

Crime Victim Law Conference

June 10-11, 2010 | Portland, Oregon

Internal Conference Summary

July 1, 2010

In June, NCVLI hosted the 9th Annual Crime Victim Law Conference, *Due Process for Victims: Meaningful Rights in Every Case*, in Portland, Oregon. More than 170 criminal justice professionals and victims' rights experts from across the country gathered both to learn from each other and to work together to develop the tools necessary to advance victims' rights and reform the criminal justice system. The Conference focused on what due process means for victims; specifically, how victims' rights attorneys and advocates can secure fairness for victims and ensure that victims' rights are no longer ignored. Plenary sessions centered on securing fundamental due process rights for victims, including the right to reasonable notice, how victim voice can impact the system, and how to secure privacy for victims. Twenty-four breakout sessions provided practical skills training on these fundamental rights, as well as on a number of other diverse topics such as: Fundamentals of Victims' Rights for Attorneys and Advocates; Arguing and Securing Restitution; Reasonable Protection from the Accused; Post-Conviction Practice; Year in Review: The Top Cases from 2009-2010; Victims' Rights when the Victim is a "Reluctant Witness"; Psychological Impact on Victims of Crime; Restitution: How to Calculate Requests for Future Lost Income and Other Forward-Looking Issues; and Identification, Investigation, and Prosecution of Human Trafficking. Overall Conference evaluations were uniformly positive; more than 95% of the evaluations received to date have indicated that attendees were satisfied with the overall quality of the Conference.

Conference Faculty

NCVLI received more than 30 workshop proposals in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) distributed in the fall of 2009. Faculty were selected from the RFP applicants as well as identified by staff. Those selected to present at the Conference represented a diverse mix of victims' rights experts from across the country. Out of the 30 faculty, there were 25 attorneys, 2 victim advocates/program administrators, two Psychologists, and one Economist. Faculty came from 8 states, the District of Columbia,



and Israel. Each faculty member was a nationally recognized expert in victim issues. Notable faculty included:

- Paul Cassell, Professor of Law at S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah, who presented on arguing and securing restitution, and facilitated a roundtable on charge bargaining and plea bargaining;
- Helene Davis, founder of Mothers Against Murder and Assault and member of Family and Friends of Murder Victims, who presented a plenary session on how victim voice can impact the system and the victim;
- Jay Howell, Attorney, Owner of Jay Howell & Associates, and founder and former director of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, who presented a plenary session on victims' right to privacy and how to secure it;
- Dana Pugach, Head of the Noga Center for Victims of Crime at Ono Academic College in Israel, and Wendy Seiden, Visiting Assistant Professor at University of Maryland School of Law, who presented a comparative analysis of the rights of child victims of crime in the United States and Israel;
- Yvette Rodier, Attorney, Advocate, and Pro Bono Coordinator at Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic, who presented the opening plenary session on her own victimization and experiences with the criminal justice system;
- Stan Smith, Economist and Owner of Smith Economics Group Ltd., and Keli Luther, Senior Attorney at Arizona Voice for Crime Victims, who presented a session on how to calculate restitution requests for future lost income and other forward looking issues.

Awards

As part of the Conference program NCVLI recognized the achievements of several notable individuals through presentation of the 2010 Outstanding Achievement Awards. The awards are given each year to recognize attorneys, advocates, and organizations that have made significant contributions to the enhancement of crime victims' status and standing within the criminal justice system. This year's awards were presented to:

Heidi Nestel, Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic
2010 Legal Advocacy Award

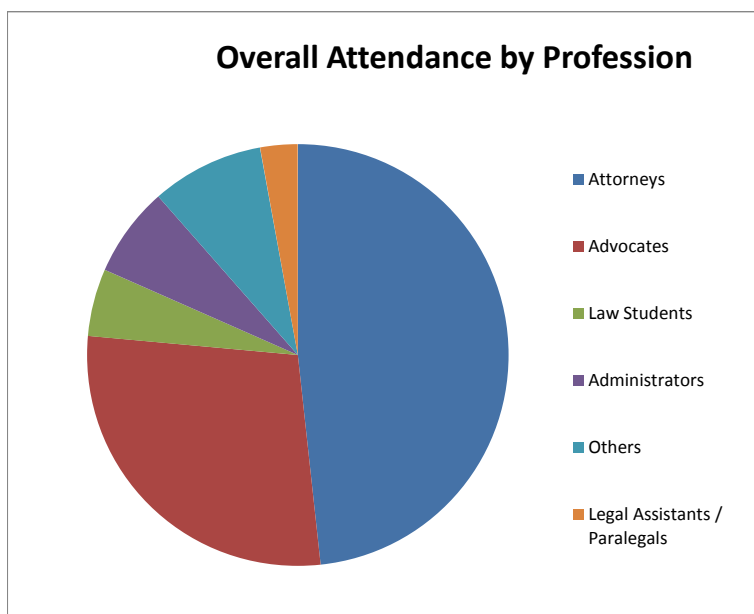
Steve Doell, Crime Victims United
2010 Victim Advocacy Award

Victim Witness Section of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Arizona
2010 Victims' Rights Leadership Award

Overall Attendance

The 2010 Conference was the largest to date with 174 individuals in attendance, including 111 paid attendees and 30 speakers, as well as award recipients, NCVLI staff and board, volunteers, and guests from the community. Total attendance rose more than 12% from the 2009 Conference, where 155 individuals were in attendance. Attendees included attorneys, law professors, advocates and services providers, law students, government analysts, psychologists, and program administrators.

Attendees hailed from 25 states and the District of Columbia, representing an increase of 25% in the number of states represented from the 2009 Conference. Additionally, and for the first time ever, attendance included two international victims' rights leaders from Israel and South Korea. Thirty-three percent of paid attendees had attended the conference in a previous year, while the remaining 67% of paid attendees were attending for the first time ever.



Evaluations

NCVLI has received 28 Overall Conference Evaluations to date. As noted above, these evaluations have been uniformly positive; more than 95% of the evaluations received to date have indicated that attendees were satisfied with the overall quality of the Conference. Some details:

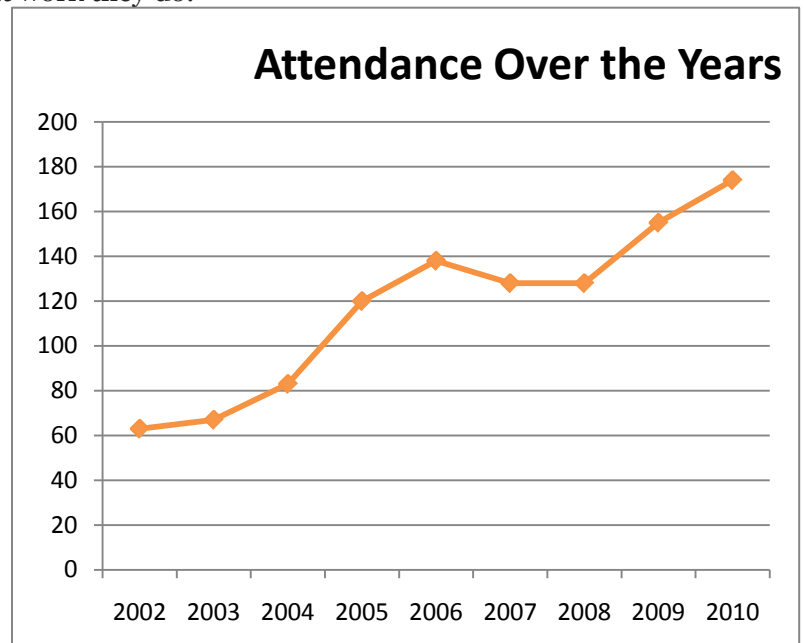
	Rating
Satisfaction with Overall Quality of Conference	96%
Satisfaction with Speakers/Topics	100%
Satisfaction with Conference Facilities	100%

Specific comments received so far include:

- “It was successful in every way. I particularly liked that everything was very well

organized and there was enough time for learning and interacting with others.”

- “Great variety of sessions. It was hard to choose as I [am a] first time attendee I wanted to go to so many. I am grateful for the handouts on the website because I was not able to attend all of the sessions.”
- “All of the speakers, both plenary and break outs seemed to be carefully screened and well qualified and/or prepared. Often conferences have mediocre or unorganized presentations and one bad workshop or plenary can then set a bad tone. That did not happen, thank you for that!”
- “Every presentation rocked!”
- “Sooo fabulous! Thank you - won’t miss one again!”
- “What I liked best about the conference was the positive energy and excitement that was present throughout the entire two days. It seemed like everyone was there because they care so much about the important work they do.”
- “Yvette [the opening plenary speaker] was inspiring. The awards were inspiring. I liked the mix of experts and newer advocates as well as the mix of views and subject matter. It seemed that everyone’s perspective was respected (and it isn’t that what we try to do as advocates!). Great group of advocates.”
- “NCVLI, thank you very much - this conference inspired me and renewed by enthusiasm to keep on being the best advocate I can be because I know I have outstanding company!”
- “Wonderful job! Speakers were fantastic inspirations for us to continue our work with victims.”



NCVLI also received helpful comments in response to the question of “What aspects of the Conference would you suggest changing?” Responses included:

- “Longer opportunity at lunch to meet with and speak to others at the table.”

- “Nothing- maybe more time for the round tables.”
- “Round table of victims who need help changing laws to better serve victims.”
- “The closing panel was too open ended and the energy level was down. An otherwise awesome conference felt like it ended on a thud for me. After days of such intense topics, it is always helpful to have a speaker who will purposefully wrap it up by getting us thinking and in a positive frame of mind as we leave.”
- “More sample pleadings on various issues such as victim impact memoranda, privacy issues etc.”
- “Friday’s lunch presentation was more appropriate for the lunch slot than Thursdays, which involved details and note taking.”
- “I would love to see more about children and more about non-criminal cases - family court, guardianships, etc. I was very disappointed by the family court session.”
- “There were several sessions I wanted to go to at once. I know I can get it on-line later - but I don’t know if I’d have time - repeat sessions might work for some topics.”
- “Plenaries during lunch can be difficult to follow.”
- “Thursday lunch plenary was boring. Need something invigorating. Move awards to another event/venue. Many do not even know the recipients so there is a huge disconnect.”

Revenue

The Conference generated \$30,667 in program income. Despite only a nominal \$6 increase in attendance cost, the conference generated 35% more income than in any prior individual year. Total cost for the Conference, exclusive of personnel was approximately \$43,000. While the Conference is not yet self-sustaining, registration fees are a significant offset of these costs.

