put through such a long, hard court case **seemed like the light at the end of the tunnel for us.** **We finally saw some hope** and believed that we would actually have a future in this country... As you know, the qualifications for this assistance [being sexually assaulted] are not the most pleasant.... My sister and I are both in college right now, something that for a very long time seemed like a distant dream.”

OREGON

The Oregon VRLC attorneys provided **381** clients with direct legal services during FY2017 (often addressing 2-3 legal needs for each client).

“I had some anxiety about calling the VRLC **as a male survivor** because college officials and some friends had been skeptical and hurtful... **In my first phone call I felt like my assault was taken seriously, and, for the first time, that I had someone on my side that [my college] would take seriously, too**... I also don't come from means... Without a nonprofit like the VRLC, I would have been unrepresented throughout this process and probably would not have had the favorable result that I did... VRLC fills a void and advocates for victims who have no one else -or who don't want to tell their loved ones.



OREGON

In 2017 our Oregon office received **407** calls seeking help and legal advice.

“I know my healing is only just beginning, but you were right that the hearing was very cathartic, and to know my assaulter has been expelled **makes my heart sing** and **gives me a sense of strength** I never thought I'd know.”

Shining Star Gala Sept. 28, 2017

At this year's Shining Star Gala we were incredibly fortunate to hear from Gloria Steinem and Anita Hill, and also paid tribute to Goodwin as our Champions and Michael Harriman as our Shining Star. The gathering was held at the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse on Boston's waterfront, with almost 500 of the Victim Right Law Center's supporters and friends joining us for an evening that was both festive and thought-provoking.

"As I travel, I see people who are more likely to be legally punished for invading the house of someone than for invading the body of someone. We are struggling with those laws and improving them - thanks to you - step by step."
- Gloria Steinem



VRLC Executive Director Stacy Malone, Gloria Steinem, and Professor Anita Hill. Photo by Cheryl Richards

Shining Star Gala attendees also heard first-person testimony from a sexual assault survivor, a former VRLC client: "The VRLC not only provided me with legal assistance that I would not have otherwise been able to afford but provided me with both peace of mind and continued support, even after my case had ended."

Thank you to all our wonderful supporters this year, with special thanks to our **Shining Star** sponsor  **GOODWIN**

Our deepest gratitude goes out to: **Rock Star** sponsors Michele and Howard Kessler, Stacy Malone and Al Tringali, Georgia Murray and Mark Maloney, Brenda and Rick Sharton; **Shooting Star** sponsors Ankura Consulting, Biogen, Boston Scientific, The Farlovvia Fund, Foley Hoag LLP, Deb and Steve Marcus, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP, Morgan Lewis, Proskauer Rose LLP, and Andrea Robinson and Jonathan Talamo; and **Rising Star** sponsors Casner & Edwards LLP, Rebecca and Allan Chasen, Congress Wealth Management, Jackson Lewis P.C., McDermott Will & Emery LLP, Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC, Prince Lobel Tye LLP, Kevin and Janice Roden, Ilene and Larry Seidman, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Sharon and Alan Weston, and WilmerHale, along with almost 40 **Star Burst** sponsors! Thanks to all of you!

Why I Give:

"For over 15 years, Victim Rights Law Center has fearlessly promoted and protected the civil rights of victims of sexual violence. In 2017, a wake-up year for the nation, these amazing attorneys turned awareness into action. We are so proud of what they have accomplished and look forward to supporting their amazing work in the years to come."

~ Georgia Murray and Mark Maloney

Thank you to the

U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against
Women

Oregon Department of
Justice

Massachusetts Office for
Victim Assistance

for providing
the foundational support
to serve sexual assault
survivors.

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foundations for your generous
support:

The Bennett Family
Foundation
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Anne E. Borghesani
Community Foundation

The William H. Donner
Foundation

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