



OCVLC NEWSLETTER



Photo credit: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

From the Executive Director

BY ROSEMARY BREWER

Every October we recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month—an opportunity to shed light on the challenges faced by survivors of domestic and sexual violence and to reaffirm our commitment to supporting them. Providing free legal assistance and advocacy to victims empowers individuals to navigate a complex legal system and, hopefully, help them reclaim their lives. Our attorneys and advocate work to ensure that every survivor has access to the support they need.

It's been a busy summer and early fall, as OCVLC attorneys and our advocate have handled a multitude of cases, including representing victims before the Oregon Board of Parole, assisting victims in reporting crimes to the police, representing victims who are asserting their right to restitution, and working with victims to make sure their private records remain private in criminal proceedings. We were also honored to participate in the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims ceremony, hosted by Parents of Murdered Children at their beautiful memorial at Mountain View Cemetery in Oregon City.

Thank you for standing with us in this important mission. Your support makes a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

National Day of Remembrance Ceremony

On September 25th, the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center's staff was honored to take part in the Parents of Murdered Children (Greater Portland Area Chapter) ceremony for the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. The ceremony takes place in front of POMC's Memorial Wall, located in the Mountain View Cemetery in Oregon City.

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) and Other Survivors of Homicide Victims is a organization that support those who have lost loved ones to murder. Led by Mary Elledge, POMC offers support, understanding, community, and information.

1. pomc.org/chapters/greater-portland-area



DV Awareness Month

BY: MICKEY KARNAS



In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was observed. That same year saw the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 Congress passed Public Law 101-112, designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence providing key leadership.

DVAM's purpose is to raise public awareness about domestic violence (DV), challenge misconceptions, provide support options for survivors, and connect DV advocates nationwide. This initiative aims to inform individuals about available resources, including reporting options and assistance from DV-focused nonprofit organizations.

Domestic violence is a significant public health issue in the Oregon. Our organization focuses on asserting the rights of victims of all crimes, particularly domestic and sexual violence (DVSA) survivors and victims. Beyond reporting incidents to law enforcement and seeking justice, DVSA victims often require access to essential support services through organizations like ours, and our community partners state-wide. Survivors of DV face numerous challenges during and after their experiences. Their needs often include housing, food, transportation, healthcare including mental health services, childcare, and access to essential communication tools like cell phones. DVSA-focused organizations provide these resources, and more.

At OCVLC, we work closely with DVSA organizations. Our daily referrals, outreach, and collaborations are vital to the support of our clients. We are deeply grateful for the indispensable work of these organizations, which play a crucial role in the survival and recovery of DV survivors. For a comprehensive list of DVSA organizations for all Oregon counties, please visit one of our community partner's websites: <https://www.ocadsv.org/find-help>

1. Image credit: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/child-support/resources/domestic-violence-awareness/>

2. <https://aurora.umn.edu/dvam#:~:text=In%20October%201987%2C%20the%20first,National%20Domestic%20Violence%20Awareness%20Month.>

3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Coalition_Against_Domestic_Violence#Domestic_Violence_Awareness_Month

4. <https://ncadv.org/>

SAVE THE DATE

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL HARDY MYERS GALA

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

THE LOFT at 8th Ave | 2010 SE 8th Ave, Portland

<https://auctria.events/2025HardyMyersDinner>

Cocktails & Silent Auction at 5:30 pm

Dinner & Program starting at 7 pm



Case Summaries

BY RACHEL GARRETT

An OCVLC attorney recently assisted a victim with a FAPA protection order against a former partner who was abusive. The respondent had continued to contact the victim after she filed for the order, and she was concerned the behavior might escalate. The victim was unsure what to expect at the hearing, and suspected that the respondent had left the state. At the hearing, the attorney helped guide the victim's testimony, present exhibits, and cross examine the respondent, who appeared remotely. The protection order was upheld at the hearing, and the attorney advised the victim on how to report violations, as well as prevent future contact from the respondent. The victim reported feeling grateful for the attorney's help, stating that she could not have gone through the process alone.

In the last few months OCVLC's Victim Advocate has assisted four victims of crime in enrolling in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) with the Oregon Department of Justice. This free mail forwarding service helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and bias crimes protect their physical addresses. The program is crucial for victims who have relocated, allowing them to keep their new safe addresses confidential within both state and private institutions. This privacy can reduce their risk of being found or contacted by offenders in the future.

An OCVLC attorney recently represented a client in a contested EPPDAPA hearing. The respondent in the case had previously been convicted of assaulting the client in the past. The respondent had recently gotten off probation for that offense and had begun to harass the client again. Before the hearing, the attorney worked with the client to understand the history of the interactions between the two, discuss the incidents, and review the client's video evidence. At the contested hearing, the judge ultimately upheld the client's protective order after hearing the client's testimony and reviewing the video.

A victim in a measure 11 case was referred to OCVLC when the prosecuting attorney advised them that they would seek a material witness warrant if the victim did not appear for trial. An OCVLC attorney consulted with the victim and the prosecutor on this issue, and the prosecuting agency made accommodations for the victim, which alleviated the victim's unwillingness to travel to testify at the trial. OCVLC then represented the victim in asserting their right to a speedy trial after a last-minute motion to continue the trial filed by the defense. The trial was not continued; the victim testified, the defendant was convicted of all charges, and OCVLC advised the victim of their right to make an impact statement at sentencing.