

Laura Dunn
Commission Member



Laura L. Dunn, Esq. is a nationally recognized victim-turned-victims' rights attorney whose work has been featured by HBO Vice, National Law Journal, Rolling Stone Magazine, MSNBC, Al Jazeera America, and TIME Magazine, among many others. In 2007, Dunn graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) with a B.A. in Legal Studies and Psychology, as well as a certificate in Criminal Justice. While a student, two men from her crew team sexually assaulted Dunn. Despite reporting to campus officials and police, she was denied justice and eventually filed a Title IX complaint against UW. Her experience with campus sexual violence garnered national media attention from the Center for Public Integrity's investigative series entitled "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Frustrating Search for Justice," which was featured by National Public Radio in 2010. In honor of her courage, Vice President Joe Biden invited Dunn as a VIP guest to the release of the 2011 Title IX guidance known as the Dear Colleague Letter.

In 2014, Dunn received her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland Carey School of Law where she graduated Order of the Barristers for her superior talents in trial and appellate advocacy, as a Rose Zetzer Fellow for her studies in the Women Leadership & Equality program, and received the William P. Cunningham Award for her national work on campus sexual violence. This work included successfully lobbying for the passage of the 2013 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization, advising to the White House Task Force to Protect Students Against Sexual Assault, and serving as the primary student negotiator on the U.S. Department of Education's VAWA Rulemaking Committee. To recognize her advocacy, Senator Patrick Leahy recognized Dunn on the floor of the U.S. Senate while Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Vice President Joe Biden has invited her as a VIP guest to the signing of the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization as well as the release of the It's On Us Campaign at the White House. While in law school, Dunn also interned at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, served as a judicial intern for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, worked as a law clerk for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and founded the national not-for-profit organization, SurvJustice.

Since graduation, Dunn has become a published legal scholar in The Georgetown Journal of Gender & Law on the topic of campus sexual violence, an adjunct at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law teaching on Sexual Violence & Harassment in Education, a 2015 Echoing Green Global Fellow, a member of the ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and a liaison for the ALI Sexual and Gender Based Misconduct Project, all while serving as the Executive Director for SurvJustice and representing survivors in campus hearings across the country along with her legal team.