

VICTIMS' RIGHTS DIGEST 101:

an anthology of global news & media

May 6 to May 12, 2010

The weekly digest is provided to you by:

NATIONAL
CRIME
VICTIM
LAW
INSTITUTE

protecting, enforcing, & advancing
victims' rights

Welcome to the Victims' Rights Digest 101, NAVRA's weekly digest of national and international news affecting crime victims.

In this digest NAVRA hopes to share many of the news, cases and research links that come across its desk on a weekly basis. This Digest is not intended to be a comprehensive collection of news items affecting crime victims, nor does NCVLI express any opinion with regard to any of the stories contained in the Digest. The Digest is designed to provide the membership of NAVRA with a glimpse of victims' issues being talked about and reported on across the country and the world.

We hope that you will find this of use. More news on victims' issues can also be found at www.ncvli.org.

Comments, concerns, and recommendations regarding this Digest are always welcome. Send them to navra@lclark.edu.

Not yet a member? Information on how to join NAVRA can be found at www.ncvli.org/navra.html.

* Westlaw/LexisNexis articles require a login and password.

REGIONAL

EAST

[Massachusetts - Lawmakers pushing to strengthen domestic violence laws in state](#)

The Massachusetts Senate considered two bills to expand protection to victims of domestic violence. The first bill, which passed and now moves to the House, would require employers to give time off to victims of domestic violence. The second bill, which would prevent landlords from evicting tenants who are victims of domestic violence, was postponed for consideration.

[Maryland - The fight for restitution for Md. crime victims](#)

While a Maryland law provides victims the right to restitution from the defendant, the law is not always followed.

[West Virginia - Evidence—Hearsay—Medical Treatment Exception—Child Sex Offense Victim's Statements During Medical and Forensic Exam](#)

A child sex abuse victim's statements to a registered nurse who acted in dual roles as both a medical provider and a sexual-assault forensic examination specialist were admissible in the accused's criminal trial under the medical treatment exception to the hearsay rule, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals ruled May 6. (State v. Payne, W. Va., No. 34889, 5/6/10)

SOUTH

[Alabama - Program provides support for rape victims](#)

A new SANE/SART program in Alabama seeks to make the forensic examination process easier for victims.

WEST

[Alaska - AG Sullivan convening 'pro bono summit'](#)

Alaska's Attorney General is asking lawyers to donate their time to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

[Utah - Confrontation—Testimonial Statements—Forfeiture by Wrongdoing](#)

The Utah Supreme Court announced April 30 that it was adopting the forfeiture-by-wrongdoing doctrine as an exception to the protections of the state constitution's Confrontation Clause. It also answered questions about how to apply the doctrine that have divided courts in other states. (State v. Poole, Utah, No. 20070696, 4/30/10)

INTERNATIONAL

[Northern Ireland - Seedy underworld of human trafficking](#)

According to police, human trafficking is on the rise in Northern Ireland. Despite recent efforts to combat trafficking, there has not been a single successful prosecution for people trafficking in Northern Ireland.