



WASHINGTON
COURTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT
**GENDER AND JUSTICE
COMMISSION**

MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011

**TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
CHIEF JUSTICE'S RECEPTION ROOM
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON**

**WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT
GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION**

2011-2012

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GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

March 11, 2011, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
CHIEF JUSTICE RECEPTION ROOM
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

CHIEF JUSTICE BARBARA MADSEN, CHAIR

		TAB
10 a.m.	CALL TO ORDER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and Approval of Minutes 	
	COMMISSION BUSINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Presentation by Betty Gould • Staff Report • Chief's Report 	1
	COMMITTEE REPORTS and PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Equality (Judith Lonquist) • Domestic Violence (Judge Wickham) • Legislation Update (David Ward) • IT Interface (Heather Morford) • Immigration (Myra Downing) 	2
	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCJA Programs (Myra Downing) • DMCJA (Myra Downing) • Annual Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DV Risk Assessments b. Girls in Trouble c. Elder Abuse d. Sexual Orientation e. Opening Session 	
	NEW BUSINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STOP Educational Program – Discussion and Action Planning (Chief Justice Madsen) • Imaging Project (Myra Downing) 	
	ADDITIONAL MATERIALS	3
2:00pm	Adjournment	

**Washington State Supreme Court
Gender and Justice Commission**

**Meeting Materials
March 11, 2011**

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STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program - FFY08
January 1, 2009 through February 28, 2011
Contract #F08-31103-208
Program Index 43204 Project 4013-01

	Grant Budget	Request Total	Budget Balance
Salaries	15,451.00	11,554.47	3,896.53
Benefits	3,708.00	3,263.43	444.57
Contracts	81,147.00	40,074.40	6,072.60
Goods & Services	3,000.00	48,413.70	(10,413.70)
Training	-	-	-
Total Grant	103,306.00	103,306.00	-
Match	34,435.00	34,447.57	(12.57)
Total exp & match		137,753.57	
		Match percent	25.01%

STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program - FFY09
April 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011
Contract #F09-31103-209
Program Index 43206 Project 4015-01

	Grant Budget	Request #1	Request #2	Request #3	Request Total	Budget Balance
		7/31/10	10/31/10	2/28/11		
Salaries	15,451.00			509.24	509.24	14,941.76
Benefits	3,708.00			160.81	160.81	3,547.19
Contracts	73,360.00	4,661.00	7,425.00	14,783.12	26,869.12	46,490.88
Goods & Services	20,000.00			402.65	402.65	19,597.35
Training	-				-	-
Total Grant	112,519.00	4,661.00	7,425.00	15,855.82	27,941.82	84,577.18
Match	37,506.00	3,562.12	9,462.45	4,256.78	17,281.35	20,224.65
				Total exp & match	45,223.17	104,801.83
				Match percent		38.21%

Washington State Gender and Justice Commission
FY09 STOP GRANT TO THE COURTS
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Award No. IAA10404	Date Report Prepared: 12/30/2010
Project(s): Pay for 4 months extension for the protection order clinic.	Report No.: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4
	Reporting Period: April-Dec 2010
	Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Grantee: Grant County Clerk	Subgrantee: New Hope

REPORT (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

(1) Project activities during the reporting quarter.

The Grant County clerk sub-contracted with New Hope Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services to staff the Protection Order Clinic with 1 FTE advocate for the month of December 2010.

(2) Any significant problems that developed.

None.

(3) Activities scheduled during the next reporting period.

Continuation of staffing for the Protection Order Clinic.

Submitted by:

Name:	Kimberly A. Allen
Title:	Grant County Clerk
Phone Number:	509-754-2011 ext. 318
e-mail address:	kallen@co.grant.wa.us

Washington State Gender and Justice Commission
FY09 STOP GRANT TO THE COURTS
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
December 2010

Award No. IAA10405	Date Report Prepared: October 5, 2010
Project(s): Staffing the implementation of the King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline Project.	Report No.: 1 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4
	Reporting Period: 10/1/10 – 12/31/10
	Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Grantee: King County Superior Court	Subgrantee: Seattle & King County Department of Public Health

REPORT and Report Attachments

(1) Project activities during the reporting quarter.

A. Project Oversight Committee:

The quarterly Oversight Committee meeting was convened by Judge Joan DuBuque on October 6, 2010. During this meeting there were updates from the participants and a presentation by Karen Rall, from Children's Administration (CA) regarding the plans for the 2011 CA Master Contracting Program. This meeting was also used to begin a project evaluation and project planning for 2011. After the meeting, surveys were sent to all Oversight Committee members. The results of this evaluation and project planning are in **Attachment A**.

B. Project Best Practices Workgroup:

Deborah Greenleaf convened two Best Practices meetings during this project period. A Best Parasites meeting was held on October 26, 2010. This meeting was used to give updates on agency budgets and program changes. Guest presenters from King County Superior Court, Family Court Services (FCS) attended the meeting and gave an overview on their DV assessment services. FCS also presented a case for Best Practices staffing. Multiple system issues were identified and discussed.

A Best Practices meeting was held December 8, 2010. At the beginning of the meeting, Best Practices members raised concerns in three different cases. Each cases presented significant issues with systems responses for children exposed to DV and child maltreatment. Best Practices members gave feedback and consultation support. A plant was made to follow up on the cases in the January 2011 meeting. The remainder of this meeting was used to conduct a project evaluation of the Best Practices Workgroup and Activities. Members also gave their input on activities that they would like to see happen in 2011. See **Attachment B** for a summary of their results.

C. September 9 & 10, 2010 DV Symposium Planning Group and Activities:

On October 20, 2010, Deborah Greenleaf participated in a DV Symposium follow up and debriefing meeting with the symposium planning committee members. All overall symposium evaluations and sessions' evaluations were summarized. These findings were reviewed by the planning committee. Overall, the symposium was a huge success and participants gave very high ratings on the effectiveness of the symposium. This STOP grant project supported sessions regarding the needs of children who are exposed to DV; specialized DV assessments and services planning; effective systems-based responses to DV exposed children and their families; and, therapeutic approaches to ameliorate the negative affects from DV exposures. **See the separately attached file** of evaluations on the overall symposium and project supported symposium sessions.

D. February 17, 2011 DV and Dependency Symposium Planning:

The initial discussion and development of the agenda for the February 2011 DV and Dependency Symposium began with the project's Oversight Committee. A DV and Dependency Training Committee were then instituted and was comprised of Oversight Committee members, other family law/dependency attorneys, and training faculty. The University of Washington's Court Improvement Training Academy is partnering with this effort. They are participating in the symposium planning, and they will be helping to fund faculty training costs. The DV and Dependency Symposium committee met on October 20, 2010 and November 19, 2010 to review training agenda and content. After which, the training faculty met separately to further detail the training content and presentations. The full DV and Dependency Symposium committee will reconvene in January to complete preparations for the February Symposium. See **Attachment C** for a draft of the February 17 DV and Dependency Training Agenda/Content and Planning Committee Members.

E. DV and Child Maltreatment Project Training:

10/28/10: Presentation by Deborah Greenleaf, Jeff Norman, and Kellie Rogers (South County YWCA) on the King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline and DV and child maltreatment issues to Children's Administration's, King South Office. Training was provided to 35 Child Protective Services, Family Voluntary Services, and Children and Family Welfare Social Workers. Each participant received a summary document on the Coordinated Response Guideline document with a web link and were urged to obtain the document for their reference.

11/10/10 & 11/17/10: Two trainings were provided to King County Superior Court in November 2010. The purpose of the training was to disseminate and review copies of the newly revised King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline. The training was also used to provide expert training on the topic of child visitation considerations and arrangements for families experiencing DV, best practices/policy considerations, and sample court orders. For these trainings, 36 participants attended including six King County Superior Court judges and commissioners. The trainers were Judge Joan DuBuque and Tracee Parker, Director of the Safe Havens Visitation Center. Participants who completed a training survey rated the training as being above average to excellent. See **Attachment D** for feedback from training participants.

F. Planning for Children's Administration (CA) DV Training Pilot:

As additional training funding was secured for the February 2011 DV symposium, this project had available training dollars to support implementation of the revised Coordinated Response Guideline. Deborah Greenleaf and Jeff Norman from Children's Administration (CA) met with Dr. Anne Ganley, PhD on 11/30/10 for an initial discussion on the development of a DV training pilot project for two CA offices, contingent upon funding approval. Once funding was approved, the training was scheduled for the King West CA Office on February 8, 2011, and the Martin Luther King Jr./Indian Child Welfare CA Offices on February 11, 2011. Dr. Ganley will develop and implement training that could be replicated in other CA offices/agencies. After the trainings, it is anticipated that the Best Practices Workgroup, with limited consultation support from Dr. Ganley, would meet with the two pilot training offices over a twelve month period to reinforce training content and provide consultation on DV cases. See **Attachment E** for the training announcement.

(2) Any significant problems that developed.

- No significant problems occurred during this time period. All project activities were completed as scheduled.
- Two additional CA trainings have been added to the project work plan and they will take place in February 2011.
- See **Attachment F** for a summary of MATCH contributed hours.

(3) Activities scheduled during the next reporting period.

- We plan to continue with the project work plan and convene all project workgroups as outlined in the STOP grant application. We anticipate that we will be able to complete project work plan activities on time and as designated on the project work plan.

- As there will be three significant events held in February 2011 for this project, it is anticipated that the evaluations from these training/symposium offerings will be completed by April 2011.
- This project chair and coordinator has been asked to initiate DV support activities in other regions. We anticipate that this work would occur during March-April 2011.

Submitted by:

Name:	Deborah Greenleaf, RN, MN
Title:	Advanced Practice Nurse Specialist;/Project Coordinator
Phone Number:	206-263-8375
e-mail address:	Deborah.Greenleaf@kingcounty.gov

**FY09 STOP GRANT TO THE COURTS
 QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
 December 2010 Report Attachments**

Attachment A



King County

DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response

Project Evaluation and Planning

November 2010

SUMMARY of Project Evaluations

Completed by 5 Oversight Committee Members

Project Evaluation

Oversight Committee members were asked to participate in a project evaluation and reflect upon their experiences and involvement with this project over the past twelve months. Their responses are as follows.

1. What project activities did you think were the most important?

- Updating the DV and Child Maltreatment response guideline (3 responses)
- September DV Symposium, (2 responses)
- CJE/CLE presentations
- Community trainings, collaboration with DCFS and having so many different players at the table.
- Educating/training our community partners/stakeholder agencies about the coordinated response guideline

2. On a scale of 1-5, please rate how this project has affected the following areas: 1 = poorly 2 = minimally 3 = moderately 4 = mostly 5 = exceptionally

	1	2	3	4	5
Increasing communication about DV issues with colleagues and other community partners	0	0	2	2	1
Providing effective training opportunities	0	0	0	4	1
Sharing information on Best Practices, resources, and agency updates	0	0	2	1	2
Increasing collaboration and coordination with systems-based and community-based providers	0	0	1	1	3

3. Please comment on any other benefits you or your agency has had from your involvement with this project.

- Certainly, my ability to provide information that is helpful to my clients regarding resources and the court system.
- Increased understanding of how the different systems work.
- Increased understanding of roles.
- I know who to consult with about different policy issues related to DV and child maltreatment.
- Our agency has been invited to participate in many more training opportunities since our involvement in the oversight committee.
- Several colleagues have attended the programs.
- At a time when agencies which comprise a fabric of domestic violence resources throughout our community are cutting back, restricting hours and/or services or closing their doors (like public health), projects like the DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response are becoming more critical to preserving the communities response to DV. As resources disappear and historical contacts/cumulative memory shifts when partners in the community are no longer present, maintaining some semblance of community consensus, education and understanding as a baseline is key. As each resource or system no longer provides services, community stakeholders have fewer places/opportunities to interact in a meaningful way with individuals seeking assistance in escaping a cycle of violence, and be assured that individuals are provided with timely, accurate up to date information about both resources and education. Projects like this one are the like the center spoke of a bicycle that radiates outward both the systemic informational and institutional knowledge and current resource information to stakeholders and the community when other external agencies and systems fail.

4. Over the past year our region and state invested a significant amount of time and resources for the DV & Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline Revision Project. Please tell us from your perspective how this process went, and what you think about the revised 2010 guideline document.

- The process went smoothly for me. I, personally, do not regularly access and use the Guideline, however, I saw that it needed revision and hopefully will be used in the future.
- Excellent, comprehensive. The challenge will be how to make sure that it gets effectively implemented, especially during this time of drastic budget cuts.
- This was a great effort by Deb Greenleaf and all the other participants who worked on the project. It is a very useful resource.
- Well needed and well done update.
- I thought it was well organized, comprehensive and had a clear and practical focus about how to accomplish the most realistic goals within limited resources. I personally learned a tremendous amount in the process, not the least of which was to value the input from community partners and to see how the interplay of these agencies, when they work together, can make our community safer and healthier. Together I thought we accomplished more than any particular agency or group could have achieved and that many others in the legal, social and general community benefited from the sharing of this knowledge through limited educational opportunities. This fosters a baseline level of understanding throughout the community that has a lasting impact in many ways to the betterment of our community and the public.

- The document is just one easy way to access this “institutional consensus” and understanding about how our community can respond in individual, informed ways, to this problem in our community.
- The bottom line is whether in practice, it will improve child welfare and enhance safety in our community. I believe it will. I know that the guideline has become my “dictionary” so to speak and that refer to it as a reference more often than I can express.

Project Planning - Future Project Activities:

1. What are the key priorities that should be addressed by this project in 2011-2012?

- Continued lobbying for DV specialists in DCFS offices would be a priority form e as well as support in maintaining the few resources we still have in this financially strapped time.
- I would like to see some sort of oversight developed for judicial rulings on DV matters in the Civil court system as there is inconsistency in rulings with no oversight or standards consistently adhered to.
- Effectively implementing policies and best practices.
- Providing expertise, services and education to the DV provider community, while dealing with budget challenges.
- I would like to see some thought given to where to focus our educational opportunities and resources given the devastation that the economic crisis will work locally on all our community partners and resources. Managing scarce avenues of information/resource networks in a more focused manner at such a time might promote more safety as multiple avenues of agency/stakeholder assistance disappear and other agencies become overwhelmed with growing demand for services. Figuring out how to disseminate this information in a quick easy and accessible fashion would be high on my list. This would take coordination on an ongoing level because it is a moving target. Figuring out how and the best way to spread the work statewide would also be a valuable enterprise as we would learn how other communities, with fewer or scarce resources, could both give us ideas and spread our own beyond our own community and perhaps enable us to share resources through making more connections.

2. What other training opportunities would you or representatives of your agency would want this project to provide in 2011-2012?

- The training offered at Seattle University was excellent. I would say continued partnering with them is good.
- Training for Judges and evaluators on developing agreed upon protocols and consistency in domestic violence cases would be great.
- Continued training for CPS workers on how to respond to DV.
- I suggest having a conference in on of the eastern counties (or outside of King County in order to share our resources).
- DV and Dependency Symposium
- I think I would like to take stock of what is left in our Court and the community in terms of stakeholders and available resources before I try to answer this question. I truly do not have enough of a sense of what will be the highest priority at this time and feel poorly equipped to answer with meaningful input.

3. Other thoughts or comments:

- I have not been as active as I would like so I cannot provide much specific information
- I have truly appreciated being a member of this project and have learned a tremendous amount from my participation. While that was not, I have no doubt, the intent of serving on this committee; it was an unanticipated and extraordinary benefit to me. I feel that I received much more than I contributed and would like to continue that contribution in the future.

Attachment B



King County

DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response

December 2010

Best Practices Committee Project Evaluation and Planning Summary

2010 Project Evaluation:

Members of the Best Practices Committee were asked to participate in a project evaluation and planning during the December 8m 2010 meeting. Seven participants completed the survey.

Members were asked to reflect on their experiences and involvement with this project over the past twelve months and answer these questions. Their feedback is as follows.

1. What project activities did you think were the most important?

- Training of CPS/Family Law/Judges
- Training for AG's and defenders
- DV Symposium (6 responses). One respondent stated: "I spoke with many mental health therapists who attended the conference in September, and they all spoke highly of it, found it very informative."
- Multiple Case staffing and Recommendations (3 responses)
- Orientations for Children's Administration (CA) staff on the Practice Guide and Coordinated Response Guideline (3 responses)
- Updating the King County Guideline (3 responses)

2. Please rate how this project has affected the following areas:

Activity	5	4	3	2	1
	Exceptionally	Mostly	Moderately	Minimally	Poorly
Increasing DV communication/collaboration with community partners	6	1	0	0	0
Providing effective training opportunities and symposiums	5	2	0	0	0
Sharing information on Best Practices, resources, and agency updates	3	4	0	0	0
Increasing opportunities to discuss/staff problematic DV and Child Maltreatment Cases	6	1	0	0	0

3. Please comment on any other benefits you or your agency has had from your involvement with this project.

- “Cross pollination” with a broad group of agencies and systems. Improved collaboration and communication.
- Training around DV in families.
- Increased knowledge of DV has made/caused me to be a resource in my office/unit.
- Working on this team feeds the work I do for my agency and vice versa. This work is incredibly important as it informs social change and systems change.
- I am able to be a resource and/or contact from other professionals about DV/CPS. I have been better able to educate my unit and office about DV. I have been asked to sit in on staffing’s where DV is part of the case.
- Primarily our agency has benefited from the relationships we’ve been able to develop with others involved in this project. This has been very helpful.

4. Over the past year our region and state invested a significant amount of time and resources for the DV & Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline Revision Project. Please tell us from your perspective how this process went, and what you think about the revised 2010 guideline document.

- Smoothly. A planned careful and thoughtful effort involving all interested partners which produced a comprehensive resource.
- This is a very useful document and well worth the effort.
- I think it is a huge benefit to learn as much as we can about working with families with DV.
- I wish I had had more time to be involved in the guideline. I believe others did far more than I.
- Love it. Wish advocates could have a copy of the social worker guideline to work with along side the coordinated response guideline.
- I think the guideline is good, but more training is necessary-especially across the state.
- I thought that the process went well, seemed to happen in a timely and efficient manner (at least the revisions in which I was involved). The document is great. I’ve shared it with case managers in our housing stabilization program (where they encounter a lot of DV), who have stated that they find the information very helpful.
- “I can say that as an advocate, the guideline is extremely helpful to use in advocating on behalf of a client during her journey with the Department. There are many examples, but I will describe just one about a young mother with an infant. The child had been injured while being cared for by someone other than the mother and was taken into protective custody (rightfully so) by CPS. After the hearing it was determined that the child would remain in foster care temporarily while the mother engages in services and the family was transferred to Children & Family Welfare Services (CFWS). As a part of the CFWS legal responsibility, the father of the infant needed to be notified as to what was going on. The father had been horrifically abusive to the mother before and during her pregnancy, with the mother ultimately fleeing for fear that he would harm the baby. The resource guide gave credence to the advocacy that I was trying to do with the Department on behalf of the survivor. Understanding that the Department was bound by legal restraints, we were able to deal with the abuser in a way that felt more protective for the mother, (the father was not allowed to be a placement option, the father was asked to complete a DV Treatment Program before he could have any visitation or access to child, the social worker wrote a declaration that helped the survivor obtain a Protection Order, etc.) All of this was important because the mother was able to successfully get her child back and it set an important precedent for the future parenting plan, etc. One can imagine how bad it might have looked for the survivor with an open CPS case (even though the injury was not caused in any way by the mother) in a Family Court hearing. Needless to say, the guideline helps direct both the advocates and the social workers in ways that are much more protective for survivors.”

Project Planning - Future Project Activities:

1. What are the key priorities that should be addressed by this project in 2011-2012?

- Continue case staffing while possibly targeting cases which will inform policy directions that will improve lives of children and families. Try to plan a focus so we can choose the type of cases to staff. Will it be safety for children or addressing perpetrators accountability? Im not sure. Should we also look at custodial interference/family law problems?
- More training for CA staff on the Practice Guide and Coordinated Response Guideline.
- Cultural competencies-responding to minority communities.
- A list of resource and specific services for our families' needs.
- CA Intake process and DV referrals needs to be addressed. Do they need more training and education?
- Expanding training statewide
- More case studies and meetings
- Changing policy at state/legislative level
- DV Symposium
- Continued training on guidelines and another DV symposium.
- Implementing the trainings for CPS about batterers and Batterer's Intervention Programs

2. What other training opportunities would you or representatives of your agency would want this project to provide in 2011-2012?

- More case consultation
- Inform them of all the services that are available to our families.
- All offices should have a DV primer so workers have a better understanding of DV.
- More "round table" discussions cross agency. I feel that the more casual talks are very productive. (DV advocate coming to CPS social worker team meetings and vice versa.)
- Statewide training on Guidelines and perhaps help other counties develop a DV/Best Practices Group.

3. Other thoughts or comments:

- I think we need independent, informed, strong DV advocacy participation on Best Practices. I just want to maintain the DV survivor perspective participation. Participation by the King County Prosecutor's office is always desired as well.
- Needs to become "institutionalized" so that when the key players retire/move on, it will continue.
- It's great to get support for the work we do.
- Continued kudos to Deborah for her leadership/insight!
- Coordinate more with other cross discipline efforts such as Children's DV Response Team, Safe Haven Visitation Center, DV/Mental Health Project, and the Chemical Dependency/DV/Mental Health Meetings.
- It's been wonderful working with Deborah. I totally admire and respect her expertise, energy, and willingness to always be available for help.
- What a privilege to be part of this group.

Attachment C



King County

DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Project

DV and Dependency Symposium

February 17, 2011

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

King County Administration Chinook Building, Room 121

Planning Committee Members:

- Rachael DelVillar-Fox, King County Superior Court, Family Court Services
- Mary Li – Washington State Attorney General's Office
- Jeff Norman – Region 4 Children's Administration (CA)
- Kathleen Martin – King County CASA Dependency Program
- Mary Ferguson – King County Office of the Public Defender
- Mary Van Cleve – Private Attorney serving clients from the Office of Public Defense
- Dr. Anne Ganley – Psychologist, Private Practice
- Tim Jaasko-Fisher – UW Courts Improvement Training Academy
- Judge DuBuque and Deborah Greenleaf – King County Superior Court's DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Project

DV and Dependency Symposium Funder: The symposium is supported through the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission STOP Grant FFY09 # 1AA10405 for Court Related Purposes

DV and Dependency Symposium Partner: University of Washington, Court Improvement Training Academy

Target Audience: Attorney Generals, Public Defenders, Dependency CASA Attorneys, and Private Counsel

Potential Trainers: To be determined by the planning committee

Potential Topics:

- **Evidenced Based Services for Children:** What does the evidence tell us about what works best for children who are exposed to DV.
- **Criminal and Court Information regarding DV:** Present on how to access the **Judicial Information System** regarding DV misdemeanor charges and protection orders. Discuss other available databases that have DV information.
- **Distribute and review contents of the revised 2011 King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline**
- **Review content of CA DV Policy and Social Worker practice Guide to DV assessments:** With the new CA DV policy and practice guide, CA social workers are having practice shifts and are to conduct DV screening throughout the life of a case. When DV is identified, CA social workers must conduct assessments and show reasonable efforts in addressing DV. DV assessment should also include evaluating DV lethality risk factors. Service plans for children and their caregivers are to be developed based on the findings of the DV assessments. DV perpetrators are to be engaged with this process, and are to be assessed and have service plans developed for their needs. All this should be addressed during the symposium. It was also suggested that we cover how to inform a DV survivor of what is revealed in a DV assessment and what is expected of them. It is proposed that Dr. Anne Ganley would cover this content as she is a contributing author of the CA practice guideline.
- **Steps to obtain a DVPO in Dependency Cases:** It was suggested that we cover this topic for dependency cases, and when it is relevant to do it. Discuss that a DVPO should not be automatically included into service plans, and that service plans must be targeted to the individual needs of DV survivors and their children.

- **Working with DV survivors:** It was suggested that we review best practices in working with DV survivors who have a case in dependency court, including: how best to engage in DV advocacy; what are available supports and resources; how to address DV survivors' needs in service plans; how to address the risks posed by the batterer in service plans; and, how to best work with DV survivors when they still have a relationship with the batterer.
- **Present a Matrix on Other Court Involvement:** Develop and present a matrix on the intersection of dependency cases with Family Court or Criminal Court cases. Discuss how to manage conflict between the courts and how to best manage families who have multiple issues.
- **Present Hypothetical Case Scenario:** Develop and present on a case scenario to help illustrate the complexities of addressing the safety and well-being of children and DV survivors that are involved in the dependency system.
- **Working with the Batterer as a Parent:** Include a Batterer's Intervention Program specialist in the symposium to talk about how best to work with Batters. Discussing available parenting programs for men who batter. Deborah will be soliciting a BIP provider to help with the symposium.

Attachment D



King County

Domestic Violence (DV) and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Project

November 10 and November 17, 2010

King County Superior Court

Unified Family Court/Family Law Section

Training Title: "Visitation for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence"

Participants Training Evaluation Summary

Two trainings were provided to King County Superior Court in November 2010. The purpose of the training was to disseminate and review copies of the newly revised King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline. The training was also used to provide expert training on the topic of child visitation considerations and arrangements for families experiencing DV, best practices/policy considerations, and sample court orders. For these trainings, 36 participants attended including six King County Superior Court judges and commissioners. The trainers were Judge Joan DuBuque and Tracee Parker, Director of the Safe Havens Visitation Center.

The trainings were well received and the participants did engage the speakers in dialogue on how best to support the needs of DV exposed children and their families. During the training, sections of the King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline were reviewed for best practices guidelines and available community resources.

Seven participants completed a training evaluation form. The participant's feedback was strongly positive for this training. Their feedback is summarized as follows.

General Comments:

- Could hear this one again and again - 3 times per year
- Both presenters were obviously very knowledgeable. They also communicated a tremendous amount of valuable information.
- Excellent program.

Presenter	Ratings:				
	1 = Poor	2 = Below Average	3 = Average	4 = Above Average	5 = Excellent
Judge Joan DuBuque King County Superior Court	0	0	0	0	7
	Comments: Superbly articulated efficient. Very easy to get what is being said. Very informative. Very knowledgeable.				
Tracee Parker Safe Havens Visitation Center	0	0	0	1	6
	Comments: Interesting, feels like there is a lot of background experience in the topics covered. You have a hard job! Brought up a lot of things I never thought of with DV relationships.				

Do you have a suggestion for a future topic or speaker?

- DV Advocates to describe behaviors in people who are batterers, how they behave.
- Dissolutions-the process.
- What the role of Family Law Facilitator will be, especially after budget cuts

Attachment E



King County

Domestic Violence (DV) and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Project

SPECIAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

WORKING WITH FAMILIES WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES: LEARNING THE SKILLS YOU NEED

With Anne Ganley, PhD

Co-Author of "CA Social Worker's Practice Guide to Domestic Violence"

This Training is supported through the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission's King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Project- STOP Grant FFY09 # 1AA10405 for Court Related Purposes. The FFY09 STOP Grant was awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice through Grant # 2009-WF-AX-0004.

Dr. Anne Ganley is a clinical psychologist and faculty member at the University of Washington. She maintains a private practice in Seattle and has over thirty years experience working with DV victims, children and batterers. She is the author of multiple training curricula for Child Welfare and CPS Social Workers in the area of Domestic Violence

~
**King West CA Office,
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
at Harrison Building Room 113**

~
**White Center, Martin Luther King, Jr.
&
The Office of Indian Child Welfare Offices
Friday, February 11, 2011 MLK Jr. CA Office Big Room upstairs**

Attachment F



King County

Domestic Violence (DV) and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Project

MATCH funds for King County Superior Court Judicial Officers October – December 2010

Judge Joan DuBuque:

- **10/6/10:** 2 hours to facilitate project's Oversight Committee Meeting
- **10/20/10:** 1 hour to participate in February 2010 DV and Dependency Symposium planning committee
- **10/28/10:** 1 hour meeting with Seattle University School of Law Professor Jane Stover regarding coordination of project services with the Seattle University Law Clinic
- **11/10/10:** 2 hours to present at King County Superior Court's Unified Family Court DV training.
- **11/17/10:** 3 hours to present at Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center, Unified Family Court's DV training
- **11/19/10:** 1.5 hour to participate in February 2010 DV and Dependency Symposium planning committee
- **12/8/10:** 1.5 hours to analyze program evaluations and discuss details for a 2011 STOP Grant proposal

King County Superior Court Commissioners who Attended the November 10 & 17, 2010 KC Superior Court Unified Family Court Training

1.5 contact hours for each Commissioner listed below who attended one of the training offerings:

- Canada-Thurston, Bonnie
- Gallaher, Rich
- Jeske, Jacqueline
- Ponomarchuk, Les
- Smith, Lori-Kay

Washington State Gender and Justice Commission

FY09 STOP GRANT TO THE COURTS QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

AOC FISCAL
RECEIVED
DEC 30 2010

Award No. IAA10473	Date Report Prepared:
Project(s): Providing funding for judicial process assistant.	Report No.: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4
	Reporting Period: 10-01-10 -- 12-31-10
	Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Grantee: Snohomish County Clerk	Subgrantee:

REPORT (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

(1) Project activities during the reporting quarter.

The STOP Grant-funded employee works in a triage capacity at the main customer service counter and handles all information and resource inquiries, provides telephone coverage, and prepares forms, statistical counts, and other work. This allows the division to provide an increased number of domestic violence-related intakes, because this position frees up other staff resources to be dedicated to one-on-one interactions with victims/survivors. Additionally, we have seen an increased response time in the entry of orders into the State law enforcement data bases, an improved ability to provide community resource information to victims and increased coordination between services and courtroom activities.

(2) Any significant problems that developed.

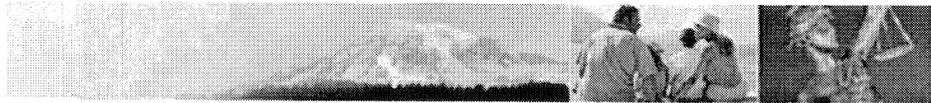
None.

(3) Activities scheduled during the next reporting period.

We will continue utilizing the grant-funded employee to carry out the activities and services described in question #1

Submitted by:

Name:	Mary Albert
Title:	Judicial Finance and Budget/Fiscal Manager
Phone Number:	425-388-3544
e-mail address:	mary.albert@snoco.org



2011 Judicial College Session Evaluation Results

January 23 - 28, 2011

Session:	Domestic Violence
Faculty:	Commissioner Richard C. Adamson, Judge James P. Swanger
Number of Evaluations:	31

Please include narrative comments, as well as numeric rating on a **5-point scale**.

(5 = Excellent; 4 = Good; 3 = Average; 2 = Below Average; 1 = Poor; N/A = Not Applicable)

EFFECTIVENESS	5	4	3	2	1	
1. The goals of the course were clear.	20	9	2	0	0	4.58
2. The goals of the course were achieved.	19	9	3	0	0	4.52
3. The faculty engaged me in meaningful activities.	21	7	2	1	0	4.55
4. I gained important information or skills.	18	9	3	1	0	4.42
5. The faculty made a clear connection between the course and the work place.	20	8	2	1	0	4.52
Total						Average: 4.52

COMMUNICATION SKILLS	5	4	3	2	1	
1. The faculty was well prepared.	24	6	1	0	0	4.74
2. The presentation was organized.	20	8	3	0	0	4.55
3. Written materials enhanced the presentation.	17	9	4	0	1	4.32
4. Audiovisual aids were used effectively.	20	7	4	0	0	4.52
5. The presentation kept my interest throughout.	20	8	2	0	0	4.60
Total						Average: 4.55

EFFECTIVENESS COMMENTS

The following is a compilation of all comments received in the Effectiveness section:

The presentation by Commissioner Anderson was far below the level of other presentations. It consisted mostly of him reading the PowerPoint slides. I can do that on my own.

The presentation by Judge Swanger was excellent. He was engaging and the exercises were relevant and helpful.

The marks would have been higher but for Commissioner Anderson.

While many of the comments of Judge Adamson were helpful, the

reading of the powerpoint presentation is not as helpful as it otherwise could be.

There is a lot of experience in this room.

While the presenters are very knowledgeable, it would have helped the first presenter to flesh out the presentation if he had engaged with the participants, and used class participation to teach the class. The second presenter made good use of hypos, and exercises, and really engaged the group.

The Exercise was AMAZING.

I really didn't want to do the domestic violence exercise. But, when it was done, I thought it was one of the most helpful and useful exercises of the conference.

It was very powerful. I think the exercise of walking in the victim's shoes was very worthwhile.

The beginning of Commissioner Adamson's presentation was very powerful but I found his oral presentation to be somewhat slow and disjointed. The hypotheticals, however, were great and the best part.

Judge Swanger was much better presenter than Judge Adamson. Judge Adamson's presentation was a waste of time for me given my years of experience in the prosecution of DV crimes. Judge Swanger's handouts were helpful - the chart comparing and detailing the different orders was handy to refer to for the presentation. Although, the information was not anything new to me. The breakout to discuss in court scenarios was very helpful.

The exercise of role-playing a DV victim was useful and impactful.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS COMMENTS

The following is a compilation of all comments received in the Communication Skills section:

Commissioner Anderson was incredibly dull. The supplemental materials are very helpful, as are the PowerPoint slides. But I would rather have had more time for one or more of the other topics and just receive the materials.

Judge Swanger was well worth listening to. The marks would have been higher but for Commissioner Anderson.

The examples of actual orders (poorly written or completed) was a great reminder.

The two presentations were individually well organized, but seemed disconnected from each other. This block would work much better if the needs/problem presentation (part I) and the practice presentation (part II) were merged.

The final exercise was amazing.

It would be helpful to have a presentation and discussion about the

best way to handle recanting victims; the propriety and public policy of material witness warrants. This would be a very interesting and helpful discussion to see how different jurisdictions address these issues.

Great exercise.

The best part of the DV program was the post experience as a DV victim-thank you for opening us our eyes-very powerful and thought provoking

the DV order mistakes were too obvious, I'd like to see a tip sheet on best practices for DV orders

Although interesting, I think the breakout exercise was like singing to the chorus. The time could have been better spent discussing DV sentencings, cases, SOCs, etc.

The final exercise of "Standing in her Shoes" was so moving and thought provoking. Thanks for bringing that to us!

film was a bit over the top - exercise at end was great - at this point in time, I am really tired of the lecture method

The simulation was incredible!

Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Honorable Barbara A. Madsen, Chair
Washington State Supreme Court

Ms. Barbara L. Carr
Jefferson County Juvenile Court

Honorable Vickie Churchill
Island County Superior Court

Ms. Mirta Laura Contreras
Columbia Legal Services

Honorable Sara Derr
Spokane County District Court

Honorable Joan DuBuque
King County Superior Court

Honorable Ruth Gordon
Jefferson County Clerk

Ms. Margaret Hobart
WA State Coalition Against DV

Honorable Cynthia Jordan
Coeur d'Alene Tribal Court

Ms. Jennie Laird
Attorney at Law

Ms. Judith Lonnquist
Attorney at Law

Professor Natasha T. Martin
Seattle University School of Law

Honorable Craig Matheson
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Chelan County District Court

Ms. Leslie W. Owen
Northwest Justice Project

Ms. Yvonne Pettus
Tacoma Municipal Court

Mr. Bernard Ryan
Attorney at Law

Honorable Ann Schindler
Court of Appeals, Division I

Honorable Jane M. Smith
Colville Tribal Court of Appeals

Mr. David Ward
Legal Voice

Honorable Chris Wickham
Thurston County Superior Court

Ms. Myra Downing, Executive Dir.
Administrative Office of the Courts

Immigration Meeting
February 7, 2011
SeaTac AOC Office

I. Introduction and Purpose of Meeting

II. Update on Activities

- Chief Justice Madsen's work
- Access to Justice Work
- SJI work
- Educational Efforts

III. Next steps

SCJA EDUCATION SESSION – SPRING CONFERENCE 2011¹

IMMIGRATION ISSUES – DRAFT 1/21/2011

- I. Introduction – Judge Mary Yu (1-2 minutes)

- II. Setting the Framework: Justice Barbara Madsen & Pramila Jayapal (Executive Director, OneAmerica (15 minutes)

Framing the current landscape regarding the challenges, issues and opportunities and why it matters in state courts.

- III. Basics re: Federal Immigration: Ms. Dorothy Stefan, ICE General Counsel and Judge Jack Weil, Immigration Court Judge (30 minutes + 15 minutes for questions)
 - A. *Overview of federal agencies and their various roles*
 - B. *Overview of immigration court and deportation proceedings, including detention;*
 - C. *Legal Status: overview of relevant deportation & inadmissibility grounds & avenues of relief*
 - *unlawful presence – not a crime, primary basis for removal, does not mean automatic deportation;*
 - *crime-related grounds (aggravated felonies, crimes of moral, turpitude, DV and drug convictions);*
 - *avenues for relief from removal (cancellation, asylum, U & T visas).*

- IV. A Quick Look at Criminal and Civil Issues: Matt Adams, Jorge Baron, Grace Huang, Judge Steven Gonzalez + “Ask an Expert on Ethics” - Judge John Erlick (90 minutes)

Criminal

 - A. *Padilla v. Kentucky – What the Supreme Court Said & How It Impacts State Court Criminal Proceedings*
 - B. *Disclosure of Immigration Status & Other Immigration-Related Information*
 - *Fifth Amendment protections and other considerations (e.g. Vienna Conviction notification requirements);*
 - C. *Release Determinations*

¹ Sponsored by the Gender and Justice Commission, Minority and Justice Commission, and the Access to Justice Board with funding support from the State Justice Institute through the Gender and Justice Commission.

- *Understanding Immigration Detainers (what are they? How do they impact release determinations? What options are available for addressing these impacts?)*

D. Sentencing Issues

- *Definition of sentences under immigration law*
- *Immigration considerations at sentencing*

Civil

- A. Salas v. Hi-Tech Erectors: relevance of legal status*
- B. Domestic violence – protective orders*
- E. Family Court – use of status in custody battles*
- F. Juvenile Court – dependencies and termination proceedings*

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
 The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
 2011 Regular Session of the 62nd Legislature

BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SHB 1001	AN ACT Relating to pro se defendants in criminal cases questioning victims of sex offenses; adding a new section to chapter 9A.44 RCW; and creating a new section. Courts have held that a state's interest in the physical and psychological well-being of child abuse victims may be sufficiently important to outweigh, at least in some cases, a defendant's right to face his or her accusers in court.	SJudiciary 2/23/2011	JUDGoodma
SHB 1019	AN ACT Relating to constraining the department of corrections' authority to transfer offenders out of state; and amending RCW 72.68.010. Inmate may request in writing to remain in an in-state facility if they can demonstrate regular participation in family visits with child(ren), or other family-centered sanctioned activities while incarcerated. Child victims of the offender's sexual offense, physical abuse, or other mistreatment are excluded.	SHumServ/C 2/15/2011	PSEPRoberts
HB 1021	AN ACT Relating to persons appointed by the court to provide information in family law and adoption cases; amending RCW 26.33.070, 26.09.220, 26.12.175, and 26.12.177; and adding a new section to chapter 26.12 RCW. Act outlines roles, duties and fees for guardian ad litem and court appointed special advocates for children involved in dependency cases.	HPassed 3rd 3/7/2011	Goodman
HB 1030	AN ACT Relating to requiring felons to pay court-ordered financial obligations before restoration of voting rights; amending RCW 9.92.066, 9.96.050, and 10.64.140; reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.637 and 9.94A.885 Legislation would require felons to pay court-ordered financial obligations before restoration of voting rights.	HSGTribalAff 1/10/2011	Armstrong
HB 1063	AN ACT Relating to providing juveniles sentenced as adults to life without the possibility of parole with meaningful periodic sentencing reviews to be conducted by the indeterminate sentencing review board; amending RCW 9.95.003, 9.95.009.	HPub Safety 1/10/2011	Appleton

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The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
2011 Regular Session of the 62nd Legislature

BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
ESHB 1086 a \$	<p>The ISRB is authorized to review the sentences of persons sentenced to life without parole for crimes committed prior to the person's eighteenth birthday and set a release date. The ISRB shall conduct a sentence review at least once within the first fifteen year of his or her sentence. If the ISRB does not set a release date, it shall review the sentence again at least once in three years.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to fiscal matters; amending RCW 43.03.220, 43.03.230, 43.03.240, 43.03.250, 43.03.265, 43.21A.660, 43.21A.667, 43.79.460, 43.79.465, 43.83B.430, 43.105.080, 43.330.094, 43.336.050, 46.66.080, 43.350.070, 51.44.170, 66.08.235</p>	C 5 L 11 2/18/2011	WAYS Hunter
HB 1087 SB 5094	<p>AN ACT Relating to fiscal matters; amending RCW 15.76.115, 28A.600.110, 28A.600.150, 28B.76.660, 28B.102.040, 28B.102.050, 28B.15.068, 28B.115.080, 28B.117.030, 28B.117.040, 28C.04.535, 38.52.540, 41.26.802, 41.50.110, 41.56.028, 41.56.029,</p>	H Ways & Means 1/11/2011	Hunter
HB 1097	<p>AN ACT Relating to the relief from the duty to register for sex offenses committed when the offender was a juvenile; and amending RCW 9A.44.140, 9A.44.141, and 9A.44.145.</p> <p>Changes duty to register timeframes for Class B & C Felonies for both adult and juveniles required to register as a sex offender. WSP required to inform juveniles of ability to petition for relief. County Sheriff to verify, upon request, that offender requisite time completed.</p>	HPub Safety 1/12/2011	Appleton
SHB 1104f	<p>AN ACT Relating to protection of vulnerable adults; amending RCW 74.34.020 and 74.34.067; adding a new section to chapter 74.34 RCW; and repealing RCW 74.34.021.</p> <p>Substitute bill expands definition of "financial exploitation" and requires DSHS to provide a written statement when DSHS opens an investigation of suspected abuse or financial exploitation.</p> <p>Bill provides for increased protection of vulnerable adults including enhancements to definitions ("exploitation"), authorization with tribes, and sharing of vulnerable adult population information.</p>	SHea/L-T Care 2/24/2011	JUDIMoeller

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BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SHB 1105f	AN ACT Relating to child fatality review in child welfare cases; amending RCW 74.13.640; and reenacting and amending RCW 68.50.105. DSHS shall conduct a child fatality review in the event of a fatality suspected to be caused by child abuse or neglect. Describes authority of fatality/hear fatality review team.	SHumServ/C or 3/1/2011	ELHSKagi
HB 1113f #	AN ACT Relating to prior offenses for the purposes of felony driving or being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug; and amending RCW 46.61.502, 46.61.504, and 46.61.5055. Adds language, "prior offenses includes offenses as defined in RCW 46.61.5055 and convictions from other state and tribal jurisdiction that are comparable to prior offenses as defined..." as it relates to felony driving or being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug.	HJudiciary 1/12/2011	Rolfes
HB 1123f #	AN ACT Relating to the sentencing or imposition of conditions for certain prostitution and sex crimes; amending RCW 9A.88.130, and prescribing penalties. To be eligible for deferred sentence, adds provision that cannot be arrested for prostitution or commercial sexual abuse of a minor.	HPub Safety 1/12/2011	Hudgins
2SHB 1128	AN ACT Relating to extended foster care services; amending RCW 13.04.011 and 74.13.020; reenacting and amending RCW 13.34.030, 74.13.031, and 13.34.145; adding a new section to chapter 13.34 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; "Extended foster care services" means residential and other support services to foster children. These services include placement in licensed, relative, or otherwise approved care independent living settings; assistance in meeting basic needs; independent living services; medical assistance and counseling or treatment.	SHumServ/C or 3/4/2011	Roberts
2SHB 1153	AN ACT Relating to costs for the collection of DNA samples; and amending RCW 43.43.7541.	SJudiciary 3/3/2011	APPGLadenb

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
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BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
HB 1159	<p>For sentences imposed under RCW 9.94A, the fee payable by the offender, payment made after all other LFO's resolved. All other sentences, the fee is payable by the offender in the manner as other assessments imposed.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to victims of crime; and adding a new section to chapter 7.69 RCW.</p> <p>At all criminal proceedings, the presiding officer would read: "Victims of crime have rights under Washington law with the intent to ensure that all victims and witnesses of crime are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity...."</p>	HJudiciary 1/13/2011	Orcutt
2SHB 1163	<p>AN ACT Relating to harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention; amending RCW 28A.230.095; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an effective date.</p> <p>The Office of the Education Ombudsman and the OSPI shall convene an ongoing work group on school bullying and harassment prevention to develop, recommend, and implement strategies to improve school climate.</p>	SEL/K-12 3/4/2011	APPELLias
SHB 1167f#	<p>AN ACT Relating to driving or being in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; amending RCW 2.28.190, 46.61.5056, and 46.61.5152; reenacting and amending RCW 46.61.5054;</p> <p>Authorizes counties to establish and operate DUI courts including victim impact panels.</p>		Lias
SHB 1180	<p>AN ACT Relating to expanding the protections for victims of stalking and harassment in antiharassment protection orders; amending RCW 10.14.020, 10.14.080, and 10.31.100; and adding new sections to chapter 10.14 RCW.</p> <p>Requires respondent to submit to electronic monitoring as well as potentially pay the cost.</p>	HGen Gov Apps 2/16/2011	JUDIGoodma
HB 1182f#	<p>AN ACT Relating to the unit of prosecution for tampering with or intimidating a witness; amending RCW 9A.72.110 and 9A.72.120; and creating a new section.</p>		Goodman

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2011 Regular Session of the 62nd Legislature

BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SHB 1188	<p>Each instance of an attempt to intimidate or tamper with a witness constitutes a separate violation for purposes of determining the unit of prosecution under the statutes governing tampering with a witness and intimidating a witness.</p>	SJudiciary 3/1/2011	PSEPGoodm
SHB 1206 a \$	<p>AN ACT Relating to suffocation and other domestic violence offenses; amending RCW 9A.36.021, 9A.04.110, and 9.94A.525; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>Adds definition of "Suffocation"; to intentionally obstruct a person's ability to breathe by blocking or impairing intake at the nose or mouth, whether by smothering or other means; addresses repetitive domestic violence offenses and when not included in offender score.</p>	SJudiciary 3/5/2011	APPGDahlqui
HB 1208 f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to harassment against criminal justice participants; amending RCW 9A.46.020; reenacting and amending RCW 40.24.030; adding a new section to chapter 9.94A RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an expiration date.</p> <p>A person who harasses a criminal justice participant performing official duties at the time the threat is made is guilty of class 3 felony. Criminal justice participant includes peace officer, prosecutor, deputy prosecutor, defense attorney, member of the ISRB, community corrections officer, probation/parole officer, staff member of juvenile corrections institution or local juvenile detention facilities, staff member of any adult corrections institution or local adult detention facilities.</p>	HPub Safety 1/17/2011	Pearson
HB	<p>AN ACT Relating to requiring notification of sex offenders attending schools; amending RCW 28A.320.125; reenacting and amending RCW 9A.44.130; and adding a new section to chapter 9A.44 RCW.</p>		

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
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BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
HB 1270 f SB 5533	<p>Adds school districts to list of those notified of a registered juvenile attending school. Adds "sentence imposed for conviction" to list of information at time of registration. New section outlines notification requirements of school districts, principals, and public safety departments to school personnel, students, parents, etc... depending on level. Requires school districts to collect addresses and emails to parents, legal guardians, students over age 18, and school district personnel.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to mental health and suicide prevention education; and amending RCW 28A.230.095.</p> <p>School districts shall have in place, as part of Health and Fitness education, mental health and suicide prevention education.</p>	HEducation 1/18/2011	Lias
HB 1276 f # SB 5533	<p>AN ACT Relating to court-ordered legal financial obligations collected by the county clerks; and amending RCW 2.56.190, 4.56.190, 9.94A.7606, 9.94A.7607, 9.94A.7608, and 9.94A.7609.</p> <p>LFOs shall not be subject to the administrative office of the courts administrative budget reductions or other budget reductions by the administrative office of the courts. Said funds shall not be deemed to have been reduced unless specifically identified by the legislature.</p>	HJudiciary 1/18/2011	Warnick
SHB 1284	<p>AN ACT Relating to adding a requirement to sexual health education to include legal elements of and consequences of conviction for sexual offenses where a minor is the victim; and amending RCW 28A.300.145.</p> <p>OSPI, in consultation with the Washington State Patrol, shall develop a prepared curriculum to teach the legal elements of sexual offenses where a minor is a victim and the consequences upon conviction.</p>	HRules X 3/7/2011	ED Orcutt
SHB 1339	<p>AN ACT Relating to negligent driving resulting in substantial bodily harm, great bodily harm, or death of a vulnerable user of a public way; amending RCW 46.63.070; reenacting and amending RCW 46.20.342; adding a new section to chapter 46.6</p>		JUDIFitzgibbon

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
 The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
 2011 Regular Session of the 62nd Legislature

BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SHB 1371 f	<p>A person commits negligent driving in the second degree with a vulnerable user victim if he or she proximately causes the death, great bodily harm, or substantial bodily harm of a vulnerable user of a public way.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to boards and commissions; amending RCW 72.23.025, 74.39A.095, 74.39A.220, 74.39A.240, 74.39A.250, 74.39A.260, 43.105.340, 67.16.012, 9.95.003, 9.95.005, 9.95.007, 9.95.140, 9.95.280, 9.95.300, 9.96.050, 71.05.385, 72.09.585</p> <p>Repeals authority of Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Juvenile Disposition Standards Commission, and the Sex Offender Policy Board. Remaining duties of SGC transferred to Office of Financial Management and Department of Corrections. Eliminates the Hanford Investment Board. Directs Commerce to appoint CERB board members. Directs Commerce to appoint Motion Picture Board Members.</p>	HWays & Means 2/17/2011	Darnelle
HB 1399	<p>AN ACT Relating to collections on legal financial obligations; and amending RCW 9.94A.010 and 9.94A.760.</p> <p>Adds to Section 1: (8) Consider a victim's needs and provide restitution and support as needed to ensure that the person will not be further victimized.</p>	HJudiciary 1/20/2011	Dickerson
HB 1459	<p>AN ACT Relating to requiring an applicant for a driver's license or identcard to produce a valid social security number or other documentation that the applicant is lawfully within the United States; amending RCW 46.20.035;</p> <p>Sec.1(4) Applicant for driver's license or identcard must provide dept. with a valid social security number or other valid documentation the applicant is a US citizen or lawfully in the US.</p>	HTrans 1/21/2011	Hope

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
2011 Regular Session of the 62nd Legislature

BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
HB 1481	<p>AN ACT Relating to terminating the disability lifeline benefits and medical care services provisions; authorizing the department of social and health services to provide assistance to certain aged, blind, and disabled persons.</p> <p>Legislature intends to end the disability lifeline program (formerly GAU) and establish a limited program for persons who are unable to engage in gainful employment due to age, blindness, or disability.</p>	HHHS Apps 1/24/2011	Alexander
SHB 1549	<p>AN ACT Relating to notification to schools regarding the release of certain offenders; and adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW.</p> <p>Sub: Earliest possible date, no later than 30 days before offender released from confinement, dept provide notice to school district board of directors and superintendent of district where offender last attended school if offender: Is twenty-one years of age or younger at time of release; been convicted of violent offense, sex offense, or stalking. Section applies whenever offender is released from total confinement, regardless if release to parole, community custody, work release placement, or furlough.</p>	SHumServ/C or 3/2/2011	Dahlquist
HB 1555 f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to vehicular homicide sentences; amending RCW 9.94A.589; reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.515; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>Whenever a person is convicted of two or more counts of vehicular homicide, the standard sentence range for the first count shall be determined using the offender's prior convictions and other current convictions that are not vehicular homicide in the offender score and shall be determined by using an offender score of zero</p>	HJudiciary 1/25/2011	Kirby
SHB 1556	<p>AN ACT Relating to increasing the penalties for first-time offenders of driving or being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug; amending RCW 46.61.5055; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>Increases penalty for first-time offenders of driving or being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug.</p>	HRules R 2/17/2011	Kirby

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HB 1557 f #	AN ACT Relating to decreasing the number of prior offenses allowed before a conviction of driving or being in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug becomes a felony; Act would decrease the number of prior offenses allowed before a conviction of driving or being in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug becomes a felony.	HJudiciary 1/25/2011	Kirby
SHB 1565	AN ACT Relating to the termination or modification of domestic violence protection orders; amending RCW 26.50.130; and creating a new section. This act establishes procedures and guidelines for determining whether a domestic violence protection order should be terminated or modified.	SHumServ/C or 3/3/2011	Frocket
HB 1577 f	AN ACT Relating to verification that an applicant for a driver's license or identicaid is lawfully within the United States; amending RCW 29A.08.350, 46.20.035, 46.20.117, 46.20.155, and 46.20.181; Outlines provisions for DOL regarding verification of legal lawful residence and exchange of this data to various state entities. Requires drivers license/identicaid applicants to verify legal lawful residence.	HTrans 1/26/2011	Armstrong
HB 1591 f SB 5552	AN ACT Relating to protections against workplace harassment in antharassment protection orders; and amending RCW 10.14.010, 10.14.020, 10.14.040, and 10.14.080; and adding new sections to chapter 10.14 RCW. The Act would provide victims and, with respect to harassment affecting the workplace, employers with a speedy and inexpensive method for obtaining civil antharassment orders.	HJudiciary 1/26/2011	Warnick
SHB 1626	AN ACT Relating to harassment; amending RCW 10.14.150, 10.14.020, and 10.14.080; and adding a new section to chapter 10.14 RCW.	SJudiciary 3/3/2011	JUDIGoodma

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HB 1646 f #	<p>Substitute House bill removes problematic Sec 5. This sub does not impact eligibility for federal Violence Against Women Act funds. "Exercising constitutionally protected free speech" different than 5579, "contacting third parties other than the petitioner or petitioner's minor child".</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to vehicular homicide and vehicular assault sentences; amending RCW 9.94A.589; reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.515; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>Whenever a person is convicted of two or more counts of vehicular homicide, the standard sentence range for the first count shall be determined using the offender's prior convictions and other current convictions that are not vehicular homicide in the offender score and the standard sentence range for other counts of vehicular homicide shall be determined by using an offender score of zero. Those not vehicular homicide offense shall be determined according to RCW 9.94A.589.</p>	HJudiciary 1/27/2011	Orcutt
SHB 1652	<p>AN ACT Relating to electronic impersonation; adding a new SJudiciary section to chapter 4.24 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>A person who suffers harm as a result of electronic impersonation may be able to bring a civil invasion of privacy claim.</p>		Frockt
HB 1657 f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to the statute of limitations on certain sex offenses; and reenacting and amending RCW 9A.04.080.</p> <p>If legislation passes, the following offenses may be prosecuted at any time after their commission: Rape in the first and second degree if the victim is under the age of eighteen at the time the crime is committed.</p>	SHumServ/C 3/3/2011	Ahern
HB 1744	<p>AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of voluntary intoxication as a defense against a criminal charge; amending RCW 9A.16.090 and 9A.08.010; adding a new section to chapter 9A.16 RCW; and creating a new section.</p>	HJudiciary 2/1/2011	Hope

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EHB SB 1775a \$ f 5706	<p>Voluntary intoxication is not a defense to any criminal charge, nor may the fact of voluntary intoxication be used by a defendant to demonstrate lack of a particular mental state that is an element of a crime charged.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to juvenile restorative justice programs; and amending RCW 13.40.020 and 13.40.080.</p> <p>Adds "restorative justice" to statute; means practices, policies, and programs designed to bring about acceptance of responsibility by offenders for repairing the harm caused by their offense, through bringing together the victim, the offender, their families, and relevant community members.</p>	SHumServ/C orr 3/1/2011	Goodman
SHB 1793f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to restricting access to juvenile records; amending RCW 13.50.010; adding new sections to chapter 13.50 RCW; and creating new sections.</p> <p>Legislation outlines procedures for the dissemination of some juvenile information via consumer reporting agency. Official juvenile court file would be sealed automatically within one hundred twenty days of becoming eligible pursuant to Sec.(12). Courts would report to juvenile courts those individuals whose records may be eligible for sealing. Juvenile court shall notify WSP, local law enforcement, and prosecutor.</p>	SHumServ/C orr 3/8/2011	Darnelle
SHB 1820f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to the blue alert system; adding a new chapter to Title 10 RCW; and providing an effective date.</p> <p>Legislation would create a statewide blue alert system to speed the apprehension of violent criminals who kill or seriously injure local, state, or federal law enforcement officers.</p>	HGen Gov Apps 2/17/2011	PSEPHope
HB 1835f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to assault in the first degree; amending RCW 9A.36.011; reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.515; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>A person is guilty of assault in the first degree if he or she intentionally assaults another with a deadly weapon and recklessly inflicts great bodily harm.</p>	HPub Safety 2/4/2011	Armstrong

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HB 1842 f # SSB 5202	<p>AN ACT Relating to sexually violent predators; amending RCW 71.09.040, 71.09.050, 71.09.060, 71.09.070, 71.09.090, 71.09.094, and 71.09.098; adding new sections to chapter 71.09 RCW; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.</p> <p>To further refocus attention on the effective utilization of treatment services by civilly committed sexually violent predators, the legislature intends to bring the civil commitment laws under chapter 71.09 RCW further in line with other civil commitment laws in Washington, including the commitment of the mentally ill under chapter 71.05 RCW and the commitment of the criminally insane under chapter 10.77 RCW.</p>	HPub Safety 2/4/2011	Dickerson
SHB 1858 f	<p>AN ACT Relating to the department of social and health services' authority with regard to semi-secure and secure or crisis residential centers and HOPE centers; and amending RCW 74.13.032, 74.15.220, and 74.15.255.</p> <p>DSHS authorized to establish facilities that include any combination of secure or semi-secure crisis residential centers, or HOPE centers.</p>	SHumServ/C or 3/7/2011	ELHSRoberts
HB 1862 SSB 5423	<p>AN ACT Relating to legal financial obligations; amending RCW 10.82.090; and creating a new section.</p> <p>In order to foster reintegration and reduce recidivism, this act creates a mechanism for courts to eliminate interest accrued on nonrestitution debt during incarceration and improves incentives for payment of legal financial obligations.</p>	HJudiciary 2/7/2011	Roberts
SHB 1874	<p>AN ACT Relating to police investigations of commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking; amending RCW 9.73.230 and 9.73.210; reenacting and amending RCW 9.68A.110; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.</p> <p>Bill authorizes the interception, transmission, or recording of a conversation or communication by officers if the party is engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor.</p>	HPassed 3rd 3/7/2011	PSEPDickers

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HB 1892	<p>AN ACT Relating to authorizing attempts to determine proof of legal status in this country when a person is lawfully detained by law enforcement while ensuring constitutional due process; and adding a new section to chapter 10.31 RCW.</p> <p>For any lawful stop, detention, or arrest made by law enforcement, the immigration status of the person must be practicably determined.</p>	HJudiciary 2/8/2011	Klippert
HB 1912	<p>AN ACT Relating to creating an administrative sobriety checkpoint program; reenacting and amending RCW 46.63.020; adding a new chapter to Title 46 RCW; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>The purpose of the act is to authorize targeted checkpoint programs to deter and detect persons driving under the influence with a minimal intrusion on the privacy rights of all vehicle occupants.</p>	HJudiciary 2/9/2011	Klippert
HB 1928 SB 5789	<p>AN ACT Relating to addressing workplace bullying by making it an unfair practice to subject an employee to an abusive work environment; adding a new section to chapter 49.60 RCW; and creating a new section.</p> <p>Provides legal recourse for employees who have been harmed, psychologically, physically, or economically, by being deliberately subjected to abusive work environments; and provide legal incentives for employers to prevent and respond to mistreatment of employees at work.</p>	HJudiciary 2/10/2011	Lilias
SHB 1965f	<p>AN ACT Relating to public and private partnership in addressing adverse childhood experiences; amending RCW 13.40.462, 43.121.100, 43.215.146, 43.215.147, 43.70.555, 74.14A.060, and 74.14C.050;</p> <p>A nongovernmental private-public partnership is created to develop a method for distributing funds to community organizations to implement strategies for the reduction of adverse childhood experiences. New Section 5 repeals the Family Policy Council.</p>	HWays & Means 2/17/2011	Kagi

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HB 1976	<p>AN ACT Relating to citizenship and immigration status requirements for enrollment in health care and human service programs; adding a new section to chapter 70.47 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.04 RCW;</p> <p>To be eligible for medical or food stamp benefits, applicant must be able to verify Washington and US legal residence status.</p>	HSGTribalAff 2/16/2011	Shea
HB 1977	<p>AN ACT Relating to restricting sex offenders' access to schools; amending RCW 9A.44.190; reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.515; adding a new section to chapter 9A.44 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.</p> <p>A person is guilty of criminal trespass on school property by a sex offender if he or she is a covered offender and knowingly enters the premises of a school. Excludes 18 yrs old students and a parent of a student with permission from school principal. Takes effect July 2013.</p>	HPub Safety 2/16/2011	Rivers
HB 1983 SB 5813	<p>AN ACT Relating to increasing fee assessments for prostitution crimes; and amending RCW 9A.88.120.</p> <p>A person convicted as a result of an arrest for patronizing a prostitute shall be assessed a fee of \$3000, an increase from \$150. A person convicted as a result of an arrest for promoting prostitution shall be assessed a fee of \$5000, an increase from \$300. Fines assessed and paid shall be deposited in the Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account.</p>	HPub Safety 2/17/2011	Parker
HB 2000	<p>AN ACT Relating to the state food assistance program; amending RCW 74.08A.120; and declaring an emergency.</p> <p>The department may establish a food assistance program for legal immigrants who are ineligible for the federal food stamp program. The department shall adopt rules for the state food assistance program to operate the program within appropriations provided for the program in the omnibus operating appropriations act and subject to any terms and conditions in that act.</p>	HWays & Means 2/22/2011	Hunter

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E2SSB 5000 a \$	AN ACT Relating to mandating a twelve-hour impound hold on motor vehicles used by persons arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs;	HJudiciary 3/5/2011	TRANHaugen
Requires law enforcement impound a vehicle if person arrested for impaired driving (as well as other provisions authorizing 12-hour impound for violations including abandoned car, etc).			
SB 5004 f #	AN ACT Relating to disclosure and regulation of criminal informant evidence and testimony; and adding a new chapter to Title 10 RCW.	SJudiciary 1/10/2011	McCaslin
	Act is intended to address the unreliability of informant evidence and testimony by providing a method to assess informant evidence and testimony and to corroborate its substance. Watch Section 2.		
SB 5006	AN ACT Relating to the issuance of drivers' licenses, permits, and identicards to persons who are not lawfully within the United States; amending RCW 46.20.021, 46.20.035, 46.20.065, 46.20.070, 46.20.117, 46.20.181,	STransportat io 1/10/2011	Honeyford
	DOL may not issue an identicard or a Washington state driver's license that is valid for identification purposes unless the applicant has proven his or her lawful presence in the United States.		
SB 5011 f #	AN ACT Relating to victimization of homeless persons; and reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.535 and 9.94A.030.	HPub Safety 3/4/2011	White
	The court may impose a sentence outside the standard sentence range for an offense if it finds, (cc) the offense was intentionally committed because the defendant perceived the victim to be homeless...		
SB 5014	AN ACT Relating to pro se defendants in criminal cases questioning victims; and creating a new section. Court procedures may be employed that preserve the pro se defendant's control over his or her own trial and that limit the trauma experienced by the victim.	SJudiciary 1/10/2011	White

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SSB 5019	<p>AN ACT Relating to privacy of nonconviction records; amending RCW 10.97.050; adding a new section to chapter 26.50 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 10 RCW; and creating a new section.</p> <p>Legislation provides clarity in the information publicly disseminated by the courts and other criminal justice agencies about individuals in order to protect people's privacy.</p>	S Ways & Means 2/21/2011	HSC Regala
SSB 5042f	<p>AN ACT Relating to protection of vulnerable adults; amending RCW 74.34.020 and 74.34.067; adding a new section to chapter 74.34 RCW; and repealing RCW 74.34.021.</p> <p>Bill provides for increased protection of vulnerable adults including enhancements to definitions ("exploitation"), authorization with tribes, and sharing of vulnerable adult population information.</p>	H Judiciary 3/3/2011	HEA Keiser
SB 5043f SHB 1105	<p>AN ACT Relating to child fatality review in child welfare cases; amending RCW 74.13.640; and reenacting and amending RCW 68.50.105.</p> <p>DSHS shall conduct a child fatality review in the event of a fatality suspected to be caused by child abuse or neglect. Describes authority of fatality/near fatality review team.</p>	S 2nd Reading 2/28/2011	Stevens
SSB 5049	<p>AN ACT Relating to implementing recommendations of the sunshine committee; amending RCW 13.34.100, 42.56.230, 42.56.330, 48.37.060, and 70.148.060; reenacting and amending RCW 42.56.250; and providing an expiration date.</p> <p>Protection from disclosure of certain personal information as it relates to guardian ad litem.</p>	S 2nd Reading 3/4/2011	GOKline
SB 5053	<p>AN ACT Relating to persistent offenders; amending RCW 9.94A.570, 9.95.425, 9.95.430, 9.95.435, and 9.95.440; adding a new section to chapter 9.94A RCW; adding new sections to chapter 9.95 RCW; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>A persistent offender is subject to sentencing in which the court shall impose a sentence with a maximum term of life and a mandatory minimum term of fifteen years.</p>	S Judiciary 1/17/2011	Kline

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SSB 5056 f #	AN ACT Relating to bail and pretrial release practices; amending RCW 2.56.030, 10.19.090, 10.19.100, 10.19.160, 18.185.010, 18.185.020, 18.185.070, 18.185.100, 18.185.110, and 71.05.385;	SWays & Means 2/14/2011	JUD Kline
WSIPP	WSIPP shall develop and validate a pretrial risk assessment tool to measure the likelihood that a defendant will fail to appear in court as required. Sets forth bail requirements as well as law enforcement requirements at time of arrest.		
SB 5060 f #	AN ACT Relating to mail theft; amending RCW 9A.56.010; reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.515; adding new sections to chapter 9A.56 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.	SJudiciary 1/12/2011	Carrell
SHB 1145	Bill recognizes the seriousness of taking personal, medical, or financial identifying information and compromising the integrity of our mail system. "A person is guilty of mail theft if he or she commits theft of mail and a person is guilty of possession of stolen mail if he or she possesses stolen mail."		
SB 5094	AN ACT Relating to fiscal matters: amending RCW 15.76.115, 28A.600.110, 28A.600.150, 28B.76.660, 28B.102.040, 28B.102.050, 28B.15.068, 28B.115.080, 28B.117.030, 28B.117.040, 28C.04.535, 38.52.540, 41.26.802, 41.50.110, 41.56.028, 41.56.029,	SWays & Means 1/13/2011	Murray
HB 1087	Supplemental budget appropriations.		
SB 5095	AN ACT Relating to fiscal matters; amending RCW 15.76.115, 18.04.105, 43.21A.660, 43.21A.667, 43.79.460, 43.79.465, 43.83B.430, 51.44.170, 66.08.235, 82.14.380, and 90.56.500; amending 2010 2nd sp.s. c 1 ss 106, 107,	SWays & Means 1/13/2011	Murray
ESHB 1086	Supplemental budget appropriations.		
SSB 5102	AN ACT Relating to registered persons in adult family homes, boarding homes, and other assisted living situations; and creating new sections. Requires adult family homes and boarding homes to provide notice to all current residents and legal representative within ten days that a person required to register is a resident of the facility	S2nd Reading 3/1/2011	HSC Carrell

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SB 5103	<p>AN ACT Relating to including persons acquitted by reason of insanity within the slayer statute; and amending RCW 11.84.010, 11.84.130, and 41.04.273.</p> <p>Adds a person charged with the willful and unlawful killing of any other person who is acquitted by reason of insanity, to the slayer statute.</p>	SJudiciary 1/13/2011	Carrell
ESSB 5105a \$	<p>AN ACT Relating to the conditional release of persons committed as criminally insane to their county of origin; and adding a new section to chapter 10.77 RCW.</p> <p>An offender who applies for conditional release may do so to a location in the person's county of origin unless considered inappropriate because of victim concerns, protection orders, or other negative influences.</p>	HPub Safety 3/3/2011	HSC Carrell
SSB 5202f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to sexually violent predators; amending RCW 71.09.040, 71.09.060, 71.09.070, 71.09.090, 71.09.094, and 71.09.098; adding a new section to chapter 71.09 RCW; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.</p> <p>Once it has been established that a person is a sexually violent predator, a subsequent trial on the issue of whether the person continues to meet the sexually violent predator definition should not be held unless there is sufficient evidence, specific to the individual.</p>	HPub Safety 3/2/2011	HSC Regala
SSB 5203	<p>AN ACT Relating to improving the administration and efficiency of sex and kidnapping offender registration; amending RCW 4.24.550, 9A.44.128, 9A.44.132, 9A.44.141, 9A.44.142, and 43.43.540; reenacting and amending RCW 9A.44.130;</p> <p>Substitute: Includes new definition of "fixed residence", as well as out of state, military, and foreign convictions. Bill addresses sex offender registration and notification recommendations as put forth by the Sex Offender Policy Board.</p>	HPub Safety 3/2/2011	HSC Regala
SSB 5204f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to juveniles who have been adjudicated of a sex offense; amending RCW 9A.44.143, 13.40.160, 13.50.050, and 72.09.345; and adding a new section to chapter 13.40 RCW.</p>	HErly Lm/H Sv 3/2/2011	HSC Regala

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SB 5245 f # 2SHB 1128	<p>Substitute: Sec.4- Can't seal records if convicted of rape 1, rape 2, or indecent liberties with forcible compulsion. Authorizes ESRC to assign risk level for juveniles preparing to release from confinement, county jail, or from another state. Implements recommendations regarding juveniles who sexually offend as presented by Washington Sex Offender Policy Board.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to extended foster care services; amending RCW 13.04.011 and 74.13.020; reenacting and amending RCW 13.34.030, 74.13.031, and 13.34.145; adding a new section to chapter 13.34 RCW; and creating a new section.</p> <p>Extends foster care services to any individual age eighteen to nineteen years who is eligible to receive and who elects to receive extended foster care services.</p>	SHumServ/C or 1/19/2011	Regala
SSB 5326	<p>AN ACT Relating to negligent driving resulting in substantial HJudiciary bodily harm, great bodily harm, or death of a vulnerable user of a public way; amending RCW 46.63.070; reenacting and amending RCW 46.20.342;</p> <p>Substitute bill defines "vulnerable user of the public way". A new traffic infraction created and fees levied. A person commits negligent driving in the second degree with a vulnerable user victim if, under circumstances constituting negligent driving in the second degree, he or she proximately causes the death, great bodily harm, or substantial bodily harm of a vulnerable user of a public way.</p>	JUD Judiciary 2/25/2011	JUD Kline
SB 5328 f	<p>AN ACT Relating to verification of public assistance eligibility; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A RCW; and creating new sections.</p> <p>DSHS may not provide public assistance to any applicant who has not provided: social security number and written authorization of federal income tax return. Public assistance eligibility verified every 6 months.</p>	SHumServ/C or 1/20/2011	Zarelli
SB 5333	<p>AN ACT Relating to verifying citizenship or lawful presence of individuals upon the renewal of their state issued driver's license or permit or identification; and adding a new section to chapter 46.20 RCW.</p>	STransportat 1/20/2011	Stevens

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	Beginning August 1, 2011, all persons renewing or applying for their driver's license, driver's instruction permit, agricultural driving permit, identicard, or any other form of state issued identification shall be required to show proof of his or her U.S. citizenship or his or her lawful presence in the U.S.		
SB 5335	AN ACT Relating to the verification that applicants for driver's licenses, permits, and identicards are lawfully within the United States; amending RCW 46.20.031, 46.20.055, 46.20.070, 46.20.117, 46.20.181, and 46.20.207; A person is barred from obtaining a drivers license who has not proven that he or she is lawfully within the U.S.	STransportat io 1/20/2011	Stevens
SSB 5351	AN ACT Relating to prohibiting certain registered sex offenders from entering school grounds; and amending RCW 9A.44.190 and 9A.44.193. Sec.1 Adds commercial sexual abuse of minor; promoting commercial sexual abuse of minor; promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of minor; Sec.2 offender may not knowingly enter premises of school w/out written permission; if offender enters premise, may be charged felony offense; section doesn't apply offender 18 years old attending school. Sec.4 Offender must be notified at time of release of restrictions on school premises. Sec.6 WSP shall notify registered sex offenders of requirements of act.	S2nd Reading 3/1/2011	HSC
SB 5395	AN ACT Relating to domestic violence fatality review panels; and amending RCW 43.235.020, 43.235.030, and 43.235.800. Sec.1 Adds ability to convene statewide issue-specific review panels as it relates to domestic violence. Sec. 2(1) Adds school teachers, guidance counselors, or student health services staff as possible members of DV fatality review panels. (4) Statewide issue-specific panels must include persons with particulate subject matter expertise helpful to the panel. Requires periodic reports to coordinating entity and a final report for every fatality review.	SPassed 3rd 3/7/2011	Hargrove

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SSB 5407 f	<p>AN ACT Relating to the issuance of drivers' licenses, drivers' instruction permits, juvenile agricultural driving permits, and identicards; amending RCW 46.20.035, 46.20.055, 46.20.070, 46.20.091, 46.20.105, 46.20.161</p> <p>New Sec.2 Adds eight requirements in order to apply for a driver's license, driver's instruction permit, juvenile agricultural driving permit, or identicard. Sec.7 every identicard expires on the fifth anniversary of the card holder's birthday. New Sec.8 requires DOL to verify a number of requirements/information from the person applying for driver's license, etc...</p>	S2nd Reading 2/22/2011	TRANHaugen
SB 5418	<p>AN ACT Relating to the use of force in self-defense; amending RCW 9A.16.020 and 9A.16.050; and adding new sections to chapter 9A.16 RCW.</p> <p>Legislation outlines standards relating to the use of force in self-defense; to be presumed to have held a reasonable fear of imminent peril of death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another person when using deadly force pursuant to RCW 9A.16.050(1)(c).</p>	SJudiciary 1/25/2011	Becker
SSB 5423 f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to legal financial obligations; amending RCW 10.82.090, 9.94A.760, 4.56.190, 9.94A.7606, 9.94A.7607, 9.94A.7608, and 9.94A.7609; and creating a new section.</p> <p>This act creates mechanism for courts to eliminate interest accrued on nonrestitution debt during incarceration and improves incentives for payment of LFOs. Sec. 2(a) The court shall waive all interest on the portions of the LFO that are not restitution that is accrued during the term of total confinement, provided the offender shows that the interest creates a hardship for the offender; (b) court may reduce interest on the restitution portion of LFO only if principal paid in full. (</p>	HJudiciary 3/5/2011	HSC Regala
SSB 5428 f	<p>AN ACT Relating to notification to schools regarding the release of certain offenders; and adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW.</p>	HERly Lm/H Sv 3/4/2011	HSC

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
2011 Regular Session of the 62nd Legislature

BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
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At earliest date and no later than 30 days before discharge, parole, or any other authorized leave or release, or transfer to community residential facility, the public agency shall send written notice of a youth found to have committed a violent, sex or stalking offense, to the private schools and public school district board of directors in district where youth intends to reside.

SB	5533 f #		
HB	1276		

AN ACT Relating to court-ordered legal financial obligations collected by the county clerks; and amending RCW 2.56.190, 4.56.190, 9.94A.7606, 9.94A.7607, 9.94A.7608, and 9.94A.7609.

LFO funds shall not be subject to the administrative office of the courts administrative budget reductions. Said funds shall not be deemed to have been reduced unless specifically identified by the legislature.

Hargrove

SSB	5545		
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AN ACT Relating to police investigations of commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking; amending RCW 9.73.230 and 9.73.210; reenacting and amending RCW 9.68A.110; creating a new section;

Substitute: "Practice of law" defined as definition given by Supreme Court of WA whether by rule or decision, and includes all exceptions and exclusions to definition in place or hereafter created, whether by rule or decision. Bill authorizes the interception, transmission, or recording of conversation or communication by officers if party is engaging in commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor.

HSC Delvin

HPub Safety
3/5/2011

SSB	5546		
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AN ACT Relating to the crime of human trafficking; and amending RCW 9A.40.100, 9A.40.010, 9.95.062, and 10.64.025.

Substitute: Defines "commercial sex act. Adds additional sections 3 & 4 relating to crime of human trafficking in the 1st or 2nd degree; promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor. Legislation further defines what constitutes trafficking in the first degree including "forced labor" and "involuntary servitude".

HPub Safety
3/5/2011
JUD

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BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SB 5552 HB 1591	AN ACT Relating to protections against workplace harassment in antiharassment protection orders; and amending RCW 10.14.010, 10.14.020, 10.14.040, and 10.14.080; and adding new sections to chapter 10.14 RCW. The Act would provide victims and, with respect to harassment affecting the workplace, employers with a speedy and inexpensive method for obtaining civil antiharassment orders.	SLab/Comm/CP 1/28/2011	Kohl-Welless
SSB 5579f	AN ACT Relating to harassment; amending RCW 10.14.150, 10.14.020, 10.14.080, 9A.46.040, and 9A.46.080; adding a new section to chapter 10.14 RCW; repealing RCW 10.14.055; and prescribing penalties. Section 7 continues to repeal fee waiver for DV and SA victims. This would make WA ineligible for federal VAWA funds (\$2.5 mil in 2010). SHB 1626 made change that addressed this concern.	HJudiciary 3/2/2011	JUD Kline
SSB 5580	AN ACT Relating to orders of disposition for juveniles; and amending RCW 13.40.127, 46.20.270, 46.20.270, 9.41.040, 13.04.155, and 13.40.180. If restitution has not been paid in full but the court is satisfied the respondent made a good faith effort to pay the full amount, the respondent's conviction may be vacated and the information dismissed with prejudice - court may enter an order establishing amount.	SRules 2 2/21/2011	HSC Regala
SB 5645 f # HB 1707	AN ACT Relating to the existing surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance; and amending RCW 36.22.179. 10 B. Additional surcharge of thirty dollars shall be charged by the county auditor for homeless housing and assistance. \$30 homeless housing fee made permanent.	SWays & Means 2/3/2011	\$ 0 Nelson
SSB 5660	AN ACT Relating to public assistance; amending RCW 74.08A.010, 74.08A.260, 43.215.135, 74.08.580, 43.88C.010, and 74.04.012; adding new sections to chapter 74.08A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.215 RCW.	SWays & Means 2/21/2011	\$ 0 HSC Regala

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BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SSB 5681	<p>Following persons not eligible to receive TANF: Individuals in the US on time-limited visas to work, study or travel; Individuals who entered as temporary residents and overstayed their visas, or are engaged in activities forbidden by their visas, or entered the US without a visa; Individuals given temporary administrative statuses until they can formalize permanent status, paroled for less than one year, individuals under deportation procedures.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to background checks of peer counselors; and amending RCW 43.43.830 and 43.43.832.</p> <p>Adds commercial sexual abuse of a minor to definition of "crime against children or other persons." Defines "peer counseling" for purposes of unsupervised contact with minors and required background checks.</p>	SRules 2 2/21/2011	HSC
SSB 5691 f	<p>AN ACT Relating to crime victims' compensation; amending HPub Safety RCW 7.68.020, 7.68.030, 7.68.075, 7.68.060, 7.68.070, 7.68.080, 7.68.085, 7.68.085, 7.68.125, 7.68.130, and 7.68.050; reenacting and amending RCW 7.68.070;</p> <p>Substitute: Further budget decisions carried out in substitute version. Would sunset certain provisions related to budget cuts. Separates the administration of the crime victims compensation program from the workers compensation program (Title 51 RCW).</p>	3/5/2011	HSC
SB 5706 EHB 1775	<p>AN ACT Relating to juvenile restorative justice programs; and amending RCW 13.40.020 and 13.40.080.</p> <p>Adds "restorative justice" to statute; means practices, policies, and programs designed to bring about acceptance of responsibility by offenders for repairing the harm caused by their offense, through bringing together the victim, the offender, their families, and relevant community members.</p>	SRules 2G 2/22/2011	Harper
ESSB 5740 a \$ f	<p>AN ACT Relating to preventing predatory guardianships of incapacitated adults; amending RCW 11.88.030, 11.88.040, 11.88.120, 11.88.090, and 43.190.060; and adding a new section to chapter 2.56 RCW.</p>		HSC Kastama

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BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SB 5789 HB 1928	<p>The court must provide any person filing a petition under this section information regarding professional and lay guardians. Outlines authority and requirements of establishing guardianship of incapacitated adults. Requires website or otherwise make available, public information regarding professional and lay guardians.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to addressing workplace bullying by making it an unfair practice to subject an employee to an abusive work environment; adding a new section to chapter 49.60 RCW; and creating a new section.</p> <p>Provides legal recourse for employees who have been harmed, psychologically, physically, or economically, by being deliberately subjected to abusive work environments; and provide legal incentives for employers to prevent and respond to mistreatment of employees at work.</p>	SLab/Comm/ CP 2/14/2011	Harper
SSB 5790 f #	<p>AN ACT Relating to crime-related boards and commissions; amending RCW 9.95.003, 9.95.005, 9.95.007, 9.95.140, 9.95.280, 9.95.300, 9.96.050, 71.05.385, 72.09.585, 9.94A.850, 9.94A.480, 9.94A.863, 13.50.010, 9.94A.74501, 9.94A.855, 9.94A.870,</p> <p>OCVA shall establish, staff and maintain a Sex Offender Policy Board. Sub adds that OCVA will advise OFM on selecting crime victim advocate for Sentencing Guidelines Commission at OFM.</p>	S2nd Reading 3/2/2011	HSC
SB 5813 HB 1983	<p>AN ACT Relating to increasing fee assessments for prostitution crimes; and amending RCW 9A.88.120.</p> <p>A person convicted as a result of an arrest for patronizing a prostitute shall be assessed a fee of \$3000, an increase from \$150. A person convicted as a result of an arrest for promoting prostitution shall be assessed a fee of \$5000, an increase from \$300. Fines assessed and paid shall be deposited in the Prostitution Prevention and Intervention Account.</p>	SRules 2 2/21/2011	Kohl-Welles
SB 5821	<p>AN ACT Relating to public and private partnership in addressing adverse childhood experiences; amending RCW 70.190.040, 43.121.100, 43.215.146, 43.215.147, 13.40.462, 43.70.555, and 74.14A.060; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; a</p>	SHumServ/C orr 2/17/2011	Regala

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BILL / COMPANION	TITLE / NARRATIVE	STATUS / DATE	PRIMARY SPONSOR
SB 5823 f #	<p>Nongovernmental public-private partnership created to address adverse childhood experiences by funding local programs. Repeals Family Policy Council.</p> <p>AN ACT Relating to the disposition and collection of court income; amending RCW 3.62.020, 12.40.020, and 36.18.018; reenacting and amending RCW 3.62.060 and 36.18.020; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.</p> <p>Outlines fees collected by counties and the formula for disbursement to judicial stabilization trust account.</p>	SJudiciary 2/17/2011	Regala
SB 5826	<p>AN ACT Relating to the screening of prospective tenants; amending RCW 59.18.257; reenacting and amending RCW 59.18.030; adding a new section to chapter 59.18 RCW, creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.</p> <p>Residential landlords frequently use tenant screening reports in evaluating and selecting tenants for rental property. Tenant screening reports frequently contain misleading, incomplete, or inaccurate information about prospective tenant. Legislation outlines standards for tenant screening reports and how these can be utilized by landlords.</p>	SFI/Hous/Ins 2/17/2011	Kohl-Weltes
SB 5828 f	<p>AN ACT Relating to preventing illegal immigrants from qualifying as resident students for purposes of in-state tuition and financial aid; and amending RCW 28B.15.012.</p> <p>Sec. 1 (e) repeals ability of eligible high school student to attend higher education with commitment to pursue U.S. citizenship when appropriate.</p>	SHighEd&W orkDe 2/17/2011	Benton

Legal Equality

**WASHINGTON STATE
WOMEN JUDICIAL OFFICERS
2011**

COURT LEVEL	WOMEN	TOTAL *	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Supreme Court	4	9	44%
Court of Appeals	11	22	50%
Superior Court	67	188	36%
District and Municipal Court	35 28	211	30%
TOTAL JUDGES	150	430	35%

WOMEN COMPRISE 35% OF THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON STATE.

*These counts reflect names provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts for the *Washington Court Directory*. (Vacant positions are not included.) Only judges are counted since not all court commissioners are listed in the directory. District and municipal court judges are totaled as one group since some district court judges also serve in municipal courts. If a judge serves in both district and municipal court, they are counted in the district court total and *not* in the municipal court total.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES (4 of 9)

Barbara A. Madsen
Susan J. Owens
Mary E. Fairhurst
Debra L. Stephens

COURT OF APPEALS (11 of 22 Judges)

Judges

Commissioner (4)

DIVISION I

Mary Kay Becker
Anne L. Ellington
Linda Lau
Ann Schindler

Mary Neel

DIVISION II

J. Robin Hunt
Jill Johanson
Christine Quinn-Brinrnall
Marywave Van Deren
Lisa Worswick

Ernetta Skerlec

DIVISION III

Teresa Kulik
Laurel H. Siddoway

Joyce J. McCown
Monica Wasson

County	Superior Court Judge	Commissioner	District Court Judge	Municipal Court Judge	Commissioner or Magistrate
1 Adams			Adalia A. Hille		
2 Asotin/ Columbia/ Garfield					
3 Benton/ Franklin	Carrie L. Runge	Lonna K. Malone Jerri Potts	Katharine A. Butler	Mary Berndt Ramirez	
4 Chelan/ Douglas	Lesley A. Allan	Judith McCauley Jill R. Wise	Nancy A. Harmon Alicia H. Nakata Judith McCauley		
5 Clallam County					
6 Clark	Barbara D. Johnson Diane M. Woolard	Carin Schienberg	Sonya Lansdorf Kelli Osler	Sonya Lansdorf Kelli Osler	Kristen Parcher (C)
7 Cowlitz		Ann Mottet Lisa Tabbutt			
8 Ferry/ Stevens/ Pend Oreille	Rebecca M. Baker		Gina A. Treit		
9 Grant County		Melissa Chiarson	Janis Whitener-Moberg	Janis Whitener-Moberg	
10 Grays Harbor					
11 Island/ San Juan	Vickie I. Churchill				Linda B. Kipling D (C)
12 Jefferson		Peggy Ann Bierbaum	Jill I. Landes		
13 King	Beth Andrus Sharon S. Armstrong Suzanne M. Barnett Monica J. Benton Regina Cahan Cheryl Carey Patricia (Hall) Clark Susan Craighead Andrea Darvas Theresa B. Doyle Joan DuBuque Deborah Fleck Helen L. Halpert Hollis R. Hill Laura Inveen Paris Kallas Barbara Mack Laura Gene Middaugh Kimberly D. Prochnau Jean Rietschel Mary E. Roberts Palmer Robinson Carol A. Shapira Catherine Shaffer Mariane C. Spearman Julie Spector Mary Yu	Nancy Bradburn-Johnson Bonnie Canada-Thurston Elizabeth Castilleja Julia Garratt Hollis Holman Jacqueline Jeske Meg Sassaman Lori Kay Smith	Marcine S. Anderson Janet E. Garrow Corinna D. Harn Anne C. Harper Linda K. Jacke Eileen A. Kato Barbara L. Linde Susan Mahoney Vicki M. Seitz Elizabeth D Stephenson Donna Tucker	Veronica Alicea-Galvan Elizabeth M. Bejarano Karen Donohue Michelle K. Gehlsen Judith Hightower C. Kimi Kondo Linda S. Portnoy Rebecca C. Robertson Kimberley A. Walden	Lisa Leone (M) Susan Noonan (C) Shirley Wilson, M (M)

County	Superior Court Judge	Commissioner	District Court Judge	Municipal Court Judge	Commissioner or Magistrate
21	Kitsap Jeanette Dalton M. Karlynn Haberly Anna M. Laurie Leila Mills Sally F. Olsen	Paula Crane	Marilyn G. Paja	Kathryn Carruthers Tairrell Decker	Cindy K. Smith (C)
22	Kittitas				
23	Klickitat				
24	Lewis	Tracy Loiacono Mitchell			Wendy Tripp (C)
25	Lincoln				
26	Mason Amber Finlay Toni A. Sheldon	Lynn K. Hayes Patricia L. Morgan	Victoria Meadows		
27	Okanogan				
28	Pacific/ Wahkiakum	Nancy McAllister Heidi Heywood	Elizabeth Penoyar	Elizabeth Penoyar	
29	Pierce	Mary E. Dicke Meagan M. Foley Robyn Lindsay Diana Lynn Kiesel Wendy Zicht	Karla Buttorff Judy Rae Jasprica Margaret Vail Ross Claire Sussman	Sandra L. Allen Marjorie Tedrick Elizabeth Verhey	
30	Pierce	Stephanie A. Arend Rosanne Buckner Beverly Grant Vicki L. Hogan Linda C.J Lee Elizabeth P. Martin Kathryn J. Nelson Susan K. Serko Katherine M. Stolz Kitty-Ann van Doorninck			
31	Skagit	Susan K. Cook			Dianne E. Goddard (C)
32	Skamania				Karen S. Wyringer (C)
33	Snohomish	Ellen J. Fair Anita L. Farris Linda C. Krese	Jacalyn D. Brudvik Susan Gaer Tracy G. Waggoner	Tam T. Bui Patricia Lyon Carol A. McRae	Lorrie Towers
34	Spokane	Ellen Kalama Clark Tari S. Eitzen Maryann C. Moreno Kathleen M. O'Connor Annette S. Plese Linda G. Tompkins	Rachelle Anderson Valerie Jolicoeur Michelle L. Ressa	Patti Connolly Walker Sara Derr Debra R. Hayes Donna Wilson	Sara Derr Mary C. Logan Tracy A. Staab Michelle Szambelan Jennifer Fassbender
35	Thurston	Paula Casey Ann Hirsch Carol Murphy Christine A. Pomeroy Lisa Sutton	Lynn K. Hayes Christine Schaller Indu Thomas	Kato Wilcox	
36	Walla Walla				
37	Whatcom	Martha V. Gross			Kristen Hedine Debra Lev
38	Whitman				Marilynn Markley Marilynn Markley (C)
39	Yakima	Susan L. Hahn Ruth Reukauf	Gayle Harthcock Lani-Kai Swanhart	Susan C. Arb Kathleen Hitchcock Debbie Mendoza Kelley Olwell Susan J. Woodard	

Presidential Proclamation--Women's History Month, 2011

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2011

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

During Women's History Month, we reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the course of our Nation's history. Today, women have reached heights their mothers and grandmothers might only have imagined. Women now comprise nearly half of our workforce and the majority of students in our colleges and universities. They scale the skies as astronauts, expand our economy as entrepreneurs and business leaders, and serve our country at the highest levels of government and our Armed Forces. In honor of the pioneering women who came before us, and in recognition of those who will come after us, this month, we recommit to erasing the remaining inequities facing women in our day.

This year, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future. International Women's Day is a chance to pay tribute to ordinary women throughout the world and is rooted in women's centuries-old struggle to participate in society on an equal footing with men. This day reminds us that, while enormous progress has been made, there is still work to be done before women achieve true parity.

My Administration has elevated the rights of women and girls abroad as a critical aspect of our foreign and national security policy. Empowering women across the globe is not simply the right thing to do, it is also smart foreign policy. This knowledge is reflected in the National Security Strategy of the United States, which recognizes that countries are more peaceful and prosperous when their female citizens enjoy equal rights, equal voices, and equal opportunities.

Today, we are integrating a focus on women and girls in all our diplomatic efforts, and incorporating gender considerations in every aspect of our development assistance. We are working to build the participation of women into all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution, and we are continuing to lead in combating the scourge of conflict related sexual violence, both bilaterally and at the United Nations.

In America, we must lead by example in protecting women's rights and supporting their empowerment. Despite our progress, too many women continue to be paid less than male workers, and women are significantly underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. By tapping into the potential and talents of all our citizens, we can utilize an enormous source of economic growth and prosperity. The White House Council on Women and Girls has continued to remove obstacles to achievement by addressing the rate of violence against women, supporting female entrepreneurs, and prioritizing the economic security of women. American families depend largely on the financial stability of women, and my Administration continues to prioritize policies that promote workplace flexibility, access to affordable, quality health care and child care, support for family caregivers, and the enforcement of equal pay laws. I have called on every agency in the Federal Government to be part of the solution to ending violence against women, and they have responded with unprecedented cooperation to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence and enable survivors to break the cycle of abuse.

As we reflect on the triumphs of the past, we must also look to the limitless potential that lies ahead. To win the future, we must equip the young women of today with the knowledge, skills, and equal access to reach for the promise of tomorrow. My Administration is making unprecedented investments in education and is working to expand opportunities for women and girls in the STEM fields critical for growth in the 21st century economy.

As we prepare to write the next chapter of women's history, let us resolve to build on the progress won by the trailblazers of the past. We must carry forward the work of the women who came before us and ensure our daughters have no limits on their dreams, no obstacles to their achievements, and no remaining ceilings to shatter.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2011 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2011 with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the history, accomplishments, and contributions of American women. I also invite all Americans to visit www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov to learn more about the generations of women who have shaped our history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

March is National Women's History Month

March Highlights in U.S. Women's History

- March 1, 1978 - Women's History Week is first observed in Sonoma County , California
- March 1, 1987 - A Congressional resolution designating March as Women's History Month is passed
- March 4, 1917 - Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) took her seat as the first female member of Congress
- March 8 - International Women's Day; its origins trace back to protests in US and Europe to honor and fight for the political rights for working women
- March 11, 1993 - Janet Reno is confirmed as the first woman U.S. Attorney General
- March 12, 1912 - Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls together in Savannah , Georgia for the first-ever Girl Scout meeting
- March 13, 1986 - Susan Butcher won the first of 3 straight and 4 total Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in Alaska
- March 17, 1910 - Camp Fire Girls is established as the first American interracial, non-sectarian organization for girls
- March 20, 1852 - Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is published and becomes the best-selling book of the 19 th century
- March 21, 1986 - Debi Thomas becomes first African American woman to win the World Figure Skating Championship
- March 23, 1917 - Virginia Woolf establishes the Hogarth Press with her husband, Leonard Woolf
- March 31, 1888 - The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, among others; it is the oldest non-sectarian women's organization in U.S.
- March 31, 1776 - Abigail Adams writes to her husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence: "Remember the ladies..."

March Birthdays

- March 3, 1962 - Jackie Joyner-Kersey, considered the world's greatest female athlete; holds the record in the long jump (1988) and the heptathlon (1986); winner of 3 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze medals in 4 Olympic games
- March 5, 1931 - Geraldyn (Jerrie) Cobb, record-setting aviator; first woman to pass qualifying exams for astronaut training, in 1959, but not allowed to train because of her gender
- March 7, 1938 - Janet Guthrie, pioneering woman auto racer; first woman to compete in Indianapolis 500 (1977) and Daytona 500 (1977)
- March 9, 1928 (1987) - Graciela Olivarez, Chicana activist; first woman and Latina law graduate from Notre Dame Law School; one of first two women on the board of Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)
- March 15, 1933 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg, second female U.S. Supreme Court justice (1993)
- March 18, 1964 - Bonnie Blair, speed skater; one of the most successful Winter Olympian in U.S. history and 5 time gold medalist
- March 23, 1857 (1915) - Fannie Farmer, authored famous cookbook, "The Boston Cooking-School Cookbook", and included specific ingredient measurements for the first time which would become standardized cooking measurements
- March 23, 1924 (1980) - Bette Nesmith Graham, invented Liquid Paper correction fluid which became an office staple; created 2 foundations to support women's business and art
- March 24, 1826 (1898) - Matilda Joselyn Gage, suffragist, women's rights and Native American rights activist, historian, founding member of the National Woman Suffrage Association
- March 24, 1912 (2010) - Dorothy Height, served over 40 years as President of the National Council of Negro Women
- March 25, 1934 - Gloria Steinem, women's rights activist and journalist; founding editor of Ms. Magazine; helped found National Women's Political Caucus, the Women's Action Alliance, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women
- March 26, 1930 - Sandra Day O'Connor, first woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1981)
- March 27, 1924 (1990) - Sarah Vaughan, world renown jazz singer and pianist known as the "Divine One"
- March 31, 1889 (1975) - Muriel Wright, Choctaw Indian, teacher, historian, author, and editor

US Supreme Court hears from few female lawyers

By JESSICA GRESKO - Associated Press

POSTED: Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011

WASHINGTON Last year Lisa Blatt listed the top lessons she's learned in more than a decade as a lawyer arguing before the Supreme Court. Never let the justices see you sweat, facts matter and timing is everything. Then she wrote this: Women have a harder time than men successfully arguing before the court.

She should know. No living woman has argued before the nation's highest court more times than Blatt, who made her 30th appearance Wednesday in a case about drug prices.

"Each argument is a big deal," said Blatt, a Texas native who learned to argue as a high school debater.

Blatt said she believes women have the ability to argue as well as men, but they seem less likely to crave the verbal jousting required in the court.

While the high court now has three women on its nine-member bench - the most ever - the justices are still more than five times more likely to hear an argument from a male attorney than from a woman, an Associated Press review shows.

Prominent female lawyers agree that career paths leading to nation's highest court are equally available to women, but women aren't well represented on those tracks. Lawyers who appear before the high court often have resumes that include Supreme Court clerkships or jobs in the federal government's bullpen of top lawyers. But in both those areas, women are outnumbered by their male counterparts.

Women make up a little more than half of the legal profession overall, including paralegals and other support staff, though men are twice as likely to be practicing attorneys or judges, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"One of the things I'm most concerned about is women self-select out of the types of things that lead to appellate Supreme Court careers," said Patricia Millett, one of a handful of women who routinely argues before the bench. Her 28 arguments put her just behind Blatt.

The fact that women give only about 15 percent of arguments before the high court has led even justices to speculate about why. Speaking at Georgetown University last year, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg suggested the shortage of women hired as Supreme Court clerks is one reason for the gender disparity among lawyers practicing before the court.

Working behind the scenes for the justices provides valuable experience for those who hope to return one day as litigators. Since the 1990s, however, women have taken up about a third of

the clerk positions, a trend that continued this year. Justices Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan hired half of the 12 current female clerks.

Retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, meanwhile, has suggested that the shortage of women in a key Justice Department office affects the number of women who argue at the court. The solicitor general's office, which is charged with representing the federal government in Supreme Court cases, has six female attorneys out of a total of about 20 lawyers. Unlike attorneys in private practice, lawyers in the solicitor general's office routinely argue multiple times a year, so women in its office are frequently before the court.

Speaking last year during a forum at Washington's Newseum, O'Connor confronted Kagan, then the solicitor general, about the relative scarcity of women in her office.

"So what are we doing about it?" O'Connor asked Kagan.

"We're trying to get some more," Kagan said.

The office didn't hire its first female attorney until 1972, when Harriet Shapiro joined. Shapiro said the experience attorneys gain arguing for the government can also help start a career doing the same in private practice, an area that until recently was male-dominated. But Shapiro herself admitted she never really liked giving oral arguments. Before she appeared for the first time she dreamed her argument had turned into a baking contest, a switch she said made her very relieved. When it was over, she celebrated by bringing her office a cake.

Shapiro, who's now retired, predicts women will someday appear in equal numbers before the court, but other women lawyers weren't as certain.

Millett, a mother of two, and other female lawyers said family reasons can compel women to choose career paths that are less demanding than becoming a Supreme Court advocate.

Maureen Mahoney, who has argued 21 times before the court and is also a mother, said that until family demands fall more equally on men and women she doesn't believe women will argue in equal numbers.

The first woman applied to argue before the Supreme Court in 1876, but the justices voted 6-3 against admitting her or any other female lawyer. Three years later, at the urging of the rejected lawyer, Belva Lockwood, Congress passed a law forcing the court to accept women as advocates. Still, female lawyers remained curiosities at the court into the 1970s.

One exception was Beatrice Rosenberg, a Justice Department lawyer who argued more than 30 cases in the 1950s and 60s. Until Wednesday, Rosenberg was the only woman with 30 arguments before the court, though a handful of men have argued twice that many.

The women who are Rosenberg's successors still play a valuable role at the court. Groups of students frequently visit for arguments, and it's especially important for them to see diversity before the bench, said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Beth Brinkmann, who has made 24 arguments before the court.

"I do think it's wonderful when school groups come and young men or women see perhaps a role model in some small way arguing that day before the court," said Brinkmann, who added that girls have stopped her in the cafeteria after watching her argue to ask why she chose to become a lawyer.

Having a larger group of women arguing also makes it less noteworthy when one stands before the court, said New York Solicitor General Barbara Underwood, the fourth woman ever hired as a Supreme Court clerk and a veteran of 19 arguments. The more a lawyer blends in, the more the lawyer's argument stands out, she said.

"As a general matter it becomes easier to perform," she said, "when you're not a token and a representative of all womankind but are simply a lawyer who is a woman."

Supreme Court action expands access to justice | Judge Steven Gonzalez and Reagan Dunn

Feb 27 2011, 2:21 PM

By Steven Gonzalez and Reagan Dunn,

In December 2010, the Washington Supreme Court adopted a landmark rule that ensures all people have access to the justice system regardless of their ability to pay court fees necessary to obtain judicial relief. We applaud the action of the court and call on all courts to make it easier for people to access justice.

General Rule 34 establishes standards and procedures for obtaining fee waivers that have previously varied between counties and even different judges within a county. These local fees and surcharges force low-income people to either pay from scarce resources used for basic needs or forego judicial relief.

Before GR 34, a woman trying to flee a severely abusive husband, whose only income is \$586 in temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), could face the following situation: Before she could begin her divorce case against her abuser she would be required to pay a \$20 courthouse facilitator fee in some counties. Then filing initial court papers would entail another \$280 fee. These fees are a serious hardship and could be the difference between safety and staying with an abusive spouse.

Many of these situations never come to our attention because low-income people turn away before they get to the courthouse. They have heard that the fees and surcharges required are beyond their ability to pay and the availability of fee waivers is not well explained or communicated. This is an issue requiring much needed attention, especially during these difficult economic times.

GR 34 makes our courts available to everyone regardless of their ability to pay - or their geographic location - by requiring that every county have a provision for waiving fees on a statewide form designed by the court. By standardizing the rules across counties, we make it easier for people to understand how to access the system.

GR 34 covers initial filing fees, family court facilitator surcharges, family court service charges, domestic violence prevention surcharges, ex parte fees and other fees that are a condition of securing judicial relief. The standards applied by the court allow people who have been screened for eligibility by a legal aid program to qualify for fee waivers by the filing of a declaration by their legal aid attorney.

People on other means-tested assistance programs, such as TANF or food stamps, will also receive waivers.

While fee waivers for people who cannot pay may seem like an easy decision, the landmark nature of the Supreme Court's rule cannot be understated. Universal access to judicial relief is a fundamental principle of our legal system and a core responsibility of our government. If justice is only available for the wealthy, there is no justice.

For too long this state has been without uniform, statewide standards and procedures. We applaud the Supreme Court justices for their unanimous action to expand access to justice in Washington State.

Steven Gonzalez is a King County Superior Court Judge and chair of the Washington State Access to Justice Board. Reagan Dunn is a King County Council member and member of the Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee.

American Judicature Society
Promoting the effective administration of justice

Diversity of the Bench

Alabama	Supreme Court	Court of Criminal Appeals	Court of Civil Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	9	5	5	140
Women Judges	3	3	1	21
African American/Black Judges	0	0	0	12
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	0

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Alaska	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	5	3	40
Women Judges	2	0	7
African American/Black Judges	0	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	1

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Arizona	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	5	22	193
Women Judges	1	5	62
African American/Black Judges	0	1	2
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	1	7
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	1	2

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Arkansas			
	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	7	12	115
Women Judges	2	4	18
African American/Black Judges	0	1	12
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

California			
	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	7	102	1522
Women Judges	4	30	444
African American/Black Judges	0	3	81
Latino/Hispanic Judges	1	3	118
Native American Judges	0	0	5
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	2	3	81

Figures were derived from "Demographic Data on Race, Ethnicity, and Gender of California State Justices and Judges" (2010).

Colorado			
	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	7	22	157
Women Judges	3	4	40
African American/Black Judges	0	0	3
Latino/Hispanic Judges	2	1	10
Native American Judges	0	0	1
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Connecticut			
	Supreme Court	Appellate Court	Superior Court
Judgeships	7	9	278
Women Judges	1	2	58
African American/Black Judges	1	2	16
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	10
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Delaware

	Supreme Court	Court of Chancery	Superior Court
Judgeships	5	5	20
Women Judges	1	0	5
African American/Black Judges	0	0	2
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

District of Columbia

	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	9	62
Women Judges	6	29
African American/Black Judges	4	24
Latino/Hispanic Judges	1	3
Native American Judges	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	1

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Federal**Florida**

	Supreme Court	District Courts of Appeal	Circuit Court	County Court
Judgeships	7	60	576	310
Women Judges	2	12	155	111
African American/Black Judges	2	5	22	25
Latino/Hispanic Judges	1	5	29	15
Native American Judges	0	0	1	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	0

Figures were updated by AJS staff in September 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Georgia

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	7	12	205
Women Judges	1	4	42
African American/Black Judges	2	2	20
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures were updated by AJS staff in November 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Hawaii

	Supreme Court	Intermediate Court of Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	5	6	32
Women Judges	2	3	11
African American/Black Judges	0	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	3	3	22

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Idaho

	Supreme Court	Courts of Appeal	District Court
Judgeships	5	4	125
Women Judges	0	1	14
African American/Black Judges	0	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	1	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Illinois

	Supreme Court	Appellate Court	Circuit Court
Judgeships	7	54	893
Women Judges	3	18	244
African American/Black Judges	1	7	54
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	1	17
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	8

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Indiana

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court	Superior Court
Judgeships	5	15	107	206
Women Judges	0	5	17	42
African American/Black Judges	1	1	0	9
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	1	3
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0

Asian/Pacific Island Judges 0 0 0 1

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Iowa

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	7	9	187
Women Judges	0	5	44
African American/Black Judges	0	0	4
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	1	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Kansas

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	7	13	233
Women Judges	3	3	37
African American/Black Judges	0	1	3
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	4
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	1

Figures are based on information provided by the League of Women Voters in October 2009. Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Kentucky

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	7	14	129
Women Judges	2	6	38
African American/Black Judges	0	1	1
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Louisiana

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	7	49	203
Women Judges	3	10	44
African American/Black Judges	1	12	43
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0

Asian/Pacific Island Judges 0 0 0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Maine

	Supreme Judicial Court	Superior Court
Judgeships	7	17
Women Judges	2	2
African American/Black Judges	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Maryland

	Court of Appeals	Court of Special Appeals	Circuit Court	District Court
Judgeships	7	13	145	106
Women Judges	3	3	45	34
African American/Black Judges	2	2	34	17
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	2	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	2

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Massachusetts

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	7	25	78
Women Judges	3	8	28
African American/Black Judges	1	1	6
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	1	2
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	1	1	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Michigan

	Supreme Court	Courts of Appeal	Circuit Court
Judgeships	7	28	221
Women Judges	3	8	57
African American/Black Judges	1	3	33
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	2
Native American Judges	0	0	0

Asian/Pacific Island Judges 0 0 0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Minnesota

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	7	19	280
Women Judges	2	9	83
African American/Black Judges	1	4	9
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	1
Native American Judges	0	0	1
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	3

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Mississippi

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Chancery Court	Circuit Court
Judgeships	9	10	45	53
Women Judges	1	2	12	8
African American/Black Judges	1	2	8	8
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Missouri

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	7	32	319
Women Judges	3	9	57
African American/Black Judges	0	4	21
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	2
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	1	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Montana

	Supreme Court	District Court
Judgeships	7	43
Women Judges	2	10
African American/Black Judges	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0

Asian/Pacific Island Judges 0 0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Nebraska

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	7	6	55
Women Judges	1	1	9
African American/Black Judges	0	0	1
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Nevada

	Supreme Court	District Court
Judgeships	7	72
Women Judges	2	26
African American/Black Judges	1	1
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	2
Native American Judges	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	1

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

New Hampshire

	Supreme Court	Superior Court
Judgeships	5	19
Women Judges	2	4
African American/Black Judges	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

New Jersey

	Supreme Court	Appellate Division, Superior Court	Superior Court
Judgeships	7	35	393
Women Judges	3	18	92
African American/Black Judges	0	2	33
Latino/Hispanic Judges	1	3	17
Native American Judges	0	0	0

Asian/Pacific Island Judges 0 0 1
 Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

New Mexico

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	5	10	86
Women Judges	1	3	20
African American/Black Judges	0	0	2
Latino/Hispanic Judges	3	4	9
Native American Judges	0	0	1
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

New York

	Court of Appeals	Appellate Division, Supreme Court	Supreme Court	Trial Courts
Judgeships	7	65	313	313
Women Judges	3	20	83	83
African American/Black Judges	1	7	49	5
Latino/Hispanic Judges	1	3	21	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	2	3	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

North Carolina

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	7	15	133
Women Judges	4	8	10
African American/Black Judges	1	3	14
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	1
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

North Dakota

	Supreme Court	District Court
Judgeships	5	44
Women Judges	2	7
African American/Black Judges	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0

Native American Judges	0	1
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Ohio

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Court of Common Pleas
Judgeships	7	69	387
Women Judges	4	28	89
African American/Black Judges	1	5	12
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	1
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Oklahoma

	Supreme Court	Court of Criminal Appeals	Court of Civil Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	9	5	12	239
Women Judges	1	1	1	46
African American/Black Judges	1	1	1	5
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0	0
Native American Judges	1	0	0	1
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Oregon

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court	Tax Court
Judgeships	7	10	173	1
Women Judges	2	2	54	0
African American/Black Judges	0	0	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Pennsylvania

	Supreme Court	Superior Court	Commonwealth Court	Court of Common Pleas
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Judgeships	7	15	7	409
Women Judges	2	9	4	104
African American/Black Judges	0	1	2	33
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0	2
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Rhode Island

	Supreme Court	Superior Court
Judgeships	5	22
Women Judges	1	7
African American/Black Judges	0	2
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

South Carolina

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	5	9	46
Women Judges	2	2	4
African American/Black Judges	1	1	4
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

South Dakota

	Supreme Court	Circuit Court
Judgeships	5	38
Women Judges	1	7
African American/Black Judges	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary*, 20th ed (2010).

Tennessee

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Court of Criminal	Trial Courts
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			Appeals	
Judgeships	5	12	12	154
Women Judges	3	2	2	23
African American/Black Judges	0	2	2	8
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Texas

	Supreme Court	Court of Criminal Appeals	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	9	9	80	453
Women Judges	2	4	32	118
African American/Black Judges	2	0	2	13
Latino/Hispanic Judges	2	0	9	72
Native American Judges	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	1	4

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Utah

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	District Court
Judgeships	5	7	69
Women Judges	2	2	11
African American/Black Judges	0	0	1
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	2
Native American Judges	0	1	1
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	4

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Vermont

	Supreme Court	Superior Court	District Court
Judgeships	5	12	17
Women Judges	2	2	5
African American/Black Judges	0	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Virginia

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	7	11	148
Women Judges	1	2	20
African American/Black Judges	2	2	16
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Washington

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court
Judgeships	9	22	182
Women Judges	4	11	59
African American/Black Judges	0	2	1
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	1
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	1	4

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

West Virginia

	Supreme Court	Circuit Court
Judgeships	5	68
Women Judges	2	7
African American/Black Judges	0	2
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Wisconsin

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Circuit Court
Judgeships	7	16	237
Women Judges	4	5	37
African American/Black Judges	0	1	6
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	5
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	1

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Wyoming

	Supreme Court	District Court	Circuit Court
Judgeships	5	21	24
Women Judges	1	1	5
African American/Black Judges	0	0	0
Latino/Hispanic Judges	0	0	0
Native American Judges	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Judges	0	0	0

Figures for appellate courts were updated by AJS staff in October 2009. Race/ethnicity figures for trial courts were derived from the American Bar Association's *Directory of Minority Judges of the United States*, 4th ed. (2008). Gender figures for trial courts were derived from The American Bench's "Judges of the Nation Gender Ratio Summary," 20th ed (2010).

Domestic Violence

Reducing domestic violence killings requires multifaceted approach, report says

Mark Archbold, Staff Writer

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When it comes to ending deaths from domestic violence, a 13-year review of many of those cases statewide concludes that everyone, not just police and courts, has a role to play.

“One of the key things we learned is that we can’t rely any one system alone,” said Kelly Starr, spokeswoman for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which coordinated the fatality reviews. “We all have a role to play.”

“In almost every case,” she said Wednesday, “someone knew about the abuse ... a family member, a co-worker, a neighbor. They wanted to help, but they didn’t know what to do.”

Educating everyone – police, prosecutors, courts, schools, churches, employers, neighborhoods – about domestic violence is important, she said.

Since 1997, when the coalition began tracking and reviewing domestic violence homicides, 566 men, women and children have been killed statewide by their abusers. Some 160 abusers have committed suicide.

In Pierce County during that period, 103 people were killed; there were 30 suicides by abusers.

The coalition’s report, released Wednesday, summarized lessons learned from reviewing 135 domestic violence-related homicides over the past 13 years. It used local review panels, including one from Pierce County, made up of representatives from all segments of communities to gather and review cases.

The report found “failure at every point in the criminal-legal system, from the 911 calls to the police response, prosecutors, sentencing and probation.”

While there were examples of excellent responses by police, prosecutors and courts, they were “not (the) consistent practice,” according to the coalition.

Founded in 1990 by survivors and their allies, the coalition is a nonprofit network of more than 65 domestic violence programs. Member agencies in Pierce County are the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center, the Korean Women’s Association and the YWCA Pierce County.

The coalition advocates for survivors, conducts research, and supports domestic violence agencies and public policy.

Its report outlines 11 goals to improve response to domestic violence – from education and culturally relevant services for immigrant and minority communities to improving how family courts address victim and child safety in divorce to providing affordable housing options for victims.

“We have learned so much from those who have lost their lives,” said Nan Stoops, executive director of the coalition. “Now we must turn that knowledge into action.”

Starr pointed out that victims in 31 percent of studied cases were under 21 when they started dating an abuser. Research indicated schools do not provide adequate education to address dating violence or to help students understand what a healthy relationship is like.

By looking at cases in depth, the reviews point out when and where intervention could have saved a life, said Karin Tautfest, director of shelter and advocacy programs for YWCA Pierce County.

“Pierce County does has done a good job expanding awareness and education of domestic violence and the opportunities” for people in general to be part of the solution, she said. But “more needs to be done.”

Mike Archbold: 253-597-8692
mike.archbold@thenewstribune.com

Read more: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/01/06/1490822/no-one-fix-for-dv-deaths.html#ixzz1D2M6Me6C>

Tacoma woman denied protection order found murdered

January 24, 2011 at 6:11 PM

TACOMA, Wash. – Friends of a woman stabbed to death over the weekend say the system failed after her request for a protection order against her ex-boyfriend was denied. Now, that man is charged with her murder.

Georgia Gunzer, 33, was stabbed to death late Friday night in her apartment. She wasn't alone. There were five girls, age 10, there for a slumber party. The girls found Gunzer's body Saturday morning.

"(Georgia's daughter) screamed and all the little girls came running into the room," said friend Rachel Riddley. "My daughter's been crying all weekend since it happened," said another parent.

Friends say Gunzer knew her ex-boyfriend and father of her child, Alphonso Bell, was about to get out of prison. She told friends that he hit her and threatened her. That's why she had requested the protection order.

Gunzer worked at Sound Family Medicine and her fear of Bell was no secret to co-workers. "She was very much afraid of this man. He had hurt her before. He was harassing her before he got out of jail. But, yet, he was the father of her daughter," said co-worker Cynde Marckmann.

Friends say the restraining order, although just a piece of paper, could have given her some legal protection.

"I think the system failed her and I think the system is broken," said Marckmann.

Police say Gunzer brought Bell back to her house on Friday night. Gunzer's friends say that without the protection order, she felt she had to be nice to Bell, which might explain why they were together.

Bell's friends say Gunzer came to visit Bell in prison and they had talked about reconciling.

Bell pleaded not guilty. He is being held on \$2 million bail.

There has been no response yet from the judge who denied Gunzer's protection order.

Violence Against Native American Women, Once Ignored by the Feds, Gets a New Look

By Nina Shapiro, Thu., Jan. 27 2011

Federal interference in tribal affairs is a tricky business. On one hand, the feds risk overreaching. Hence, this week's decision by a U.S. District Court judge to dismiss cases concerning a nasty Snoqualmie Tribe feud. On the other hand, federal neglect can have dangerous consequences. Such has been the case when it comes to the prosecution of rape and domestic-violence cases in Indian country, says Theresa Pouley, chief judge of Tulalip Tribal Court.

Pouley, a Colville tribal member, is one of two Washingtonians appointed to a new federal task force that aims to step up the prosecution of cases involving violence against Native American women. U.S. Assistant Attorney Susan Roe is also serving on the task force, announced on Friday by the Department of Justice.

The statistics are bleak. A 2005 Congressional report found that one in three Native American women were raped during their lifetimes, and tribal women suffered domestic violence at three times the rate that Caucasians did.

The feds have the authority to prosecute assaults and other so-called "major crimes" on Indian reservations. Yet they have largely left it to tribal authorities to handle such cases, despite the fact that the law hampers the ability of Indian courts to bring perpetrators to justice. Tribal courts can only prosecute Native Americans--often not the assailants in cases involving violence against Indian women, according to Pouley.

And even when they have jurisdiction, tribal courts face limited sentencing powers. "No matter what the crime--[for example] if an Indian woman is killed on a reservation--the maximum penalty I can impose is three years," Pouley says. (It was only one year before alaw this past summer somewhat expanded tribal authority.)

She says the task force indicates the Obama administration's willingness to take rape and domestic violence against Indian women seriously. The new group will come up with a plan for how federal and tribal law enforcement can work together.

In an ideal world, many Native Americans would probably rather that tribal cops and courts took care of these cases themselves, Pouley concedes. But since that's impossible given current laws, Pouley says she for one wants the feds to come on in.

Domestic violence is in the news; so is more victim-blaming

In the wake of Georgia Gunzer's killing last month, it is human nature to want to understand "why."

We should ask questions about how to stop this kind of violence. But we should not blame her, as some have done, for past visits she had made to the man accused of abusing and killing her.

When anyone is murdered, the fault lies with the murderer. In this case, the question is not whether she was really afraid or why she saw him. We will never know all the facts in this situation.

It's hard to ask for help, running the risk that you won't be believed or, worse, that the whole process will give the abuser more power.

Gunzer did not break the law. It is possible to become afraid over time. Unless one is omniscient, there is no way to know what goes on in someone else's head. The real question is, "Why did he do that?"

People in abusive relationships may experience multiple, interwoven emotions and rationalizations. A pattern of control and coercion develops over time, as does a simultaneous pattern of systematic destruction of the victim's self-esteem and self-determination.

It is difficult and dangerous to break free for multiple reasons – economic dependency, emotional confusion and, most critically, fear. More than half of domestic violence homicide victims are killed while they are trying to leave or after they have left an abusive relationship.

DV victims don't just leave, they escape. It takes planning and risk. Sometimes placating the batterer – in order to get away safely – is part of that plan.

Leaving is the single most dangerous thing a victim can do. Batterers are all about power and control. They will do anything to control their victim. If their current tactic stops working, they increase the threat and the violence.

There is no possible way to deconstruct the complex dynamics of domestic violence in a two-minute sound bite or with armchair adjudication. Regardless of the circumstances, no one deserves to be brutally attacked; no one deserves the fate of the domestic violence victims who become fatalities. They are not just statistics but our neighbors, our co-workers, our fellow human beings.

We don't know all the factors that go into anyone else's decisions. Every time we blame the victim, we fail to make things better for others. Every time we hold the perpetrators accountable, we start stopping fatal violence.

It's important to think about the impact that victim-blaming statements have on those still being abused; it makes them feel hopeless and afraid. Think about how victim-blaming statements impact their children, parents and friends at the height of their grief. Think.

When Crystal Judson was shot in front of her children in 2003, we heard, "She should have done more to keep herself safe."

When Antigone Allen and her three children were burned to death in 2004, we heard, "She shouldn't have gotten in the car with him."

When Angela Harrison's five children were shot lying in their beds in 2009, rumors circulated that "she was cheating on him."

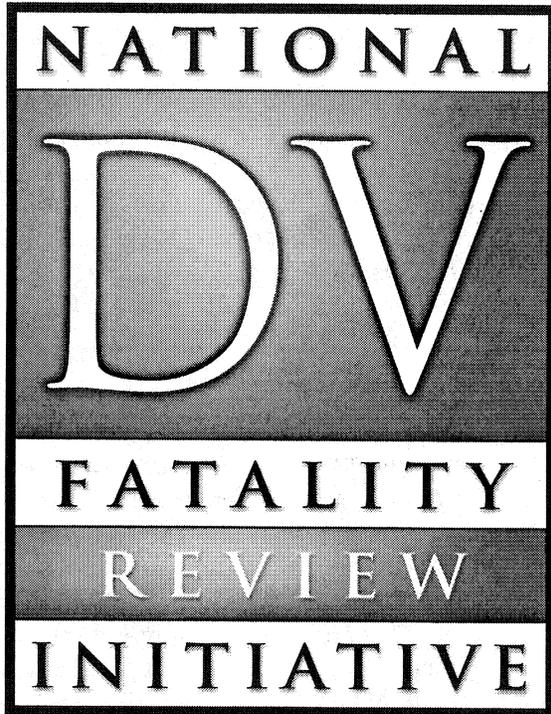
It is not the victim's fault. Did the system fail these women? Perhaps. Our systems have room for improvement. So does our society. We must focus on individual action to create a safe community; it's the only way to prevent these deaths.

Rather than rationalizing unthinkable violence, make a commitment to support safety by getting educated and involved. Call a local hotline, visit a website and share resources with others. Many programs with trained staff are available around the clock to share information, listen and support, and connect people with resources.

Let's talk with our children, friends and colleagues about what healthy relationships look like. Community groups can offer awareness and education. It's a community problem and needs a coordinated community solution. Otherwise, we can all blame ourselves. Karin White Tauffest is director of Shelter & Advocacy Services for YWCA Pierce County.

NDVFRI

National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative



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NDVFRI STAFF

Director
Dr. Neil Websdale
(928) 523-9205

Program Coordinator
Tim Schrader
(928) 523-2355

Editorial Staff
Kristin Braley
Dana Oden-Stiglitz

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Editor's Introduction

During 2010, NDVFRI staff provided on-site technical assistance in a number of states including Texas, Arkansas, North Dakota, Missouri, Maryland, Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Nevada. I contributed to the Family Violence Prevention Fund Workshop on Risk, held in San

Francisco in June 2010 and Matthew Dale presented a workshop on fatality review at the NOVA conference in Salt Lake City in August 2010. I also made presentations at the OVW New Grantee Orientation and the Aequitas domestic violence homicide training, both in Washington D.C. in December 2010

and at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges conference for new OVW grantees in Miami, also in December 2010. Matthew Dale and I took part in a short film on domestic violence fatality review (DVFR) produced by Motofilms and supported by OVW. The film focused on the Montana Fatality Review Commission.

NDVFRI hosted a successful national conference in Phoenix, Arizona in August 2010. Nearly 400 attendees experienced a mixture of keynote addresses, interactive panels, and mock review exercises. Presenters included Evan Stark, Jackie Campbell, David Adams, Connie Sponsler-Garcia, and OVW Director Judge Susan Carbon. The large attendance at the conference reflects a growing interest in fatality review. More than 40 states have developed fatality review initiatives. In more sparsely populated states such as Montana, New Mexico, Iowa, and Oklahoma, teams operate over the entire state, sometimes working with local communities where deaths occur. More populated states have larger numbers of teams. Florida now has 20 teams, New York at least 10, and California at least 20. In the space of 20 years, anywhere from 150-175 permanent teams have sprung up in communities all over this country.

These teams form part of that panoply of emerging coordinated community responses to domestic violence. The proliferation of teams in the US and their increasingly diverse membership expanded the formal and informal social networks enlisted to prevent domestic violence related killings. In the short space of 20 years (1990-2010), some review teams began to gather information from the relatives, co-workers, friends and neighbors of those who died or those who killed. Based on systematic research findings and anecdotal insights into the social networks of victims, some teams began to learn from pastors, school personnel, animal control officers, and others about the difficulties and compromises victims faced. Reaching into the everyday lives of citizens

and tapping into some of the capillaries of community organization reflected a growing recognition of the limitations of criminal justice intervention in these complex cases.

Most teams review intimate partner homicides involving the killing of wives and female partners. However, a few teams also examine other deaths such as female perpetrated killings; suicides; sexual competitor killings; deaths indirectly traceable to domestic violence such as those of homeless women, sex workers or prostitutes, drug-addicted women and those with HIV-AIDS; filicides; near deaths; contract killings; bystander deaths; and suspicious deaths, accidents, disappearances and others. Ideally, DVFR reconstructs the case through a close analysis of the lives of victims, perpetrators and others. Knowing about these lives involves bringing those people to the table that knew the parties, either in professional or non-professional capacities.

A potentially wide array of people typically become involved in fatality review work. These people include prosecutors, defense attorneys, shelter/domestic violence center staff, a broad range of advocates for victims, survivors of domestic violence, surviving family members of those killed, school personnel, medical examiners and public health workers, housing authority staff, members of faith communities, batterer intervention program staff, friends, neighbors and co-workers of victims/perpetrators, child protection workers, representatives from probation and parole services, mental health professionals, researchers, police, court personnel and so on. The information and insights produced by such networks are considerable.

Notwithstanding the importance of the information and insights generated through the fatality review process, it is also the case that this kind of teamwork entails considerable community work and democratic dialogue. Teams therefore contribute to and often reinvigorate community life, build community connections and encourage democratic discussions about how to provide for those in vulnerable situations.

Two important articles grace the pages of this edition of the NDVFRI Bulletin. Both contributions grew out of special foci at our national conference: battered women's suicides and the plight of immigrant battered women. The first article addresses battered women's suicide and suggests fatality review teams analyze these deaths. The author, Barbara Hart J.D., artfully combines academic research, the stories of battered women who took their own lives, and data on women's suicide gleaned from the criminal justice system. Barbara concludes with a set of practical recommendations for policy and practice. The second contribution, written by Dr. Yvonne Luna, explores the plight of battered immigrant women

and the ways of overcoming the barriers and obstacles they face. Yvonne suggests a number of improvements in the way we protect and serve immigrant battered women and also provides a useful list of additional resources.

We hope you will find these articles useful. If you have any interesting developments in your communities that you'd like to share, please email them to me at Neil.Websdale@nau.edu

Neil Websdale

Director, NDVFRI

Battered Women- Suicide

Barbara Hart

Battered Women - Suicide

Suicide and suicide attempts by battered women occur below the radar of most professionals working to end violence against women. Incidence data are sketchy. Risk markers are weak. Screening tools are nascent. Intervention strategies are vague. Evidence-based practice is non-existent. Even anecdotal wisdom is sparse.

Few battered women have shared their thinking and experience related to suicide. Whereas composites of the stories of battered women have guided practice and policy in the past, stories about the lived experience of battered women contemplating suicide have not often been volunteered by survivors or invited by the field.

This article first offers a brief overview of the knowledge gleaned from research and practice on suicide and suicide attempts by battered women. It captures several stories of battered women who died by suicide, concluding with recommendations for research

and practice to prevent suicide and suicide attempts by battered women.

Research-Generated Knowledge

Research on suicide or suicide attempts by battered women offers preliminary insight into the significant risk that intimate partner violence poses for suicide and attempted suicide by battered women. It also offers threshold information about the protective factors available to battered women that mediate against suicide attempts and the coping strategies employed by battered women to manage or escape the violence and potentially thereby averting suicide.

A meta-analysis of 40 studies of the mental health impact of domestic violence found that partner violence has a substantial effect on mental health, producing elevated rates of depression, suicide attempts, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder.¹

A clinical study of women seeking emergency department services at a large urban hospital in Sweden found that battered women were significantly more likely to attempt suicide than non-battered women.² Medical records of the battered women attempting

suicide and both a control and a comparison group were reviewed over a period of 16 years (10 years before the battering that brought them to the hospital and 6 years afterwards). Only suicide attempts resulting in inpatient care were examined. Upwards of one-fifth of the battered women in the sample attempted suicide (an attempt rate 8 times greater than in both the control group of non-battered women and the comparison group from a contemporaneous study of suicide-attempts). The majority of the battered women who attempted suicide did so 1-2 times. The reasons identified for the attempts included: conflict with a spouse/partner (33%) and separation from a spouse/partner (10%); however, none of the women indicated that violence or coercive controls occurred immediately before or precipitated the attempt. Most women attempted suicide between the ages of 30 - 39. The method used was overwhelmingly the consumption of drugs (89%). Fully 59% of the battered women attempting suicide were classified as addicted, alcoholic, or problem consumers of drugs or alcohol (a rate significantly higher than among battered women not attempting or completing suicide). However, only 27% of those making a single suicide attempt were problem consumers. Many of the battering partners were described as alcohol abusers. The findings generated were solely based on medical records; particulars of the experience of the sample were not captured in interviews. None of the study participants completed suicide during the study.

The study team observed that repeated battering and a lack of a social support network, often combined with drug and alcohol problems, provoke suicide attempts. Finally, they concluded that suicide attempts by battered women are methods of help-seeking and not intended to be fatal.

Research of the medical records and histories in the emergency service of a large hospital in Connecticut revealed that 20% of

battered women made multiple suicide attempts compared to 8% of non-battered women.³ In contrast to the study in Sweden, battered women attempting suicide were most likely to do so the same day as they went to the hospital for an abuse-related injury (36.5%). Thus, the single best predictor of possible suicide attempts by battered women was violence inflicted by their partners, particularly that which caused injury in proximity to the attempt. As well, within the six months prior to the suicide attempt, almost 30% of the battered women visited the hospital due to an abuse-related injury. Additionally, pregnancy was found to be a risk factor for attempted suicide for battered women; about 20% of battered women attempted suicide while pregnant, a rate 4 times greater than non-battered women. The implications of culture or race were also noted; half of the African American women attempting suicide had been battered, while less than 25% of the white women making attempts were battered. Marital status emerged as a potential risk marker for suicide attempts by battered women; 70% of those attempting suicide were single, divorced or separated.

A critical finding of this study was related to the response of medical personnel; battered women who attempted suicide were *less* likely than non-battered women attempting suicide to receive referrals of any kind for follow-up services. They were more likely to be sent home than offered voluntary in-patient mental health services. Researchers concluded that mental health workers considered suicide attempts by battered women to be transitory events, arising out of the abuse and the distress it causes rather than deriving from psychiatric illness, and thus not appropriate or susceptible to mental health interventions.

There is other evidence that separation and divorce may be risk markers for suicide and suicide attempts. A review of the suicide literature over the last 40 years suggests that separation from an intimate partner may be the context in which suicide and suicide attempts

primarily occur.⁴ Yet, the current research does not squarely address the immediate or acute phase of separation vs. the long-term separation or divorce; however, there is some evidence that more suicide-related behavior occurs during the first period of separation from an intimate partner.

Less investigated were risk markers of suicide attempts and completions based in entrapment (the real or perceived impossibility of safely leaving a relationship/ marriage), despair (feeling that there is no way out of the violence or abusive relationship other than death), or hopelessness (concluding that none of the advocacy, services, social supports, resources, or treatment options will put an end to the violence and emotional abuse). Research outside of the U.S. has identified these risk markers.⁵

A World Health Organization multinational study (10 countries) confirmed that women who are physically or sexually abused by their husbands or intimate partners were more likely to attempt or complete suicide.⁶ Women in these countries living in rural areas were more likely to suicide, seemingly based on lower levels of education, greater social isolation and limited access to healthcare. The difference in urban and rural rates (if any or under which circumstances) of attempted or completed suicide by battered women in the U.S. has yet to be investigated. The best source on completed suicides is *The National Death Reporting System* at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, now including multi-source data from 19 participating states.⁷ While not explicitly addressing intimate partner violence, the data are instructive. Females complete suicide at 1/3 the rate of men. Intimate partner *problems* (not necessarily violence) were cited as the precipitating event in 26.4% of female suicides. The suicide rates by race or ethnicity were highest among American Indians/Native Alaskans followed closely by non-Hispanic whites. The lowest rates of female suicides were among African Americans and Latinas.⁸

As to precipitating factors for women, the two most commonly referenced were crises in the 2 weeks preceding the suicide (30%) or intimate-partner *problems* (26.4%). Married persons were the most likely to complete suicides (38.7%). Women suiciding were most likely to use poisons (40.8%) and firearms (31.9%). Suicide is the 16th leading cause of death for women in the U.S.⁹ Beyond the research that has explored the demographics, context and precipitating events of suicide attempts in battered women, other investigations have looked at the coping strategies of battered women and the personal or circumstantial factors that may serve as protective buffers against suicide attempts or completion by battered women.

Research exploring the reasons that some low-income African American battered women attempt suicide and others do not was recently undertaken at an urban public hospital in the South.¹⁰ Given the backdrop of both higher rates of partner violence and homicide and the uncertainty of the prevalence of suicide for African American women, who are disproportionately poor, young, urban, single heads of households,¹¹ caring for more children and living with scarce economic resources and often dependent on the batterer,¹² this study examined the use and effectiveness of coping methods, both positive (e.g. help-seeking, adaptive living skills, ability to access and use material resources, viability and use of social support systems, as well as, efficacy in dealing with the partner violence) and negative (e.g. alcohol or drug use and abuse). There were two phases to the inquiry. The quantitative portion revealed that controls (battered women who were non-attempters) used higher levels of positive coping strategies and few maladaptive strategies as compared to battered women attempting suicide. Battered women who accommodated the demands of the abuser and approached problems from a stance of helplessness were at greater risk for suicide attempts. Those with good problem-solving skills, strong social supports and operating from a stance of greater empowerment were

less likely to attempt suicide.

The qualitative portion demonstrated that battered women participants who did not attempt suicide were more likely to engage in safety planning, self-preservation, or development of separation strategies to leave batterers. They spoke about expanding and utilizing new positive coping strategies. Attempters reported utilizing some positive coping strategies, particularly through engagement in therapy and nurturing their children. Both those attempting suicide and those who did not coped with partner violence through their religious beliefs and support system as well as community resources. The study team recommended that professionals working with battered women should assess their coping skills and provide opportunities to hone and upgrade positive coping skills in all battered women, and most especially with those who are at elevated risk of suicide.

Similar to the evaluation of coping strategies of battered women, a survey of women receiving health services investigated the role of protective factors (e.g. social support, education, employment, self-esteem, health and absence of economic hardship) in mitigating adverse mental health consequences to intimate partner abuse.¹³ The study revealed that protective factors provide a buffer against anxiety and depression for battered women. The more factors, the stronger the buffer and the greater the resilience. However, severely abused women were less likely to experience the mental health benefits apparently deriving from protective factors. Severe abuse seems to both block the power of protective factors and, over time, erode these buffers against depression and anxiety.

Knowledge from Stories of Suiciding Battered Women

In several states, Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) teams have begun to examine suicides by battered women. As

battered women are perhaps more likely to suicide than to be killed by their intimate partners, a number of the teams have determined that it is critical to review cases where battered women have killed themselves. It has not been easy to find cases to review, and it has been difficult to obtain information about the precipitating circumstances of these suicides. Nonetheless, the following stories of battered women who have completed suicides have been reviewed and offer important lessons for practitioners and policymakers.

"Laura." Laura, 52 years-old at the time of her death, left a note at the local domestic violence shelter several weeks before her suicide:

A Message from Laura...

When Memories of Abuse Return

It never really goes away. We hope, we deny, and sometimes we even move past it for a while. The memories often linger just under the surface; then, with a jolt of recognition, they're back as if they'd never left. Get over it, move on, and get past it. All so much easier said than done. Even when the abuser moves on to make a better life for himself, there's the residual damage to the victim. Many of those that have been abused cloak their fears with their own set of behavior issues. All in the name of denial that someone we love could create such a climate of fear...

Yes, we try to move on. Try to let go. But it rarely covers the many facets abuse entails. Perspective generally serves to un-cloud the issue, though it may not be as long lived as one

might hope. As with most things time can lessen the impact, but not always. What you might consider as past may come back and revisit until time and distance provide a chance to put it away again. It can be unwelcome and intrusive but there's always a chance we'll gain more insight and peace within ourselves as the days go by.

The domestic violence program had no contact with Laura after she left the note. In the investigation that followed her death, family and friends suggested that perhaps she did not commit suicide; instead they believed that her boyfriend might have killed her. There was no documented history of abuse by the boyfriend against the deceased. After an extensive investigation, the boyfriend was cleared.

Lessons to be considered from the story of Laura: 1. Symbolic gestures by battered women that at least partially contain messages of hopelessness, entrapment and despair should be seen as risk markers of suicide. 2. Domestic violence advocacy programs should engage in outreach, advocacy and social support with women to whom they provide service if it appears that they are at risk of suicide or homicide.

"Anne." Anne killed herself with a firearm she had purchased to protect herself and her child from her husband, from whom she was separated. She was a professional woman who was highly respected in the community. The newspaper article did not identify that she was a victim of partner violence or that she purchased the gun for protection. The privacy of the family was cited for giving no particulars about the events prior to the suicide.

Lessons to be applied from the story of Anne: 1. Gun possession by battered women

may be a risk marker for suicide; and, although not the facts in this story, gun possession either by a battered woman or her partner elevates the risk of femicide of the battered woman. 2. Professional women are battered and may be at risk for suicide.

"Nicole." Nicole was 34 years old at the time of her suicide. Early in her marriage to her severely battering and sexually abusive husband, he began a course of violence and sexual coercion that continued and escalated throughout the 12 years of the marriage. He threatened suicide and repeatedly threatened to kill her if she left him. In the beginning, he would force her to consume alcohol, and she began to drink to medicate against the fear and pain caused by the violence and threats. Nicole suffered emotional breakdowns periodically. He masturbated to pornography in the "family areas" of the home, and their baby daughter appeared to have been sexually molested by him. The batterer isolated Nicole and engaged in surveillance to keep her from contacting friends and family. He had affairs and accused her of the same. His accusations were without merit. He abused family pets. He threatened to kill her family members. He was arrested and charged with assault on Nicole and her brother. He was prosecuted for terroristic threats against a third party. He was also charged and convicted of numerous crimes related to possessing and selling methamphetamines, financial fraud, and many moving vehicle violations, including a hit and run. While in jail he had family and friends watch her and report back to him. From jail, he made many threatening calls and sent letters asserting his entitlement to her. She sought assistance from the local domestic violence program. They helped her with a civil protection order and a divorce. The husband continued to violate the order. The husband also violated bail conditions and sentencing directives with impunity. Nicole was told by her husband's probation officer that he was a drug informant, so the criminal legal system was not going

enforce the law or court orders against him. She moved in with her parents, living with them for the last year of her life. She discontinued advocacy services with the domestic violence program. The husband threatened to take custody of their children when he got out of jail, despite the award of sole custody to Nicole. She shot herself the day before her husband was due for release from jail.

Lessons to be applied from the story of Nicole: 1. Battered women who live under a "reign of terror and violence" for many years, who have sought assistance to protect themselves from on-going and escalating violence and have attempted to end relationships with severely violent and possessive batterers who assert they are entitled to control over and relationship with their battered partners - i.e. battered women who have tried all that the law, community and informal support systems can offer to no avail - may kill themselves if they cannot find ways to escape the entrapment, fear, despair and severe violence inflicted by the batterer. 2. Legal systems and personnel that collude with batterers should be called to account and compelled to comply with their responsibilities under law, and, at a minimum, pay significant penalties if they fail to enforce the law to contain battering husbands and protect battered women and their families.

"Kate." Kate was 48 years old, a high school graduate with 2 years of college. She was a factory worker making a good income. A passenger in a truck her husband was driving at a high speed, she apparently jumped out, hit a guardrail, was dragged by the truck for ¼ mile and then was run over by the truck, dying of the injuries that resulted. The husband was intoxicated, according to witnesses. Little is known about Kate. However, Kate had attempted suicide previously by trying to jump out of the husband's moving truck after he told her he was seriously involved with another woman. During the marriage, the husband's

alcoholism became acute. He defrauded Kate and damaged their credit. The week before the suicide the husband asked Kate for a divorce. Kate's husband was married three times before marrying Kate; he was married twice to his first wife who obtained a restraining order against him, citing injurious violence and excessive alcohol consumption. Kate told a co-worker that she feared her husband was going to kill her and that he had tormented her throughout the marriage. After her death, Kate's co-workers advised law enforcement that they did not believe she had committed suicide. The husband plead to a "hit and run with a death involved" and a "DUI." Kate's death certificate stated that she had died by suicide.

Lessons to be considered from the story of Kate: 1. Perhaps this suicide could only have been averted by family and friends. However, Kate apparently did not disclose her prior suicide attempt to anyone, and, likewise, the husband seemed to have kept it a secret. 2. The amount of distress and discord in this marriage was significant, and it may have masked any display of Kate's feelings of imminent loss and abandonment that she may have felt when her husband announced that he was ending the marriage. 3. Many battered women have no contact with law enforcement, domestic violence programs or human service agencies. If suicide is to be prevented, other institutions or support networks must identify partner violence and suicidality and offer assistance to battered women by way of education about and counseling on domestic violence. In this instance, the Employee Assistance Program at work, adult children, and/or co-workers might have intervened had they been more knowledgeable about domestic violence and the risk markers of homicide and suicide.

"Marsha." In December 2009, a 48 year-old battered woman in a city in the western U.S. committed suicide by an overdose of Rx medications. There was an extensive documented history of domestic violence, in

which the suspect in all incidents was her boyfriend/ex-boyfriend. Over a 10 year period, there were 26 calls for service involving the deceased. There were 7 written police reports for domestic battery, one of which resulted in an arrest; 6 calls for service for a suicidal subject (the battered woman); 12 calls for service that were the result of domestic disputes, out of which the male was arrested during *one* of those incidents; 2 calls for service for violation of protection order, one of which resulted in an arrest. In the beginning of 2009, she was granted an extended protection order against the batterer, and she later dissolved that order in August of 2009. The last report of domestic battery by the batterer occurred on November 27, 2009, resulting in no arrest. As a result of the police report, a victim advocate was assigned to the woman's case immediately, but the advocate was unable to make contact with her. She was found deceased in her apartment on December 2, 2009, just 5 days later and after confiding in a friend about the extensive harassment and abuse from the boyfriend and how she "just couldn't take it anymore."

Lessons to be applied from the story of Marsha: 1. Outreach immediately after each contact with the police should be made by a victim specialist in the police department or prosecutor's office, with follow-up services and advocacy provided by the local DV and human services programs upon the request of the victim. 2. Repeat calls about the violent assaults against an intimate partner should be handled as "high risk," and the police department's "threat containment" section should develop individualized containment (for the batterer) and safety (for the victim) strategies tailored to deter the repeat abuse by the batterer. 3. The failure of the police department and the prosecutor to appropriately investigate, charge and pursue prosecution and detention of repeat offenders is a significant risk marker for suicide and suicide attempts by battered women. 4. Despair and hopelessness are engendered in battered women living in communities where criminal justice response is

weak, uneven, unpredictable and indifferent to the safety and health of battered women.

"Jenna." In September 2006 a battered woman, 39 years of age, committed suicide with a handgun. She had separated from her battering husband 3 months before her death; however he was stalking her at work (elementary school), by cell phone and internet postings, and at home, according to her teen daughter. Her sister stated that Jenna seemed accident prone, and bruised easily. Her daughter said Jenna was exhausted all the time. Friends stated that after the separation Jenna had become withdrawn, e.g., not returning their phone calls, no longer visiting with her mother in a nursing home, not participating in holiday celebrations, dropping out of graduate school, and quitting as deaconess of her church. None of them had been in contact with her for two weeks before the suicide. The daughter had asked her to get help, but Jenna reported that nothing she had tried in the past had worked. A search of the criminal history and protection order dockets revealed no contact with law enforcement or the courts.

Lessons to be applied from the story of Jenna: 1. Withdrawal or self-isolation is a risk marker for suicide. Significant changes in the social behavior/connectedness of battered women may reflect sharply increased distress or despair. When battered women isolate themselves, withdraw from close friends or family, sharply reduce community engagement, or discontinue activities that had brought them personal gratification and growth, they may be contemplating suicide. 2. Hopelessness is a risk marker for suicide. When battered women conclude that their help-seeking and other safety strategies will not end the violence of intimate partners and that, despite their best efforts, all the strategies they have employed do not bring an end to the violence or relief from fear, they may conclude that suicide offers respite. 3. To date, research has not sufficiently examined the potency of withdrawal and hopelessness as risk markers

for suicide.

Knowledge Gleaned from Criminal Justice System Data Collection

Police departments in the U.S. have begun to explore the nexus between domestic violence and suicidal behavior in battered women.

Hawai'i County, HI (177,835 residents)

For several years, a police advocate has cross-referenced police and EMT reports on suicide attempts and suicide of both men and women with criminal justice databases on domestic violence. She advises supervisory police staff about the nexus between domestic violence and suicide attempts/completions discovered. Responding officers are informed about the co-occurrence of partner assault and suicidal behavior. In August 2010 in Hawai'i County, 3 women attempted suicide – one immediately following a child custody hearing. Six women threatened suicide when police responded to domestic violence calls. The coroner found that one woman suicided by hanging herself. Two women were reported missing by their husbands and were found dead, apparently by suicide. In reviewing these data, the police advocate reflected, "Coercive controls by batterers foster a deep sense of entrapment in battered women. This experience of entrapment is compounded by poorly trained police, judicial system personnel, and the domestic violence advocacy staff here on this island... . Women who have been trafficked in from other countries under the guise of marriage with the 2 year conditional visa have attempted to take their lives."¹⁴

Reno, NV. (220,500) Starting in January 2010, the Reno Police Department (RPD) began reviewing all reported attempted suicides, completed suicides, homicides, and deaths in the city of Reno. RPD staff cross-check them for any documented domestic violence, stalking, and/or harassment history, as well as calls for service. In addition, the staff reviews cases of individuals who mention a

significant other or spouse within the attempted suicide/suicide/death report. The reports contain a detailed examination of the complex characteristics and risk factors for homicide and suicide. This information is kept separate from all other information regarding domestic violence incidents, victims, and offenders. Also included within the case management system are data that cannot otherwise be extracted from the RPD Automated Reporting System. These include, but are not limited to, alcohol/drug use, children present, domestic violence history, prosecution/charge details, risk factors, specific descriptions of offender actions, relationship of victim/offender, direct contacts with offender/victim (if the case is assigned to a detective), etc. The goal is to identify repeat suspects and victims to better assess the history of violence and the risks posed by the predominant aggressor, rather than only detailing the new incident. Law enforcement personnel are alerted to any documented domestic, suicidal, harassment, or stalking history of a victim and offender. By examining the history of contact with justice and human services systems and not approaching a case as an isolated incident, RPD is able to engage in more thorough and thoughtful approaches to domestic violence intervention.

RPD contends that early intervention in these incidents is important for prevention of future incidents, or even death. If data (current and historical) is compiled in a consistent and detailed manner, staff believes there is great potential to save lives. To facilitate secondary prevention work, professionals within and outside the RPD are developing specialized programs within the department to respond to intimate partner violence, suicide, mental health and substance abuse.

Evidence-Based Recommendations for Policy and Practice

Research, stories of battered women, and criminal justice data systems offer preliminary guidance on policy and practice

enhancements to prevent suicide and suicide attempts by battered women.

1. Professionals serving battered women, family and friends supporting battered women, and advocates working in domestic violence programs should initiate conversations about suicidal ideation with battered women. Screening for suicidal thinking, planning, and attempts is a first step. However, the shame and stigma of acknowledging suicide consideration, coupled with the fear that thinking about suicide portends mental illness and that the listener will blame her for contemplating suicide or for the despair and hopelessness she is experiencing or her belief that nothing can be done to stop the violence and end the entrapment, are likely to make these conversations very difficult for both the helper and the battered woman to begin.
2. First responders in police departments, emergency rooms and domestic violence hotlines should be coached on approaches to opening up conversations about suicide. Supervisors should include suicide as one of the elements to be addressed in oversight of direct service staff.
3. Conversations about suicidal ideation and attempts can be time-consuming and repetitive. Battered women who do choose to talk about suicidal ideation and behaviors may exhaust professionals and support networks. Battered women may feel hopeless about achieving safety and stability and eliminating the circumstances that propel them into suicidal behaviors. Thus, back-up systems of support and intervention must be considered and employed with the informed consent of battered women.
4. Allies of battered women should

explore the coping strategies that battered women are employing. Attention should be paid to enhancing positive coping strategies – to include assessing risk, planning for safety, acquiring essential resources, obtaining essential healthcare, enhancing support networks, accessing effective legal protections, enhancing self-confidence, crafting strategies for leaving the abuser and avoiding unsafe contact, and managing all the loss and pain of ending the relationship with a batterer. Attention should likewise be paid to identifying and eliminating the coping strategies that undercut a survivor's efforts to be safe, secure, healthy and otherwise resilient. Allies should help battered women identify and expand those protective factors that facilitate resilience and buffer against suicidal ideation and attempts.

5. Police departments, in addition to implementing systems for batterer containment and accountability, might retain victim specialists, employ case management systems and institute databases that will enable them to better assess the risks both of injurious violence and of suicide, make appropriate referrals to community agencies, engage in outreach and follow-up with battered women,¹⁵ and educate the community and friends of battered women about legal, human services and resource options.
6. Practitioners should devise and share emerging promising practices for prevention and intervention in suicidal ideation and behavior of battered women. Practitioners might invite evaluation of the strategies they institute to serve battered women contemplating suicide.
7. Scholars should expand inquiry about suicidal ideation, attempts and

completed suicide by battered women to further understand the reasons for suicidal behavior, any elevated risks associated with various demographic characteristics of victims, common precipitating events, positive and counterproductive coping strategies utilized by battered women and the protective factors that mitigate against battered women's suicidal ideation, attempts and completion.

8. Domestic Violence Fatality Review initiatives should consider cases where battered women have completed suicide to identify missed opportunities for support and intervention and to fashion recommendations for systemic reform to prevent suicide and suicide attempts by battered women.

Footnotes

¹ Golding, J.M. (1999). Intimate partner violence as a risk factor for mental disorders: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Family Violence*, 14, 99 - 132.

Rates of suicidality of battered women varied widely (4.6% to 77%) depending on the sample (e.g. highest among psychiatric patients, then shelter residents, the general population, and lowest among emergency room patients.). The method of research also produced diverse results with the highest rate derived from medical records, then interviews, and lowest from surveys. Notwithstanding the sample or method, the rate of suicidality of battered women is sharply greater than that of women in the general population.

The sample size of many of the studies was very small. Few investigators interviewed battered women attempting suicide. The findings and analyses are consequently limited. More quantitative and qualitative investigation is essential to produce a nuanced, robust picture of the experience and ideation of

battered women considering, attempting and completing suicide.

² Bergman, B. & Brismar, B. (1991). Suicide attempts by battered wives. *Acta Psychiatr Scan*, 83, 380-384. An important finding inviting more investigation was that almost 60% of the battered women seeking emergency care and 32% of those attempting suicide were born outside of Sweden. The higher rate of suicide attempts by immigrant battered women is consistent with the limited findings in studies in the United States.

³ Stark, E. & Flitcraft, A. (1996). **Women at Risk: Domestic Violence and Women's Health**. Sage Publications; Thousand Oaks, CA.

⁴ Ide, N., Wyder, M., Kolves, K. & DeLeo, D. (2010). Separation as an important risk factor for suicide: a systematic review. *Journal of Family Issues*, 31 (12), 1689-1716. Cf. NVDRS data, footnote 7.

⁵ Haarr, R. N. (2008). Local justice and victim support for battered women in Tajikistan. *International Journal of Comparative & Applied Criminal Justice*, 32, 195-220. Battered women seeking social support for ending partner violence were more likely to report suicidal thoughts and attempts than battered women who did not turn to others about the abuse. Women who told family or friends that their husbands or mothers-in-law beat them were 2.5 and 4 times, respectively, more likely to have suicidal thoughts and 7 times more likely to attempt suicide than women who did not seek help for partner or mother-in-law violence. Aliverdinia, A., & Pridemore, W. A. (2009). Women's fatalistic suicide in Iran: a partial test of Durkeim in an Islamic republic. *Violence Against Women*, 15, 307-320. Provinces with stricter regulations on women's behavior have higher female suicide rates in Iran. Bagli, M., & Sev'er, A. (2003). Female and male suicides in Batman, Turkey: poverty, social

change, patriarchal oppression and gender links. *Women's Health & Urban Life*, 2, 60-84. Poverty, social disruption and patriarchal oppression are risk markers for female suicides in Turkey.

⁶ Garcia-Moreno, G., Jensen, H., Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., & Watts, C. (2005). **WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women**. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization.

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). Surveillance for Violent Deaths: National Violent Death Reporting System, 16 States, 2007. *Surveillance Summaries*, May 14, 2010, 59, No. SS-4.

⁸ However, a small study of residents in a rural U.S. shelter found that suicidal ideation in Latina victims was significantly higher rate than other ethnic populations. More than half the Latina participants reported suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts, as compared to 35% of other study participants. Krishnan, S., Hilbert, J., & VanLeeuwen, D. (2001). Domestic violence and help-seeking behaviors among rural women: results from a shelter-based study. *Family Community Health*, 24, 28-38.

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [Online]. (2007). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC (producer). Available from URL: www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html.

¹⁰ Reviere, S. L., Farber, E. W., Twomey, H., Okun, A., Jackson, E., Zanville, H., et al. (2007). Intimate partner violence and suicidality in low-income African American women: a multi-method assessment of coping factors. *Violence Against Women*, 13, 1113-1129.

¹¹ Rennison, C. M., & Welchans, S. (2000). *Intimate partner violence*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

¹² Sullivan, C., & Rumptz, M. (1994). Adjustment and needs of African American women who utilized a domestic violence shelter. *Violence and Victims*, 9, 275-286.

¹³ Carlson, B.E., McNutt, L., Choi, D.Y. & Rose, I.M. (2002). Intimate partner abuse and mental health: the role of social support and other protective factors. *Violence Against Women*, 8, 720.

Note, the study did not investigate the nexus between intimate partner abuse and suicide. The survey inquired about social support from the participant's intimate partner and her closest friend.

As anticipated, battered women experienced less social support from their abusive partners than other women. Yet, the finding that battered women receive equivalent social support from their closest friends was unexpected as other research* had documented the isolation and lack of social support networks available to battered women. The authors suggest that their focus on social support from two sources, rather than the broad constellation of the participants' social networks/supportive context, may explain the difference between their finding about the social connection and the more frequent finding of the social isolation of battered women. The question that this study does not answer (or confirm) is whether a robust network/context of social support is an additional protective factor for battered women against both abuse across the lifespan and adverse mental health consequences of abuse.

¹⁴ Personal communication with author. October 2010.

As a result of the work of the police advocate, the Hilo Medical Center staff now screen for domestic violence and suicide and provide survivors with brochures and articles on a broad range of DV issues, both prevention and services.

¹⁵ Research on the Triage Review Collaboration in Denver demonstrates that early follow-up with battered women, offering services and advocacy, as well as legal protections, improved both the rate of participation of battered women as witnesses in criminal proceedings and as consumers of relevant community services. Concomitantly, successful disposition of criminal cases against batterers increased significantly.

(DePrince, A. "Women's Social Context and Well-Being following Police-reported Intimate Partner Abuse." Forthcoming in the *Violence Women Journal*, 2011.)

Barbara J. Hart, J.D.
Director of Strategic Justice Initiatives
Muskie School of Public Service
P.O. Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104-9300
207/780-4804 (Office)
207/899-7771 (Cell)

An Overview of Battered Immigrant Women's Issues

Yvonne Luna

At the New Directions in Domestic Violence Fatality Review conference a number of critical issues were raised regarding the plight of battered immigrant women. In view of those concerns and because of the attention given to immigration in the popular media, it is important to shed light on the problems associated with being an immigrant woman who experiences domestic violence. It is also imperative that fatality review teams consider the particular barriers and difficulties battered immigrant women face so that appropriate actions are taken to prevent domestic homicides.

One of the neglected dimensions of immigration in the popular press is an informed understanding about the reasons people choose to leave their home countries. This is explained through a review of the *push-pull process*.

Ernest Ravenstein, a widely regarded migration theorist, argued that migration is governed by a push-pull process. That is, unfavorable conditions push people out of their

countries of origin while favorable conditions in a host country pull them in. Most often, people are pushed out of their home countries because conditions there are politically, economically, or environmentally problematic. Many people in these situations feel threatened enough that they risk dangerous border crossings. In July 2010, 59 suspected undocumented migrants were found dead in the Arizona desert.⁵ The adverse economic conditions in Mexico have pushed many people out. With the rise of global markets created by global trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement, large and/or corporate farmers have fared well to the detriment of the small farmer. Because of their ability to compete with import markets, large farmers now account for a greater proportion of Mexican domestic markets. The result is a significant increase in migration out of rural areas as livelihoods are lost and farms abandoned. According to a study conducted for the Mexican government, between 1992 and 2002, the number of agrarian households fell 75 percent from 2.3 million to 575,000.⁴ Proponents of global free trade hoped they would be absorbed into Mexican non-agrarian urban employment but there was not enough growth in that type of work. The result has been a change in the pattern of rural out-migration. In the 1980s, the number of individuals migrating

to urban Mexico was higher than those migrating to the United States (US); a pattern now reversed. It is estimated that 400,000 to 500,000 Mexicans migrate to the US annually, with a vast majority (300,000) being from rural Mexico, mostly small, marginal farmers and agricultural laborers.¹⁴

While certain conditions push people out of their countries of origin, there are inviting circumstances in a host country, such as the promise of political freedom or economic opportunities. Since the 1970s, the US has largely become a service-sector economy; an economy where goods-production has diminished substantially. Because of this, the earnings structure is exceedingly polarized with high-paying service jobs on the one hand and low-paying service jobs on the other. The high-paying jobs require education and technical skill, like professions in electronic communications, education, or healthcare. Most of the growth, however, has been in the low-paying service sector such as hotels, restaurants, retail, and agriculture. Legal migration is severely restricted while the demand for low-paid service workers continues to increase and the availability of US workers has diminished. In 1960, half of the US population did not have a high school diploma, whereas in 2009, only 12 percent did not.⁹ Nonetheless, annual migration to the US has declined by two-thirds over the last decade because the pull factors have changed significantly, with the recession and housing-market collapse largely contributing. Although the focus here is on Mexican migration to the US, the push-pull process can be applied to all migration patterns, including internal and external migration that occurs all over the world. Given that large numbers of migrants still come to the US, it is critical to employ measures that will protect battered women from the vulnerabilities of that status.

Barriers and Obstacles Experienced by Battered Immigrant Women

There exists a considerable amount of research regarding the barriers and difficulties battered immigrant women face. These include, but are not limited to: fears of deportation and separation from children, social isolation, language barriers, legal status, economic dependence, and lack of information about rights and available services. These factors render immigrant and refugee battered women vulnerable.

Motherhood poses special considerations for all battered women. For immigrant battered women, however, there are additional concerns. Abusers often use a mother's fear of deportation to keep her from reporting violence. She may fear being separated from her children, especially if they are American-born, or she may worry about the loss of livelihood if the abusive partner is deported. This is compounded by her knowledge of, or experience with, law enforcement in territories that do not define domestic violence as a crime as well as language barriers. Motherhood is most often viewed as a cultural requisite for women from traditional patriarchal cultures and many immigrant women, therefore, have the responsibility of caring for children. Leaving may seem like an insurmountable task and sometimes it is. If she leaves the abusive partner, it may be difficult to find space in a shelter or she may not have family or friends to turn to.

Women from patriarchal and/or patrifocal (e.g., centered on the father/husband) cultures tend to be particularly vulnerable to social isolation because of the importance given to the husband's family, the negative views on separation or divorce, the pattern of custody given to fathers when custody is in dispute, discouragement of women's work outside the home, and the tendency to face ostracism when

they deviate from their traditional obligations as wives and mothers. Migration also often means that they leave their families and loved ones behind.

In addition to contributing to isolation, language barriers and lack of access to interpretation and translation services pose obstacles to obtaining assistance. This, together with social and cultural differences and lack of understanding about legal processes, put immigrant women in disadvantaged positions. Even if they have the skills to secure jobs in higher-paying fields, as few do, they may lack language skills necessary for those jobs. Some women do not have opportunities to learn the host-country language. An abuser may feel threatened by his partner's ability to speak the host language and therefore prevent her from learning the language.

An irregular (e.g., undocumented, pending, or unstable) legal status may also contribute to battered immigrant women's vulnerability and isolation. If the abusive husband has legal status, he often uses this as a way to intimidate her, make her fearful of deportation, and prevent her from reporting abuse to authorities. When both parties are undocumented, many women fear that the family's security is at risk if she calls attention to it. If she decides to leave, her legal status may be an impediment to accessing services such as cash assistance, subsidized housing, job training programs, and domestic violence and legal services. Not only is an irregular legal status detrimental, her economic position may complicate her vulnerable position.

Some studies demonstrate how labor force participation increases personal freedom and chances to escape abusive situations. Other studies document how abusers control women's economic activities, from determining where she will work and how often she will work, to seizing control of wages. Because of her economic status, and other factors discussed here, including isolation and

language barriers, battered immigrant women are at particular risk of poverty. With little means to support herself and her children, she may choose to remain in an abusive situation or return if she has left.

Although a number of barriers and obstacles have been addressed here, it is important to note that they are only highlighted. For additional information, please see the references and resources listed below. Having touched on the barriers and obstacles, possible solutions are considered.

Overcoming the Barriers and Obstacles

The US government, in an effort to provide greater protections, has responded to the peculiar needs of battered immigrant women. The 1994 Violence Against Women Act, reauthorized in 2000 and 2005, includes special provisions for battered immigrant women, known as the Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act. This Act provides that spouses and children of US citizens or lawful permanent residents may self-petition for legal permanent residency. There are several stipulations, however, that may prove difficult for many women. For additional information, see [The Immigration Policy Center](#).

Some women seek legal status vis-à-vis their spouses' employment-based temporary nonimmigrant visa. In a majority of cases under this program, immigrant women are not provided legal work authorization. This manifests her dependency on her lawfully-present spouse for financial support and for completing the immigration-sponsorship process. Oftentimes, abusive spouses revoke sponsorship in an effort to prevent wives from obtaining legal residency. Efforts to detect sponsorship breakdown due to violence are encouraged. In addition, there could be provisions in place that would require a sponsor to provide "good reason" for revoking sponsorship, or allow women to self-petition, as described above.

In addition to policy efforts, other improvements should be considered:

- Immigrant victims of crime qualify for U-Visas, but only 10,000 are issued every fiscal year. This is available to those who assist in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of specified criminal activities including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking ([US Immigration Support](#) offers more information). Part of the application process requires that the form (I-918) be certified by a federal, state or local law enforcement agent. Without this certification, the petition cannot be submitted. Law enforcement officials should understand that they are not granting lawful status to undocumented immigrants nor are they determining victims' eligibility for U-Visas. In addition, the certifying agent will not be held liable if the victim is found ineligible. For more information see [Law Enforcement's Role in U-Visa Certification](#).
- More and better interpretation and translation resources in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act are needed to address language barriers at all points of contact. In addition, measures should be taken to ensure the cultural competence and sensitivity of interpreters and translators.
- Accessible and affordable legal services for battered immigrant women are severely lacking, especially considering the complexity of US immigration law. Service providers should be knowledgeable and able to present options to battered immigrant women that ensure safety without jeopardizing immigration status or risking deportation. Perhaps a "fast track" process in legal aid agencies would better serve battered immigrant women. Finally, immigration legal aid attorneys should be available to immigrant women facing possible deportation due to sponsorship breakdown.
- An information packet should be given to battered immigrant women by service

providers. It is essential that it contain key phone numbers and legal information in a variety of languages in a user-friendly format, such as the one provided by the [Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#).

- Better collaboration, networking, and information-sharing within and between service providers is also imperative.

Some of these suggestions are offered in the [Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review 2008 report](#). In their reviews, they also found a need for: culturally-competent service providers; community organizations in immigrant neighborhoods who can provide domestic violence awareness, information on legal rights and access to legal services; educating battered immigrant women on how to document abuse; state and local bar associations providing affordable continuing legal education on immigration options and other legal concerns for battered immigrant women.

Additional Resources:

[Advanced Special Immigration Survivors Technical Assistance \(ASISTA\)](#)

[Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence](#)

[Family Violence Prevention Fund](#)

[Legal Momentum](#)

[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

[National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild](#)

[National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women](#)

[The National Women's Health Information Center](#)

Footnotes

¹El Nasser, Haya. 2010. "Fewer illegal immigrants entering USA," *USA Today*, September 2. "Fast Facts." 2010. US Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. <<http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=27>>.

²Han, Ju & Hui Judy. 2009, October. *Safety for Immigrant, Refugee and Non-Status Women: A Literature Review*. Ending Violence Association: Canada.

³Menjivar, Cecilia, and Salcido, Olivia. 2002. "Immigrant Women and Domestic Violence: Common Experiences in Different Countries." *Gender & Society* 16(6): 898-920.

⁴Mohanty, Mritiunjoy. "Small Farmers and the Doha Round: Lessons from Mexico's NAFTA Experience." June 24, 2008. <www.stwr.org>.

⁵"Record Migrant Deaths on Arizona Desert Border." 2010. *BBC News: US & Canada*, August 3.

⁶Stark, Evan. 2007. *Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life*. Oxford University Press: New York.

⁷Waslin, Michele. 2008. "Why Don't They Just Get In Line? The Real Story of Getting a 'Green Card' and Coming to the U.S. Legally." *Immigration Policy Center*, March 8.

Dr. Luna is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. She acknowledges Firoza Chic Dabby, Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, for her suggestions and comments about this article.

Additional Material

Judge's principled stand protects public's rights

To preserve the integrity of our court system, we count on judges to do the right thing. Always. That's a daunting task, given the complexity of the cases and the law and the opinion of the public.

Recently, Judge Craig Matheson made us proud when he unsealed search warrants related to a robbery that quickly turned deadly last month in Kennewick. The three surviving men involved have now all been charged in Benton County Superior Court.

In Matheson's court, the public's right to know outweighed any reason for keeping the documents sealed. Democracy is better served as a result. "The compelling reason to reopen this file is always there, and that's the public's right to know what the court system is doing, and the case law is replete with reasons for that," Matheson said in his decision.

We couldn't agree more. As journalists and members of the public, we need to have faith in our courts. And we can't do that if there is no transparency in the court's actions. The search warrants dealt with the timeline of events that led up to the robbery and the fatal shooting of one of the suspects.

Ramon Madrigal shot Tyler Stock in the early hours of Jan. 11 as Stock, who was wearing a mask and armed with a gun, tried to break into Madrigal's home. Stock and his three cohorts reportedly were attempting to steal \$70,000 in cash from Madrigal. Prosecuting Attorney Andy Miller believes Madrigal was justified in shooting Stock because he feared for his safety when Stock forced his front door open. The three men who investigators believe helped plan and carry out the robbery attempt will be tried next month.

At the start of the investigation into the crime and Stock's death, police asked to have some search warrants sealed. Early in the process, when disclosure might tip investigators' hands to potential suspects, the request usually is legitimate.

In this case, the documents remained closed even after searches were complete and charges filed. This newspaper objected to defendants' requests to keep the warrants permanently sealed.

Matheson listened to arguments from the defense attorneys regarding the sealed search warrants. Some felt their clients' lives could be at risk if information they had shared with investigators should become public.

Another concern was that the suspects would be tried in the court of public opinion. That's probably already happened, but verdicts aren't handed down in that court. In the real court, "innocent until proven guilty" still is guaranteed.

Judge Matheson did the right thing by unsealing the search warrants.

It was a win for the public and reinforced our faith in the system.

For the newspaper, it was a victory in principle. The warrants did not reveal much new information about the investigation to reporters. Cell phone records and text messages seem to be the highlights.

Despite the lack of news revealed by the warrants, the victory for the public's right to know remains sweet.

We commend Judge Matheson for upholding the ideals of our legal system.

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES

Resolution 5

To Encourage Greater Collaboration Between State Courts and Tribal Courts to Protect Native American Children

WHEREAS, tribal courts serve the children and families of sovereign nations with the same authority and responsibility as state courts; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between state courts and agencies responsible for child protection and education has greatly contributed to the improvement of the process and outcomes of child protection cases around the country; and

WHEREAS, the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) requires close communication and cooperation between state and tribal courts when a Native American child not residing in Indian Country is removed from her/his home or is offered for adoption; and

WHEREAS, close communication and cooperation between state and tribal courts have been inhibited by:

- the lack of contact information for tribal judges in many states;
- the difficulty in electronically exchanging information regarding child protection cases between tribal and state courts;
- the lack of information regarding the requirements of ICWA, the reasons for those requirements, and the relationship of ICWA to other federal legislation on child welfare such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) and the Fostering Connections Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Chief Justices encourages each court system in states that include Indian Country to:

- (1) Encourage the state court judges who hear child protection and adoption cases to communicate and collaborate with their tribal court counterparts when a Native American child or family may be involved in a case;
- (2) Provide a brief discussion and description of the state's tribal courts in new judge orientation programs and materials;
- (3) Include on the state court website contact information for each tribal court in the state;
- (4) Offer each tribal court in the state the case management system module(s) on child protection used by the state; and
- (5) Present training on the requirements of ICWA and the relationship of ICWA to other federal legislation on child welfare such as the ASFA and the Fostering Connections Act for state court judges and invite tribal judges to participate in that training.

Adopted as proposed by the CCJ/COSCA Courts, Children and Families Committee, Tribal Relations Committee, and Access, Fairness, and Public Trust Committee at the CCJ Midyear Meeting, January 26, 2011.

Solving the Problem of Untested Evidence in Sexual Assaults

by Nancy Ritter

NIJ's forthcoming special report, The Road Ahead: Unanalyzed Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases, looks into ways to move sexual assault kits forward.

Lately it seems that every few months thousands of untested rape kits are discovered in another police evidence room around the country: 10,000 in Los Angeles; 12,000 in Dallas; 10,500 in Detroit.

For resource-strapped jurisdictions dealing with the discovery of large numbers of older, unanalyzed sexual assault kits (SAKs), the solutions are anything but straightforward. Every stakeholder in the nation's criminal justice system is affected: police and crime laboratories, courts, victim-service agencies, federal, state and local policymakers, and, of course, the victims.

A rape kit — more accurately called a sexual assault kit — is a box or envelope used to collect and store biological and trace evidence in cases of alleged sexual assault. SAKs generally include vaginal, oral or anal swabs that, upon testing, may yield the perpetrator's DNA.

Untested SAKs can be stored in a number of places, such as a police department evidence room, crime laboratory, hospital, clinic or rape crisis center. It is unknown how many unanalyzed SAKs there are across the United States.

As a nation, we need to understand more about how law enforcement officials decide whether or not to submit SAKs to the crime laboratory for analysis and how cases are triaged for other investigation (i.e., in which order are cases submitted for investigation, if at all, and on what criteria). In October 2010, NIJ issued an "action-research" solicitation to better understand why so many SAKs are not forwarded from police evidence rooms to crime laboratories and to develop innovative approaches to solve the problem. In phase one, NIJ will award up to \$200,000 to each of three to five sites for the creation of teams; these teams will include a criminal justice researcher and representatives from the police department, the crime laboratory, prosecutor's office and a community-based victim services organization. The teams will first audit untested SAKs in their jurisdiction to determine why the cases were not sent to the laboratory. Then they will develop a plan to tackle the problem. In phase two of the project, NIJ hopes

to award up to a total of \$4 million to help the selected sites implement their plans.

Understanding the Evidence

One of the primary questions that must be answered, with empirical evidence, is this: Should all previously untested SAKs be tested — even kits that may be 25 years old?

To answer this question, it is important to understand the evidence itself. On average, only an estimated 50 to 60 percent of SAKs contain biological material that does not belong to the victim, and that percentage is much lower in some parts of the country.

To shed more light on this issue, NIJ is currently funding researchers at California State University, Los Angeles, to study a random sample of Los Angeles cases. The researchers will look at data, such as the percentage of SAKs that yielded a DNA profile and the percentage that were uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and resulted in a hit to other crimes or offenders. Results of the study are expected in 2011.

Technological advancements in DNA analysis are also likely to play a major role in testing older SAKs. In Georgia, for example, the state crime laboratory first tests evidence to determine if male DNA is present; and, if it is not, the laboratory doesn't proceed with the full, time-consuming analysis that would develop an actual DNA profile.

Victim Notification

Whether a jurisdiction with a large number of previously untested SAKs decides to test all or only some of the kits, notifying the victims is an important part of the process. Determining best practices for doing this, however, will not be easy.

When, for example, should the victim be notified? When her unanalyzed SAK has been located after many years? When the kit is sent to the laboratory for analysis? Should the victim be notified even if analysis reveals that there is no probative evidence or only if a DNA profile is determined? Should she be notified only if the rapist's identity is revealed through a CODIS hit? What if the suspect is not in CODIS, but the police issue a John Doe warrant? At first blush, it may seem that there is no question that sexual assault victims should be notified at some point in the process. After all, why

wouldn't a victim want to know if DNA analysis of evidence from a rape when she was a college freshman had — 20 years later — revealed the rapist's identity?

Experts say there could be as many answers to that question as there are victims. What if the victim, now 38 years old, never told her husband or 15-year-old daughter about the rape? What if she has had years of counseling and moved past it? Beyond simply being notified at one step or another in the criminal justice process, does the victim get a say in whether or not her case moves from the police evidence room to the laboratory, or from the prosecutor's office to the courtroom?

Victim safety is also a factor in the notification issue. Victim advocates warn that a victim of past rape could be living in a domestic violence situation, and contact by the police could act as a violence trigger in her current partner. In addition, they note, victims who are told that an unsolved crime may now be investigated may suddenly feel threatened again by the rapist.

Post-testing: The Domino Effect

Beyond the notification of victims and decisions regarding the forensic testing of recently discovered SAKs, there are major implications for downstream partners in the criminal justice system. Some questions jurisdictions might face include:

- Where will the resources come from as already-strapped police departments and crime laboratories receive additional demands for follow-up investigations and DNA analysis?
- What protocols will a police department follow, for example, when testing yields a DNA profile but it does not match a profile in CODIS or a local database? Will a John Doe warrant be issued?
- If an investigation results in a suspect, how will already overworked prosecutors and public defenders handle additional cases?

Jurisdictions facing the discovery of a large number of older SAKs must also consider what their testing policy will be if the statute of limitations in a case has been reached. If a case can't be prosecuted because the deadline for filing has passed, is it a wise use of resources to have the SAK evidence tested? The answer is not as obvious as it may seem.

Some proponents of testing all SAKs argue that, even if a case can't be prosecuted, the evidence should nevertheless be tested to determine if the

rapist might have committed other rapes. Evidence of prior, unadjudicated sexual assaults may be considered in the sentencing of a rapist.

Ultimately, at the heart of this latest challenge for our criminal justice system are the victims. Delays in evidence being sent to a laboratory — as well as delays in analyzing evidence — result in delays in justice. In worst-case scenarios, such delays can lead to additional victimization by serial offenders or the incarceration of people wrongly convicted of a crime.

As the nation grapples with the discovery of thousands of older SAKs, it is crucial that we balance justice, public safety and victims' needs. In the end, our goal must be to move beyond the crisis management of the moment to the adoption of systematic practices, procedures and protocols that will prevent such situations from ever arising again.

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