

# OREGON CRIME VICTIMS LAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

November 2016



## REMEMBERING LOVED ONES LOST TO HOMICIDE

For those who have experienced the devastation of losing a family member or close friend to homicide, support and community are paramount to processing intense grief and sorrow. Parents of Murdered Children is an organization that provides support and assistance to survivors of homicide victims, be it directly after the crime occurs or years later.

The Greater Portland Area Chapter of POMC holds an annual event on the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims at the POMC Memorial Wall in Mt. View Cemetery. Executive Director Rosemary Brewer was the keynote speaker at the event. Ms. Brewer and OCVLC attorney Melanie Kebler also helped read the names of the homicide victims who were being remembered and honored that day. There are nearly 600 names now on the wall. The names of Oregon and Washington police officers who were murdered in the line of duty since 2009 were also read aloud.

OCVLC has connected with POMC through our work assisting homicide victims with parole hearings at Oregon state prisons. OCVLC attorneys assist the victims by representing them at the hearing and filing legal motions with the Parole Board explaining the victim's position on whether the inmate should be released. Chapter Leader Mary Elledge had this to say about Ms. Brewer in a recent newsletter: "Knowing her personally is truly an honor. She is doing an excellent job of helping co-victims go to parole hearing when inmates are being released. She does a remarkable job as an advocate for those co-victims attending the hearings. Ms. Brewer is able to help keep dangerous inmates from being released."

OCVLC looks forward to attending future Day of Remembrance events with POMC in the years to come.



OCVLC Executive Director Rosemary Brewer gives her keynote speech.



The Oregon/Washington Memorial for homicide victims was established through fundraising by the Greater Portland Area chapter of POMC. It was dedicated in 2013.

## WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT OCVLC'S SERVICES:

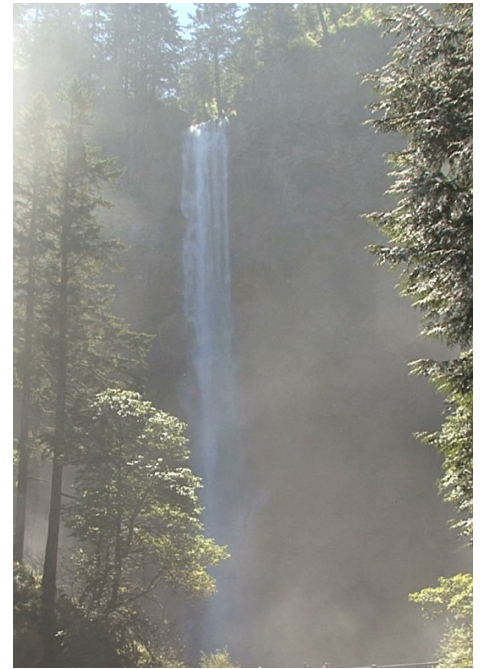
"I felt I had been treated exceptionally well and was very pleased with the sense of confidence [my attorney] inspired in me. I had a strong sense of trust in her professional skills."

"There are no words to say thank you enough. I am beyond grateful for all your support, guidance, honesty and compassion! You make the world a better place!"

"My greatest thanks for your invaluable support and advocacy during what I know was a very confusing and complicated matter."

"I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated you taking my case. I have so much respect for you and what you do for others in my situation. It is truly a labor of love."

"Thank you so very much for all your work on my case. You helped change my world back to being mine again...thank you just doesn't seem like enough."



## SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY PARTNER: LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES NORTHWEST

The Crime Victim Advocacy Program with Lutheran Community Services Northwest works to support people and communities who have been victims of "general" crimes in Clark County, WA and Multnomah County, OR. The program provides direct and over the phone support, advocacy, and crisis intervention to all people who are in need after a crime has been committed. Assistance also includes, but is not limited to, guidance on filling out and filing for crime victim compensation, attending court proceedings, cultural and legal advocacy, safety planning, community education and support to secondary victims/survivors. It is our mission to work in a restorative way within our community to help stabilize victims of crime through empowerment, education and support in order to help people move forward with their life in a positive and healthy way.

The Multnomah County program includes two victim advocates who can provide free and confidential services.

Learn more at: <http://www.lcsnw.org/portland/crimevictimservice.html>

# CO-LOCATED COLLABORATION

## How OCVLC works at the Gateway Center, Portland's comprehensive center for survivors

By Yazmin Wadia

Serving families and survivors of domestic violence since 2010, the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence acts as a comprehensive location for victims to receive the services they need from dozens of community agencies. The Gateway Center is conveniently located for victims living on Portland's east side and can be easily accessed by the several transit lines located nearby.

Services at the Gateway Center include: culturally specific advocates, public assistance and the Department of Human Services, counseling, housing specialists, and economic empowerment assistance. In addition to serving as a "one stop" shop for victims, it also provides a location in which victims may petition the court for various protective orders. Typically, a victim is assigned to a "navigator" advocate, who identifies the needs of the victim and walks them through the petition process if the victim is seeking a protective order. After filing their petition, the victim can return to the Gateway Center

that afternoon to appear before a judge via video conferencing regarding their petition. Not only does this benefit victims who may have difficulties getting to the downtown courthouse, but it also provides a safe and familiar environment for victims and their families.

Since January of 2016, an OCVLC attorney has been working at the Gateway Center, which enhances our ability to assist victims in a place they are already accessing other needed services. OCVLC's attorney at the Gateway Center is able to assist, counsel, and advise victims who have questions about restraining orders, the criminal justice process, and their rights as crime victims. This type of assistance can empower victims with the important information they need to make informed choices. Additionally, OCVLC is able to make better connections with clients by offering an accessible location for them to meet with an attorney.

Co-location at the Gateway Center offers OCVLC an even more collaborative relationship with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, and other community partners. OCVLC looks forward to growing this relationship and continuing to assist victims with their legal needs.

## OCVLC Assistance at the Gateway Center in 2016 so far:

**48 victims consulted with our Gateway attorney and were given information, counsel, and advice.**

**40 victims were provided with legal representation by OCVLC.**

**Victims in contact with OCVLC's Gateway attorney were seeking help with many kinds of legal issues, including:**

- Restraining Orders
- Criminal Case and Crime Victims' Rights
- Immigration
- Housing
- Divorce/Custody
- Title IX

# NOTES:

## New Board Members: Chuck Tauman and Gaynelle Jensen

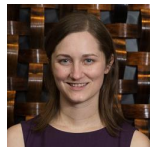
Gaynelle Jensen is an Independent Consultant helping small businesses with their accounting needs. Before becoming a consultant, she worked with various businesses. For nine years, she was a tax preparer in a CPA office, then worked as an accounting manager for a freight logistics company and an online paintball company. Gaynelle has had the experience of running a small manufacturing business that produced the Geochron world clock. With these unique experiences, she hopes to bring the accounting and management knowledge gained to help OCVLC.

Chuck Tauman is a recently retired trial lawyer with extensive experience in the political and non-profit world. As a lawyer, he spent his career representing victims of crimes and other serious misconduct resulting in personal injury, death and financial fraud. For the last 20 years, he has focused on representing victims of tobacco companies in product liability and fraud cases. His political experience involves both electoral (running campaigns for ballot measures, judges and district attorneys) and lobbying (for legal reform and tobacco control measures). Additionally, he has founded and run several non-profit associations and has served on the governing boards of several others. He is currently the Chair of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission and the immediate past chair of the Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board. He hopes to be active on the OCVLC board in fund-raising and legislative advocacy and to continue to practice law on a pro bono basis by donating his services to OCVLC.

## STAFF



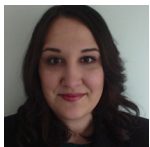
**ROSEMARY BREWER**  
Executive Director



**MELANIE KEBLER**  
Senior Staff Attorney



**NELLY WRIGHT**  
Staff Attorney



**YAZMIN WADIA**  
Staff Attorney



**AMANDA BURNETT**  
Victim Advocate and  
Administrative Specialist



**KAT RICHARD**  
Fiscal Manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SHIRLEY DIDIER - VICE PRESIDENT  
ERIN OLSON - TREASURER  
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JOHN STEIN

PETER GLAZER  
PETER DEUEL  
JOSH LAMBORN  
CHRIS MASCAL  
CHUCK TAUMAN  
GAYNELLE JENSEN



## WE SERVE OREGON

We serve clients across the state and we are always looking for more referrals from outside the greater Portland area.

# HOW TO CONTACT OCVLC

**Phone: 503-208-8160**

**Email: [info@ocvlc.org](mailto:info@ocvlc.org)**

**Fax: 1-866-838-4142**



Twitter



Facebook



"LOVE" artwork in Philadelphia.  
Photo by Melanie Kebler.

**YOUR  
DONATION  
HELPS  
CRIME  
VICTIMS**

OCVLC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded by grants and private donations. All of our legal services are offered at no cost to the crime victims we serve. By donating to OCVLC, you can make a huge difference in the life of a crime victim.

[Click here to donate](#)