

April, 2017

Women's Bar Foundation



Noteworthy

Dear Friend,



This is **National Volunteer Week!** What better time than today to celebrate the dedicated volunteer attorneys and mentors who provide thousands of hours of pro bono representation and assistance to our clients. The Women's Bar Foundation was founded as a volunteer organization and to this day our mission is carried out by generous individuals who give their time, knowledge, and expertise to help low-income women, children, and families access justice. **We are immensely grateful for the commitment of the volunteer attorneys and mentors who support the work we do.**

Aiding Undocumented Survivors of Domestic Violence



Pro bono representation has never been more vital to a just society than it is today, as

immigrant survivors of domestic violence face new legal obstacles in light of changing immigration policies. In the face of these new policies, many of our immigrant clients are more afraid to utilize the judicial process or seek the help of law enforcement in order to gain protection from an abuser. To learn more about how immigration policy impacts the safety of domestic violence survivors, read our [Letter to the Editor of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly](#).

Marisa's Story

Marisa was married in Mexico. Throughout Marisa's first year of marriage, her husband physically, emotionally, and sexually abused her. Marisa reported the abuse to a physician in Mexico, but the physician—seeing Marisa's bloody lip and black eye—told her the abuse was “not that bad.”

After moving to the United States at the demand of her husband, the abuse escalated. Marisa came to the Women's Bar Foundation (WBF) for help, and a WBF volunteer attorney helped her obtain a permanent restraining order against her husband. She is now working with WBF volunteer attorneys to file for divorce.

Marisa, like many WBF clients, was initially afraid to seek help because she was undocumented. Fortunately for Marisa, WBF volunteer attorneys represent survivors of domestic violence regardless of their immigration status. Marisa now has the aid of skilled WBF volunteer attorneys to help her navigate the complex legal issues that she may face in the coming months.

There are countless numbers of undocumented survivors of domestic violence like Marisa in Massachusetts. To address the growing need for representation, the Women's Bar Foundation and Victim Rights Law Center recently hosted a training for attorneys working with survivors of domestic violence facing deportation or removal.

If you are interested in supporting our clients who face new challenges at the intersection of immigration and family law, contact Rachel Biscardi at rbiscardi@womensbar.org. If you are unable to represent a client, but want to support undocumented survivors, consider making a donation to the (WBF). One way that we utilize donations is to provide language translation services to better assist our non-English speaking clients.

Join Us at Comedy Night!

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston
6:00pm - 8:30pm Tickets: \$150



FEATURING

THE COMEDY NIGHT ALL STARS!

Kate Billman-Golemme
Fitch Law Partners LLP

Tamsin Kaplan
Davis, Malm & D'Agostine, P.C.

Justin O'Brien
Collora LLP

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERS

In addition to sponsoring Comedy Night, these organizations have made substantial, multi-year commitments to support the expansion of the WBF's pro bono work.



This year's comedy will be brought to you by the Comedy Night All-Stars. **Buy your tickets here** and thank you for supporting the pro bono work of the WBF!

The WBF Thanks Its Corporate Capacity Building Sponsors



The Women's Bar Foundation is dedicated to ensuring access to justice for low-income women. We create a community committed to providing free legal assistance to low-income women and their families.

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