



OCVLC NEWSLETTER



From the Executive Director

BY ROSEMARY BREWER

Our fifth annual Hardy Myers Dinner was held on April 26th, and we had a number of reasons to celebrate! More than 200 guests helped the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center recognize the importance of providing legal representation and advocacy to victims throughout the state. We were also privileged to have the family of Hardy Myers in attendance. As one of our founders and our first Board president, Hardy left an indelible stamp on our organization, and we continue to honor his memory by serving the victims of Oregon.

OCVLC awarded the Hardy Myers Victim Advocacy Award to Slava Jovanovic, Victim Advocate with the Portland Police Bureau, Sex Crimes Unit. In more than 15 years working with PPB, Slava has provided invaluable assistance to countless victims in their early encounters with the criminal justice system. She introduced the principles of trauma-informed care and meeting victims' needs to PPB, and her initial team of two has been expanded to six advocates, with more additions planned. Survivors of sexual assault face significant barriers in seeking justice – trauma, institutional barriers, societal pressure, and a long and complicated system that was not created with victims in mind. Slava approaches victims with compassion and with empathy, offering support and assistance to address their needs. We were honored to present the award to Slava, who provides a model of what victim-centered advocacy within law enforcement can look like.

We are grateful to our sponsors, those who donated auction and raffle items, and all who attended the dinner. We met our fundraising goal, had a wonderful time, and honored victims' rights in Oregon – a successful evening!

Inside this quarter's newsletter you'll find information on this year's Crime Victims' Rights Week, photos from the Hardy Myers Dinner, and an update on recent cases we've been working on.

This Year's 5th Annual Hardy Myers Dinner



Senior Staff Attorney Emily La Brecque speaks on behalf of victims



Hardy Myers Victim Advocacy Award Recipient Slava Jovanovic



Gladys Boransing, Court of Appeals Judge Steven Powers, Rep Tawna Sanchez, Atty Gen Ellen Rosenblum, Rosemary Brewer, Fay Stez-Waters



Our Staff: Pam Madaus, Rosemary Brewer, Jack Staunton, Emily La Brecque, Vicky Radenkova, Mickey Karnas, Rachel Garrett



[Click here for full gallery.](#)

Fifth Annual Hardy Myers Dinner

Benefiting

Oregon Crime Victims Law Center

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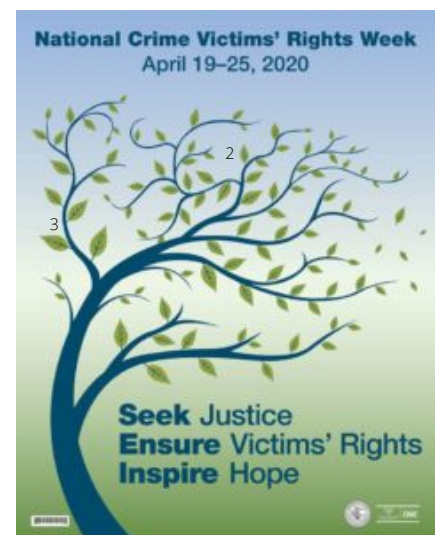
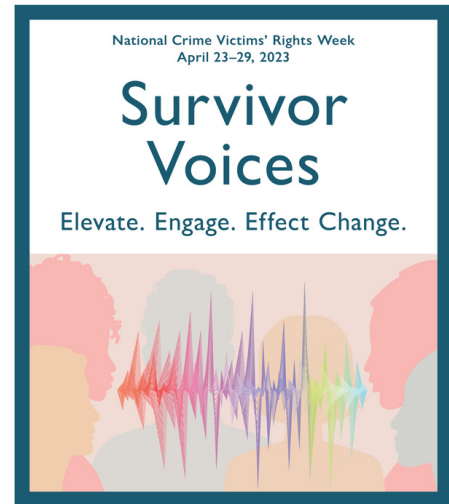
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History of National Crime Victim Rights

BY JACK STAUNTON

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is an annual event in April that aims to raise awareness about the rights and needs of crime victims. The history of this event can be traced back to the 1960s, with the emergence of the victims' rights movement that sought to recognize and protect the rights of crime victims. In 1972 the first three victim assistance programs in the country were created in St. Louis, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. In 1975, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office organized the first Victims' Rights Week in the country, and that same year the National Organization for Victim Assistance was formed. In 1981, the President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first NCVRW, signaling a national commitment to supporting and empowering those who have experienced the trauma of crime. Since then, it has become an important observance, shedding light on the challenges faced by victims and highlighting the importance of providing them with comprehensive support, resources, and justice. NCVRW serves as a platform to educate the public, policymakers, and criminal justice professionals about victims' rights while also honoring the resilience of survivors and their families. By emphasizing the significance of crime victim rights, this annual event plays a vital role in fostering a more compassionate and inclusive society that prioritizes the needs and well-being of all individuals affected by crime.

This year, NCVRW was held April 23-29. The 2023 NCVRW theme was Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change. This theme calls upon communities to amplify the voices of survivors and create environments where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported. Events associated with this year's NCVRW included a candlelight vigil on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. that paid tribute to victims of crime and the many dedicated professionals and volunteers who advocate on their behalf. Local events celebrating the week included a Victims Awareness Fair held by the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office, and a community roundtable discussion regarding victims' rights post-conviction sponsored by the Washington County District Attorney's Office.



Case Summaries

BY VICKY RADENKOVA

Two OCVLC attorneys represented a husband and a wife in a Stalking Protective Order hearing against a neighbor that had trespassed on their property and made threats towards the couple. They felt that the Stalking Order was necessary for their safety but were unsure of the process and what they would be required to prove. OCVLC attorneys represented the couple at the hearing, guiding them through their testimony and presenting photo and video evidence to the court. The couple were both granted a Stalking Order and expressed appreciation for the help and support our attorneys provided.

A victim of a robbery recently reached out to OCVLC for concerns regarding her rights. She had attended a sentencing hearing for the defendant but was not permitted to give her victim impact statement during the hearing. She expressed how important it was to her that she be able to make a statement and address the defendant directly. One of our attorneys filed a Claim for Violation of Victim Rights on her behalf and was able to get a resentencing hearing scheduled, allowing the victim to make her statement.

Our victim advocate attended a hearing for a parole violation with a victim in Multnomah County. The victim had the opportunity to read a victim impact statement about her experience with stalking, but her part in the hearing was delayed and she did not speak that day. Our victim advocate and an OCVLC attorney met with the victim for discussion and processing before and after the hearing. The victim said while it was a difficult hearing, she felt supported and even empowered by being there. She said it made her feel courageous, and that the support from her OCVLC advocate and attorney and her advocate with the Multnomah County District Attorney's office had helped assist her in continuing to attend hearings.

A victim of domestic violence contacted OCVLC seeking representation for a contested protective order hearing set in Central Oregon within the week. The victim was especially concerned for her safety due to recent social media posts made by the respondent. An OCVLC attorney worked with the victim to prepare for the hearing, gathering photo evidence to be used at the hearing and helping her prepare her testimony. The attorney represented the victim at the contested protective order hearing, where the judge ultimately upheld the victim's protective order.

An OCVLC attorney represented a victim in assisting her to obtain a permanent stalking order against her abuser. The case was directly referred by the District Attorney's office. This particular victim was more vulnerable due to her age which necessitated several continuances of the permanent stalking order hearing. With the help of OCVLC, the victim was able to seek the continuances and ultimately was able to testify at the hearing. During the hearing, the OCVLC attorney, through carefully crafted questions, was able to help the victim clearly articulate the need for the stalking order. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court granted the victim her permanent stalking order.