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'Change the Law': Sigrid McCawley's Journey Representing Survivors

By Dan Roe
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The wheels of justice began to turn a little more quickly for survivors of Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking ring over the past year, thanks in no small part to Boies Schiller Flexner partner Sigrid McCawley.

Last November, McCawley's work with survivors, advocacy groups and congressional leaders resulted in the signing of the Epstein Files Transparency Act, which mandated the publication of more than 3 million files from court cases and state and federal investigations.

In February, following inspiration from her late client, Virginia Giuffre, McCawley drafted Virginia's Law, a federal law eliminating the statute of limitations for filing civil claims under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

The next month, McCawley obtained preliminary approval for a $35 million settlement against Epstein's estate.

And in August, McCawley won final approval for a $72.5 million settlement on behalf of survivors against Bank of America after a Boies Schiller-led class action lawsuit alleged the bank ignored red flags.



Courtesy photo

Sigrid McCawley, partner with Boies Schiller Flexner.

All told, McCawley's team has recorded public settlements on behalf of survivors valued at $437.5 million in total from JPMorgan Chase, Deutsche Bank, and Bank of America.

"When I started working on these cases for survivors back in 2017, it was a very dark time. People weren't open to hearing about this kind of abuse or believing these individuals' voices," said McCawley, an Attorney of the Year finalist. "To be at this point in time, a decade later, where financial institutions are paying out to

the tune of almost a half billion dollars, is beyond anything I ever expected could happen."

Additionally, McCawley helped Congressional leaders prepare to interview Epstein's former lawyer, Darren Indyke, and Epstein's former accountant, Richard Kahn, in March. In September, the New York Times reported that the pair were under a federal investigation.

McCawley's work with Epstein victims began in 2014, when she began representing Virginia Giuffre.

Giuffre, who sued Epstein co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell for defamation in 2015, died by suicide in April 2025.

"I'm so incredibly proud of Virginia's Law," McCawley said. "The name is so powerful to me because when I first met Virginia, she was the first survivor I represented."

After Giuffre first recounted the abuse she received from Epstein and Maxwell to McCawley, McCawley was frustrated, she recalled, by the fact that she was time-barred from bringing many of the actions that would've otherwise liked to.

"I went to our chairman at the time, David Boies, and I said, 'This is so wrong. This benefits abusers and not the abused,'" McCawley said. "I remember him saying to me, 'Well, Sigrid, you just have to change the law.'"

At press time, the legislation remained in committee.

Meanwhile, the passage of the Epstein Victims Transparency Act and the subsequent release of 3 million emails by the Department of Justice has led to the arrests of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor (formerly Prince Andrew) and former British ambassador to the U.S. Peter Mandelson as well as the resignations of numerous politicians, academics and executives across the world.

"I've never really seen a group of survivors pushing through a bill that actively, and the ripple effect of that was tremendous," McCawley said.

McCawley's work for survivors of Epstein's abuse is far from finished, but she hopes the successes of her team and her clients empower people to seek justice when they've been victimized.

"The lesson people are going to take away from the work we did on behalf of survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell is you can stand up for yourself, your voice does matter, and you can make change," McCawley said.

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