



# OCVLC NEWSLETTER



## From the Executive Director

*BY: ROSEMARY BREWER*

Last year was our busiest ever at the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center as our attorneys and advocate provided legal representation and advocacy to more than 400 crime victims throughout Oregon. We also conducted a number of trainings for attorneys and other victim service providers as well as providing technical assistance to attorneys throughout the state. We continue to have attorneys staffing both the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services in Multnomah County and the Washington County Family Justice Center. These partnerships allow us to reach more people in our communities and provide much-needed assistance.

This year we represented clients in counties across Oregon and continued to build partnerships with community-based service providers. Our cases ranged from filing motions in criminal cases to protect victim privacy to representing victims in contested restraining order hearings. We handled cases in both juvenile courts and adult courts, ensuring victims' rights are protected in all proceedings. We continue to work on cases involving post-conviction issues as well, including representing the families of homicide victims in hearings before the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision and assisting victims in asserting their rights when an offender is on post-prison supervision.

We're delighted to introduce our newest attorney, Lauren Cullop, who will be representing survivors in both victims' rights' cases and in contested restraining order hearings. You can learn more about Lauren on page 4. And our annual Hardy Myers Dinner is right around the corner on April 9th. Please join us for a night celebrating our Victim Advocacy Award honoree, Det. Amanda Pickar of the Beaverton Police Department, and join our community of people invested in protecting the rights of victims.

# Certified Advocate Privilege and State v. Sacco, 373 Ore. 63 (2024)

BY: EMILY LA BRECQUE

In 2024, Clackamas Women's Services (CWS), a nonprofit organization that provides counseling, safety planning, financial assistance, and other services to victims of domestic violence, sought review by the Oregon Supreme Court of a Circuit Court judge's order to produce records disclosing whether they had provided financial assistance or a cell phone to a survivor. OCVLC filed a brief as an *amicus curiae*, or friend of the court, in support of CWS's position and to provide the Oregon Supreme Court with information on crime victims' rights and the legislative history of advocate privilege in Oregon. OCVLC was joined in that filing by the Family Justice Center of Washington County, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, Jessica Mindlin, J.D., National Crime Victim Law Institute, A Safe Place Family Justice Center for Clackamas County, and Victim Rights Law Center.

OCVLC asked the Court to uphold the intent of the Oregon Legislature to give advocate-victim communications broad privilege protections not only to protect survivors' privacy but also to encourage survivors to seek the confidential services available to them.

In 2015, the Legislature unanimously passed House Bill (HB) 3476, establishing a privilege in civil, criminal, administrative, and school proceedings. This privilege was codified at ORS 40.264, Rule 507-1(2)(a) (privilege) and ORS 147.600 (advocate-victim confidentiality). Before HB 3476 became law, Oregon was one of only ten states without protection for advocate-victim communications. After HB 3476, Oregon became one of nine states to grant absolute privilege for advocate-victim communications, with the Legislature deliberately choosing to enact the most protective privilege framework possible despite the availability of less protective alternatives.

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# Certified Advocate Privilege and State v. Sacco, 373 Ore. 63 (2024)

BY: EMILY LA BRECQUE

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The legislature intended to protect victims from being victimized again through the release of confidential records to the person accused of abusing them and to encourage victims to seek critical services from a confidential advocate as they recover from gender-based violence.

A certified advocate is defined in the rule regarding the certified advocate-victim privilege, OEC 507-1, as a person who has completed at least 40 hours of training in advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking and is an employee or volunteer of a qualified victim services program, such as CWS.

The Oregon Supreme Court held that OEC 507-1 and ORS 147.600 broadly protect CWS's "records" even if those records do not contain confidential communications without any distinction based on the nature of those records. The only limitation is that the protected records must have been created or maintained in the course of providing services to the victim.

Certified advocate-victim privilege expressly provides that the privilege—including the privilege to refuse disclosure and prevent any other person from disclosing records—is not waived by voluntary disclosures by the certified advocate if those disclosures are reasonably necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the certified advocate was consulted.



# MEET OUR NEW ATTORNEY!



**Lauren Cullop**  
**Staff Attorney**

Ms. Cullop represents clients in contested restraining order cases and works with crime victims to safeguard their rights within the criminal justice system. Lauren holds bachelor's degrees from the University of the Pacific in International & Regional Studies, and Spanish. She earned her J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School.

Prior to joining OCVLC, Lauren worked as a court-appointed defense attorney for the Beaverton Municipal Court and assisted private clients with immigration matters. Before law school, Lauren spent several years as an advocate and crisis line operator for Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) in Eugene.

# The SAFE Project of Curry and Coos County

BY: MICKEY KARNAS

OCVLC provides essential legal services to victims and survivors across the state, and we couldn't do this work without the support of our incredible community partners. Domestic and sexual violence support organizations play a vital role in our mission, and we are grateful for their dedication.

We're thrilled to share that one of these organizations, The SAFE Project, has recently expanded its services! In addition to serving Coos County, they now offer emergency shelter (Hattie's House) and a resource center in Curry County.

Congratulations to The SAFE Project on this important milestone, and thank you for your unwavering commitment to supporting survivors. Below is their recent announcement.

## Curry County Progress Report

*We are happy to share with our community the aggregate data from our first six months of serving survivors in Curry County, from July to December of 2024. In our first six months we have established confidential advocacy hours, three days a week in Curry County, from 10am to 2pm, we have been able to form strong collaborative partnerships with local crime victims' service programs and other service organizations, and we have also secured an emergency shelter and resource center location. While we are proud and grateful for each survivor we were able to serve, we know that the need for confidential advocacy, emergency services, and sexual assault response services in Curry County remains very high. Our commitment to our Curry County survivors and their families remains stronger than ever. In 2025 we look forward to opening our emergency shelter and resource center, Hattie's House, as well as reestablishing full-time, 40-hour-a-week, confidential and certified advocacy and 24-hour Crisis Response Team services. If you or a loved one are a survivor of domestic or sexual violence residing in Coos or Curry County and in crisis, please reach out to our 24-Hour Crisis Hotline and a confidential advocate will assist you.*

The SAFE Project - Coos and Curry County

<https://thesafeproject.net/>

(541) 756-7000





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# SEVENTH ANNUAL HARDY MYERS DINNER

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Please join the  
Oregon Crime Victims Law Center  
in celebrating the work of our  
2025 Hardy Myers Victim Advocacy  
Award honoree.

Detective Amanda Pickar  
Beaverton Police Department

Wednesday, April 9, 2025  
The Loft at 8th Ave.  
2010 SE 8th Ave., Portland

5:30 PM Cocktails and Silent auction  
7:00 PM Dinner and Program

For tickets and more information:  
[www.ocvlc.org/hardy-myers-dinner](http://www.ocvlc.org/hardy-myers-dinner)



# Case Summaries

BY JACK STAUNTON

Our victim advocate recently supported a stalking survivor alongside an OCVLC attorney at a hearing to determine whether the permanent Stalking Order would remain in place. The hearing had been delayed for nearly 2 years while a related criminal case concluded, forcing the survivor to endure a prolonged period of relative uncertainty. Following a successful outcome, the survivor expressed deep gratitude for the advocate's support throughout the process. They shared that the advocate's emotional support, resource connections, and court accompaniment made a challenging experience more manageable, and that they couldn't have navigated it without their attorney and advocate by their side.

An OCVLC attorney recently represented a victim in her Stalking Protective Order proceeding as well as a related criminal case. The attorney helped the victim communicate with the district attorney to ensure she was being heard during the criminal case, and supported the victim at a sentencing hearing at which the victim made a statement. At the stalking order hearing, the attorney helped guide the victim through her testimony, ensuring that the stalking order stayed in place permanently. The victim reported feeling heard and supported by her attorney, and that the attorney's efforts on her case helped her feel safer.

An OCVLC attorney recently represented a victim in a criminal case. The victim contacted OCVLC because a plea offer had been made and agreed to by the defendant without the victim's knowledge. The attorney worked with the district attorney's office to ask the court to have the plea offer rescinded. The Court agreed to do so, and the victim was able to consider how she wished to see the case resolved and communicate that clearly to the district attorney's office, ensuring that her right to consult about plea offers was respected. The defendant entered into a new plea agreement that the victim had been consulted about and the case resolved.

A victim in a sexual abuse case was referred to OCVLC after a statutory change significantly impacted the structure of a defendant's deferred prosecution and the time that the defendant would spend on supervision. OCVLC represented the victim and assisted them in understanding the change and in requesting accommodations in the court process to allow them to be heard and protected.