The ROAR Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Carey School of Law is a “one-stop-shop” in Baltimore City where victims of crime can access the fullest possible range of wraparound legal, social, medical and mental health services - all in one place. The staff includes attorneys and paralegal, social workers, and a part-time nurse. Additionally, the ROAR Center will build upon the vast expertise and deeply-rooted community connections of UMB by collaborating with interested UMB Schools – law, nursing, social work, dentistry, pharmacy, and medicine - to provide expertise and services to the clients of the ROAR Center.

The need for The ROAR Center is great in Baltimore City. Victims of crime have a whole array of legal needs due to the victimization. The types of civil legal services the ROAR Center provides are all issues that are often impacted by the crime: housing, public benefits, denials of criminal injuries compensation, identity theft and fraud, employment and educational accommodations, and enforcement of crime victims’ rights in law enforcement proceedings (investigations and prosecutions) if that is sought by individual clients.

And the need for assistance does not stop with these legal issues. Crime often causes victims mental health and physical injuries, which can have a ripple effect impacting employment and/or access to safe housing. Furthermore, being a member of a marginalized community – such as people of color, LGBTQ individuals, living with a disability, immigrants (especially undocumented), suffering from a mental illness and/or a substance abuse disorder, engaging in sex work, living in poverty, or experiencing homelessness – places one at far greater risk of victimization.

A very large number of crime victims – especially those from the marginalized communities referenced above – do not ever report the crime to police due to distrust, fear, cultural norms, lack of understanding of one’s rights, and not wanting to get the person who committed the crime in trouble. Even when a police report is made, very few of those crimes are criminally prosecuted. That means currently the majority of crime victims in Baltimore City do not receive services related to the victimization. The ROAR Center is particularly focused on serving those who are the least likely to avail themselves of the criminal justice response by reporting to the police and actively cooperating in a criminal investigation and prosecution.

Victims of all types of crime are served by the ROAR Center including: family members of homicide victims, assault, cybercrimes, robbery, identity theft and fraud (including wage theft), hate and bias crimes, police-perpetrated and retaliation crimes, as well as intimate partner and sexual violence who are not eligible for services elsewhere. The ROAR Center assists people of all income levels.

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