



Hi, %preferredSalutation%!

As we enter the second half of 2026, we are grateful for the many ways God has continued to advance the work of the Center for Global Justice. In the last quarter, we have celebrated another vacatur victory on behalf of a trafficking survivor, welcomed new referrals through our Human Trafficking Clinic, and continued equipping law students through hands-on advocacy and summer internship opportunities.

We are also encouraged by Virginia's expanded vacatur law taking effect on July 1st, which

will create new pathways to freedom and restoration for trafficking survivors across the Commonwealth. Through legal advocacy, policy engagement, student formation, our national research project, and partnerships with service providers, we remain committed to advancing justice for survivors.

Our summer interns have also deployed and are spending their summers advocating for refugees, protecting children from exploitation through policy work in DC, fighting for the rights of homeschool families in France, and refining their legal writing skills on the Supreme Court in Malawi.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. We invite you to stay connected through our monthly prayer calls and upcoming events as we continue this important work together. Your prayers, encouragement, and support ensure that Christian advocacy for the world's most vulnerable is not only possible, but excellent.

With gratitude,

Meg Kelsey

Director

Center for Global Justice

Regent University School of Law

1000 Regent University Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

 **REGENT UNIVERSITY**

Combating Child Sacrifice in Uganda



Our Uganda Fellow, Alyssa Schiefer ('25), is working with Kyampisi Childcare Ministries (KCM) to combat child sacrifice in Uganda through policy development and legal research. Following KCM's instrumental role in drafting the 2023 **Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Act (PPHSA)** with the help of previous Regent interns and fellows, Alyssa has continued to support efforts to strengthen protections for vulnerable children.

As the Act has matured, KCM has shifted its focus from legislative advocacy to evaluating how effectively the law is functioning in practice. To support this effort, Alyssa has begun reviewing child sacrifice cases that have been dismissed, concluded, or remain ongoing to identify recurring legal challenges that can inform future reforms.

Even after reviewing only a handful of cases, she has identified significant concerns surrounding evidence collection, handling, and documentation by police and medical personnel. In multiple cases, crucial evidence has been lost or improperly managed, weakening prosecutions, delaying justice for survivors and their families, and undermining defendants' rights when potentially exculpatory evidence is unavailable. Through this research, Alyssa is helping KCM identify systemic issues and develop recommendations to strengthen the implementation and long-term effectiveness of Uganda's human sacrifice laws.

Human Trafficking Clinic and Legal Advocacy

Criminalized Survivor Survey Research Project

A groundbreaking research effort is giving trafficking survivors a direct voice in shaping national policy on criminal record relief.

The Problem

Many survivors of human trafficking carry criminal records “not from choices they made freely, but from acts they were coerced into during their exploitation. Those records follow them long after they've escaped, blocking access to jobs, housing, and education at the very moment they're trying to rebuild.

Despite growing awareness of trafficking, very little research has documented these barriers in survivors' own words. This study is designed to change that.

The Research

The study examines how criminal records from trafficking exploitation affect survivors' long-term stability and what legal and policy reforms would make the greatest difference. It was developed in collaboration with a survivor advisory board and is conducted in partnership with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Survivors guide every phase, from survey design to data interpretation.

Why it matters: Findings will directly inform advocacy for the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act and shape model legislation at both state and federal levels—expanding record relief for survivors nationwide.

203 survivors from across the country shared their stories to help change the laws that hold survivors back. That data is now in the hands of advocates and researchers working to expand record relief nationwide.

Stage Two depends on continued funding. If you want to make sure more survivor voices shape this research, consider making a gift today. \$100 compensates a survivor for the time and emotional labor spent reliving their experience to complete the survey.

[Give to the Survivor Survey](#)

Documentary



The Regent University Film Department is producing a documentary about the Clinic, highlighting the stories of two of our clients, Monica and Olivia.

Filming took place over the course of a year, capturing significant developments in the vacatur law and following our clients' perseverance and success in their history-making petitions. The documentary also explores the realities of trafficking across diverse contexts, elevating the experiences of both male and female survivors. Monica and Olivia attended the first screening in late April, and the final documentary is expected to be completed next year.

Casework



This quarter held two more historic vacatur victories. In Virginia Beach, our client, Monica, had her petition granted, making her the sixth survivor to receive vacatur in Virginia history—and the first in Virginia Beach. She was represented by 3L Regent Law Human Trafficking Clinic student Jenna Stanton, the first student in our Clinic to appear in court on behalf of a client.

Monica’s story is powerful. For years, she did not have the language to name her experience until hearing Patrick McKenna of the Virginia Coalition Against Human Trafficking speak at her church, where she realized she had been trafficked. During her exploitation, she was arrested 177 times—each one reflecting missed opportunities for intervention.

Even after her exploitation ended, her record followed her, limiting her ability to fully participate in her family’s life and creating constant fear of being disbelieved again.

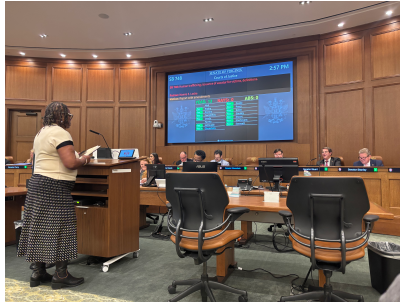
This quarter, after 26 years, her entire record was finally fully cleared. In a trauma-informed courtroom, both the prosecutor and judge acknowledged the harm she endured, and the judge apologized for the system’s repeated failures. For decades, her record told a story that was never true. This outcome restored the truth.

In a contested hearing for a different client in Chesapeake, the court rejected the prosecutor’s argument that a client’s felony conviction was not a proximate result of trafficking, despite evidence of coercion through drug use, and granted the petition. This was the first petition to be granted under the 2025 expanded vacatur law. The case also provided key support for strengthening protections for survivors in the vacatur law that will expand tomorrow.

Looking ahead, four students are enrolled in the Clinic for the fall semester, with several referrals already in the pipeline following the July 1 expansion of Virginia’s vacatur law.

[Jenna's Story](#)

Legislative Update: Another Vacatur Expansion Happening Tomorrow!



Thanks in part to the Center for Global Justice's advocacy, Virginia's Vacatur Law expanded AGAIN this year July 1, 2026 to provide relief for **all misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies**, expanding from an enumerated list of specific offenses. Regent Law students and staff collaborated with the Virginia Coalition Against Human Trafficking to lobby the General Assembly for this important expansion and provided testimony during hearings in the House and the Senate.

PRESS RELEASE

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CLINIC

Equipping Future Advocates

Kameron Billings '26 as the next Uganda Fellow

We are excited to announce Kameron Billings as our next Uganda Fellow. Kam interned at the Supreme Court of Uganda during the summer of 2024. It was also during that time that he met his fiancée, Laurel, who was also interning at the Supreme Court and attended Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. In a full-circle moment, they are now preparing to return together as a married couple to serve in the very place where their story began. Kam and Laurel will work with Kyampisi Childcare Ministries to combat child sacrifice in Uganda and support clinical programs at Uganda Christian University.



Kameron graduated from Regent University School of Law in May 2026 and is currently spending his summer preparing for the bar exam while he and Laurel plan their wedding.

Emily Batsides '26 as the next CGJ Fellow



Emily Kuhn Batsides will be joining us for the next two years as the CGJ Fellow! Emily graduated from Regent Law in May 2026 and will sit for the D.C. Bar Exam this summer.

Throughout law school, she gained experience in work supporting criminal prosecutions, researching constitutional and international legal issues, and advancing initiatives focused on anti-human trafficking and child exploitation. She has worked alongside prosecutors in both the United States and Uganda, contributing to efforts related to Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigations, trafficking, gender-based violence, and access to justice.

Emily is passionate about protecting children and combating human trafficking, and she looks forward to continuing that work as she begins her fellowship with the Center for Global Justice in August 2026.

Building Capacity

Welcome Liane!



This spring, God provided in an unexpected way. After hearing Meg share about the work of the Center for Global Justice on a podcast, a donor felt led to support the Center and made a commitment to give monthly. The donor later shared that she and her husband had been praying about giving to an anti-trafficking organization when the Lord woke her up at 4:30 a.m. She listened to the podcast in that moment and gave to the CGJ immediately. That gift ultimately resulted in funding for a new part-time Operations and Communications Coordinator position.

We are excited to welcome Liane to the team as our Operations & Communications Coordinator. Liane brings a strong background in anti-trafficking and advocacy. Her support will help strengthen our communications, keep our prayer partners informed, and expand our ability to share the impact of the Center's work throughout Hampton Roads and beyond.

Just as importantly, this addition allows our Fellow to devote more time to direct legal advocacy on behalf of trafficking survivors. With Virginia's expanded vacatur law taking effect on July 1 and our Human Trafficking Clinic currently operating at capacity, this support comes at exactly the right time. We are grateful for God's provision and the partners who make this work possible.

Summer 2026 Intern Spotlight

Jade Heider ('27)



"All the projects I have worked on have been impactful, and since they are all pro bono cases, they are typically clients who have gone through extreme circumstances.

I have worked on two cases for Afghan clients who had to flee after the Taliban took over. I have also worked on a U-visa, which is for the victim of a crime in the U.S. Additionally, I am currently working on two T-visas for victims of trafficking, and a VAWA application for a victim of domestic violence. I have gotten to meet all of these clients and have enjoyed hearing their stories."

MORE REGENT STORIES

Community Impact

Conferences and Workshops



This spring, CGJ continued to engage with practitioners and stakeholders across the anti-trafficking movement. Director Meg Kelsey participated in a panel at the World Without Exploitation Conference alongside Troutman Pepper attorneys, sharing insights on legal advocacy for survivors.

CGJ also participated in the Hanover Anti-Trafficking Summit, connecting with service providers, law enforcement, and community partners working to strengthen regional responses to trafficking.

Pictured: Meg sitting on the panel at Randolph Macon at the Hanover Human Trafficking Summit led by Commonwealth Attorney Mackenzie Babichenko.

The HARP Program at Chesterfield County Jail



The Center for Global Justice team had the opportunity to visit Chesterfield County Jail to attend one of their SKIP 101 classes, where participants in the HARP (Helping Addicts Recover Progressively) program learn about the signs, realities, and intersections of human trafficking, addiction, exploitation, and vulnerability while equipping participants with knowledge that can help them self-identify and protect themselves in the future. It was an incredible privilege to meet the remarkable women in HARP and witness their hope, resilience, and commitment to recovery.

We were especially encouraged by Chesterfield County's investment in rehabilitation through education, community partnerships, and peer recovery support. Programs like HARP demonstrate that correctional facilities can play a vital role in breaking cycles of exploitation by addressing the underlying vulnerabilities that traffickers often target and by empowering individuals with the tools they need to build healthy, independent futures. Thank you to the Chesterfield County team for welcoming us and for your continued commitment to serving vulnerable individuals with dignity, compassion, and hope!

Center for Global Justice Events

CGJ Church Connect

Luncheon

The CGJ invites church leaders from across the Hampton Roads to learn more about how the local church can partner with the CGJ. Email us at globaljustice@regent.edu if someone from your church or missions board may be interested in attending one of our luncheons.

CGJ Monthly Prayer Call

Zoom

4th Tuesdays of the Month: 12:30-1pm

Every Fourth Tuesday, we meet as a team and community to share updates, prayer requests, and praise reports for that month.

[RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK](#)

MORE EVENTS



Your Generosity Fuels World Changers

Your gift allows the CGJ to continue its advocacy by equipping the next generation.

GIVE NOW



*Regent University School of Law
Center for Global Justice
1000 Regent University Dr.
RH 307
Virginia Beach, Virginia (VA) 23464*



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