

March, 2017

Women's Bar Foundation



# *Noteworthy*

Happy Women's Day! In this edition of Noteworthy, find out three ways you can support women's rights with the WBF in 2017 and learn about the work WBF corporate partner, WilmerHale, is doing to support WBF clients.

## **Celebrate Women's Day!**



March 8th is International Women's Day, but you don't have to travel the globe to make an impact. Want to help women protect their rights locally? Here are three ways you can work with the WBF to do just that:

- Join us tonight at the Women's Bar Association's **Women's Advocacy Summit**;
- Volunteer with the WBF's **Women's Prison and Re-**

**entry Project** to educate incarcerated women about their rights on a variety of issues from child custody to CORI and criminal warrant clearing;

- Provide pro bono representation to a woman in need.

**Sign up** to attend the Family Law Project training on April 12 and be assigned a mentor to help you through your case. For more information contact Rachel Biscardi at [rbiscardi@womensbar.org](mailto:rbiscardi@womensbar.org).

## Pro Bono Partner Spotlight



The law firm of WilmerHale, a longstanding supporter of the WBF, has recently made a significant donation to support the WBF's pro bono projects and the 25th Anniversary Capacity Building Initiative, which will expand our services to survivors of domestic violence. WilmerHale has been a dedicated pro bono partner to the WBF for many years, providing pro bono representation to WBF clients in family law matters involving domestic violence.

The firm has handled more than 10 WBF family law cases, including two that went to trial—one in which the court allowed a survivor of domestic violence to move her family to another state to ensure their safety, and another in which an abusive husband's visitation was limited in order to protect the children.

Recently, WilmerHale partner Elizabeth Reilly helped a WBF client obtain a divorce after the woman and her children were forced to flee to a shelter when her husband assaulted one of the children. Ms. Reilly, who has also mentored junior attorneys working on pro bono cases with the WBF, talked about the importance of pro bono work. "So many of us went into the law wanting to do some good for people and make a difference in someone's life," she said. "Those of us who have the ability and means should be helping those that don't. It's incumbent upon all of us in the profession to do this work." Ms. Reilly also added that pro bono cases are a great training for junior attorneys, providing opportunities to write briefs, take depositions, and argue in court.

WilmerHale's partnership has been critical to the success of the Family Law Project and the hundreds of clients we serve.

*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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