



OCVLC NEWSLETTER



From the Executive Director

BY: ROSEMARY BREWER

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Seventh Annual Hardy Myers Dinner in April, and to our sponsors and those who donated items for the auction. Beaverton Detective Amanda Pickar was our Hardy Myers Victim Advocacy Award honoree this year, for her outstanding work with domestic violence victims at the Family Justice Center in Washington County. It was a wonderful evening of connecting with a community of people invested in victims' rights. Photos from the event can be found on Page 2.

In 2012, I began working as the Legal Director at OCVLC. My very first case involved a young victim of sexual abuse, who was trying to keep her medical records from being turned over to the defendant. She was concerned about her privacy, had little support, and no experience with the criminal justice system. The experience of helping that survivor find her voice in a system that was not designed for victims paved the way for my next 13 years with OCVLC. There has been progress since that first case, and I've seen improvement in victims truly having the "meaningful role" that the Oregon Constitution promises them. But victims still struggle to be heard, there are gaps in their rights, and there is a lack of consistency in applying those rights. Advocacy and legal representation are vital to ensuring that victims' constitutional rights are protected – and those rights belong to all of us. OCVLC will continue to lead on victims' issues in Oregon, with Emily La Brecque taking over as Executive Director. I will miss the people I've worked with, the community, and the work itself, but I'm excited about the future of the organization and know it is in good hands!

2025 Hardy Myers Dinner



OCVLC Exec. Dir Rosemary Brewer & 2025 Hardy Myers Advocacy Award recipient Amanda Pickar



OCVLC Board Members Kevin Clausen, VP Amity Girt, Pres. Megan Johnson, Paul Galm



Myers Family - Kasia Auler, Laura Smoyer, Chris Myers, Jon Myers, Adam Auler



OCVLC Exec. Dir. Rosemary Brewer, OCVLC Board VP Amity Girt, Multnomah Co. DA Nathan Vazquez, Malia Bruni



OCVLC Board Pres. Megan Johnson presenting Hardy Myers Victims Advocacy Award



[Full gallery of photos](#)

2025 Hardy Myers Dinner

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On behalf of the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to Rosemary Brewer for her incredible 13 years of dedicated service to victims.

Rosemary's unwavering commitment, compassion, and tireless efforts have made a lasting impact on our mission and the lives of countless individuals we serve. Her passion for victim rights has been a guiding light for OCVLC staff over the years, and her contributions have shaped the organization into what it is today. Rosemary's leadership has been instrumental in improving Oregon's approach to victim rights. Her advocacy has been pivotal in upholding critical legal protections for survivors/victims of crime in Oregon.

In her 14 years with OCVLC, Rosemary has had an immeasurable impact on victims' rights in Oregon. She began working when OCVLC only had a staff of two, and has since helped it grow to now five full-time attorneys, a victim advocate, and finance manager. In that time, Rosemary has represented hundreds of clients throughout the state and fostered important relationships with district attorneys' offices and community organizations. She has expertly communicated with the media on high-profile cases, always using sensitivity and compassion in doing so. Rosemary has represented numerous families of victims in parole board hearings, ensuring that victims' voices are heard. Throughout the state, she has fiercely and effectively advocated for Oregon victims' right to privacy, particularly on behalf of victims of sexual assault. Rosemary helped to effect long-term change to Oregon law through her legislative work, participation in workgroups, and through her contribution to numerous amicus briefs in cases including *State v. Gerhardt*, *M. A. B. v. Buell*, *State v. Sacco*, *State v. Ball*, *State v. C.P. (In re C.P.)*, *State v. Bray*, *State v. Gutierrez-Medina*, and the elusive (and as of yet undecided) case of *McNeer v. McNeer*.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Rosemary for her 14 years of tireless dedication and service to the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center. Her visionary leadership and compassionate legal advocacy have profoundly advanced the rights and voices of victims, setting a higher standard for the practice of victim-centered law. Rosemary's work has left a meaningful and lasting impact on countless lives, including her staff. As she begins her next chapter, we wish her continued success and fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

*Oregon Crime Victims Law Center
May 2025*

Education and Outreach

BY: EMILY LA BRECQUE

Providing education on crime victims' rights to service providers and members of our community is one of the core goals of OCVLC. We believe that this kind of education helps to provide access to justice to all members of our community. OCVLC staff have been busy in 2025, and so far this year, we have conducted nine free trainings or presentations on victim rights issues.



- Lewis and Clark College hosted an OCVLC attorney and advocate for a two-part training on victims' rights and restraining orders for confidential advocates located at universities in the Portland metropolitan area.
- An OCVLC attorney conducted a question-and-answer session at the end of the tri-county victim advocate training hosted by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.
- An OCVLC attorney co-presented a Crime Victims' Rights Week CLE with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.
- An OCVLC attorney co-presented with an attorney from the Department of Justice for the ODAA Advanced Academy CLE on Sanctuary Laws and Access to Justice for Crime Victims.
- An OCVLC attorney and victim advocate co-presented on victims' rights at Reed College.
- Two OCVLC attorneys gave their second annual presentation on victims' rights to students at Lakeridge High School.
- An OCVLC attorney and victim advocate co-presented on crime victims' rights for the confidential advocates at The Center for Advocacy, Prevention & Education, located at Oregon State University.

OCVLC's vision is to coordinate a sustained effort to promote and support survivor-centered policies and practices throughout the criminal justice system in Oregon through education and outreach. To discuss free training opportunities, please contact us: info@ocvlc.org or 503-208-8160

WELCOMING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

EMILY LA BRECQUE, JD

Emily is excited to accept the position of Executive Director at Oregon Crime Victims Law Center, where she has worked since 2017. Emily has a bachelor's degree in print journalism from the University of Nevada and attended Lewis and Clark Law School. Following law school, she worked as a prosecutor and then at the Oregon Law Center, where she represented victims of domestic violence in family law and protective order cases. Emily represents victims of crime in both state and federal court. She uses her background as a prosecutor and a family law attorney to assist victims in asserting their rights, protecting their privacy, and maintaining their dignity as they navigate the criminal justice system.



Rosemary Brewer and Emily La Brecque

Case Summaries

BY RACHEL GARRETT

This quarter, OCVLC's Victim Advocate accompanied a survivor in reporting past crimes to local law enforcement. Police interviews can be intimidating and exhausting for victims. Having an advocate or support person present offers vital comfort and emotional reassurance, helping survivors feel more confident as they share important information in the pursuit of justice and safety. Our client expressed relief at completing the process and gratitude for having our advocate by their side throughout.

OCVLC was contacted by the out-of-state family of a homicide victim who was experiencing challenges in communicating with the prosecuting agency. OCVLC represented the family over several years, ensuring that their rights were asserted and upheld, including their rights to protection, to be treated with dignity and respect, to be consulted, which included participating in a judicial settlement conference, and to be heard. The attorney from OCVLC accompanied them to trial and ensured that they received accommodations that reduced their barriers to attending that proceeding, helped them to navigate media interactions, and helped them to prepare impact statements for the sentencing.

An OCVLC attorney recently represented a client in a Family Abuse Prevention Act protective order case. The client left a physically abusive relationship and the respondent's behavior since then gave the client additional safety concerns regarding her situation. Despite a quick turnaround of one week, the attorney prepared physical evidence and testimony for the contested hearing and spoke with potential witnesses of the abuse. After the contested hearing, the client's protective order was upheld by the Court.

An OCVLC attorney recently represented a young victim in her Stalking Protective Order hearing. There were extra challenges to keeping this order upheld, due to the age of the parties. The attorney worked with the Juvenile Services Department, law enforcement, witnesses, and the victim to put together as strong a case as possible. The court upheld the protective order, and the victim and her family expressed their relief and their gratitude for the representation provided by their attorney.

A child sexual assault survivor reached out to OCVLC for assistance with obtaining a protection order. An attorney helped advise the victim of the appropriate type of protection order to apply for, and represented the victim at the contested hearing. While the permanent order was not granted, the client reported feeling more validated than ever before, noting that the guidance and support provided by their attorney exceeded their expectations.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

OCVLC is hiring a Senior Staff Attorney

The Senior Staff Attorney is responsible for representing and advocating for clients of the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center in civil, criminal, administrative, and other matters, as well as guiding Staff Attorneys in performing similar duties, and assisting the Executive Director in carrying out the legal advocacy mission of OCVLC.

Please apply by May 23rd.

Position description and application instructions -

www.ocvlc.org/senior-staff-attorney