COLES WHALEN

SPEAKER | SINGER | ADVOCATE

Part keynote. Part concert.

With story and song, Coles takes audiences through her thirteen-year stalking ordeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, where a fight to protect herself became a movement to protect others.

SELECTED SPEAKING & TESTIMONY

End Violence Against Women International - 2027 Breakout Session

Breakout session combining story and song to explore stalking, safety, the justice system, and lessons from one survivor's path to the U.S. Supreme Court.

National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) - 2026 Keynote

Keynote performance for 400+ attendees, blending original music, lived experience, law, and advocacy.

Colorado General Assembly - 2026

Testified before Senate and House Judiciary committees in support of SB 26-095, establishing remote-testimony protections for adult victim-survivors.

U.S. Supreme Court / Counterman v. Colorado - 2023

Central victim-survivor voice in a landmark First Amendment true-threats case; filed an amicus brief sharing the real-world impact of stalking and threatening communications.

IMPACT & ADVOCACY

In 2026, Coles led the advocacy effort behind Colorado's SB 26-095 after facing the possibility of testifying again in the same room as the man who stalked her. The resulting law created new remote-testimony protections for adult victims in qualifying cases. She now works with lawmakers, advocacy organizations, and survivors seeking to advance similar protections in other states.

SIGNATURE SPEAKING THEMES

Be the First Domino

How one person's choice to act can create change far beyond themselves.

First Domino: Women in Business

Helping women recognize their influence and find the courage to act in high-stakes environments.

The Unexpected Way Forward

How to reclaim your agency and decide what happens next when life doesn't go as planned.

Journey Through the System

A survivor's perspective on stalking, crimes of power and control, and the realities victims face.

AUDIENCE TAKEAWAYS

- Understand crimes of power and their impact on people, workplaces, and communities.
- Build a culture of courage where everyone feels safe to speak up, step forward, and act.
- Recognize their own influence and find the confidence to be the first domino.

MEDIA & PUBLIC PROFILE

Featured or covered by: The Washington Post • NPR • CNN • ABC News • CBS News • Forbes • Ars Technica • SCOTUSblog • Bloomberg Law • Westword • First Coast News

Music career: Six albums released; a 20-year career as a singer-songwriter and performer.

"The most impactful presentation we've hosted in the 25-year history of this conference."

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW INSTITUTE