

# CONFRONTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

THE ROLE OF POWER IN DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS

# HEAD ON

**FEBRUARY 27, 2009** THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW, SAN DIEGO  
PRESENTED BY THE WOMEN AND THE LAW PROJECT AT THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW  
CO-SPONSORED BY THE RELATIONSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE, SAN DIEGO

The U.S. legal system's treatment of domestic violence has evolved a long way from the "rule of thumb." (Early U.S. courts tended to follow the British common law, which provided that a man could chastise his wife "in moderation" - like one might a servant or child - and tolerated the custom that a man could beat his wife so long as he used a switch no thicker than his thumb.) Today, every state treats physical and sexual domestic violence as a crime, and many states have also criminalized verbal, psychological, and emotional abuse that occurs in domestic relationships. Some states recognize various domestic torts, and a few have even established special domestic violence courts. Still, numerous counterproductive myths regarding domestic violence abound, and much work needs to be done in order to create a legal regime capable of successfully combating domestic violence.

This year's Women and the Law Conference will bring together a wide range of experts on domestic violence. Domestic violence survivors from a variety of backgrounds will share their stories. Defense attorneys, custody mediators, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel will share their experiences and frustrations with the current legal theories and options available in domestic violence cases. Domestic abuse experts will discuss the causes and effects of domestic violence as well as the most promising intervention therapies and assistance programs. Finally, scholars will discuss their proposals for providing more effective legal strategies and remedies for the many victims of domestic violence and helping to end the scourge of domestic violence in this country.

## CONFRONTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HEAD ON THE ROLE OF POWER IN DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009

**7:30 – 8:00 AM: REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, COURTYARD BUILDING**

**8:00 – 8:15 AM: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**CLAIRE WRIGHT**

Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**RUDY HASL**

Dean, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**JULIE GREENBERG**

Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**8:15 – 9:30 AM: THE SURVIVORS SPEAK OUT**

Survivors from a variety of backgrounds and types of relationships will share their stories.

**9:45 – 11:15 AM: THE EXPERTS WEIGH IN**

**SUSAN WEITZMAN, PH.D., PSYCHOLOGY**

Director of the Weitzman Center, Psychotherapist, Litigation Consultant, Expert Witness, and Author of *Not to People Like Us: Hidden Abuse in Upscale Marriages* "Upscale Violence: It Can and Does Happen to People Like Us" (via video link)

**SANDRA L. BROWN, M.A., COUNSELING**

Director of the Institute for Relational Harm Reduction and Author of *Counseling Victims of Violence* "Why Abusers Abuse and Victims Stay"

**PATRICIA EVANS**

Director of the Evans Interpersonal Communications Institute and Author of *Verbal Abuse Survivors Speak Out* "Words Can Never Hurt You, She Asked For It, His Bark Is Worse Than His Bite, and Other Myths That Perpetuate the Cycle of Domestic Violence" (via video link)

**DAVID WEXLER, PH.D., PSYCHOLOGY**

Director of the Relationship Training Institute, San Diego, and Author of *When Good Men Behave Badly: Change Your Behavior, Change Your Relationship* "One Size Does Not Fit All: The Many Faces of Relationship Abusers"

**11:30 AM – 12:45 PM: JUSTICE DENIED**

**JUDY WOODS**

Sergeant, San Diego Police Department  
"Too Little, Too Late: Protective Orders and Police Arrests"

**TRACY PRIOR**

Deputy District Attorney, San Diego  
"Society's Got To Take a Stand: Vague Definitions and Insurmountable Burdens of Proof in Abuse Cases"

**RUSSELL GOLD, PH.D., PSYCHOLOGY**

Custody Mediator, San Diego  
"Considering Domestic Violence in Family Law Matters"

**JULIANA HUMPHREY**

Deputy Public Defender, San Diego  
"Battered Spouse Syndrome used as a Sword not a Shield: Curing a Misconception or Bolstering with Stereotype?"

**1:00 – 2:00 PM: LUNCH RUTH BADER GINSBURG LECTURE**

**CHERYL HANNA**

PROFESSOR, VERMONT LAW SCHOOL  
CO-AUTHOR, *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE LAW: THEORY AND PRACTICE*

**"BEHIND THE CASTLE WALLS: BALANCING PRIVACY AND SECURITY IN DOMESTIC ABUSE CASES"**

Cheryl Hanna is a graduate of Kalamazoo College and Harvard Law School. A former domestic violence prosecutor, her extensive work on violence and gender has been widely cited by the legal academy and the media, including the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, and the United States Supreme Court.



**2:15 – 3:30 PM: NON-LEGAL PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE**

**Gael Strack**

CEO, Family Justice Center Alliance, San Diego  
"New Solutions to Family Violence: The Family Justice Center Co-location Model"

**JAY SCHNEIDER**

Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Director of Manage Anger Daily (MAD), San Diego  
"Healing the Angry Brain: Advances in Anger Management"

**STEVE BERENSON**

Professor and Director of the Veterans' Legal Assistance Clinic, Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
"Domestic Violence and Returning Veterans: Providing Assistance for Veterans Struggling with Mental Health Issues"

**LISA FERREIRA**

Director of Student Services, Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
"Don't Enable an Abuser: Always Extend an Open Mind and a Helping Hand to Those Who Report Abuse"

**3:45 – 5:00 PM: LEGAL PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE**

**EMILY SACK**

Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law  
"From the Rule of Thumb to the Battered Spouse Defense: The Evolution of Domestic Abuse in the Criminal Law"

**ILENE DURST**

Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
"Giving Immigrants a Leg to Stand On: The Remedies for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Abuse"

**DOUGLAS BELOOF**

Professor, Lewis & Clark Law School  
"After California v. Giles: Using a Legislated Permissive Inference to Place Evidence of a Classic Abusive Relationship in Front of the Factfinder"

**CLAIRE WRIGHT**

Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
"Torture at Home: Borrowing from the Torture Convention to Define Verbal and Psychological Abuse"

**5:00 – 5:15 PM: CLOSING REMARKS**

**5:15 – 6:00 PM: RECEPTION**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Kathryn Abrams Associate Dean and Herma Hill Kay Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law

**2006**

**SEXUALITY AT WORK**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Vicki Schultz Ford Foundation Professor of Law, Yale Law School

**2007**

**VIRTUAL WOMEN: EMERGING ISSUES IN GENDER AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Rochelle Dreyfuss Pauline Newman Professor of Law, New York University Law School

**2008**

**WOMEN IN POLITICS: THE ROLE OF GENDER IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Barbara Palmer, American University



## HISTORY OF THE WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE

Thomas Jefferson School of Law and the Women and the Law Project inaugurated the Women and the Law Conference in 2001. In 2003, with the generous support of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who visited the law school that year, we established the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture Series.

**2001**

**WOMEN AS WORKERS**

Keynote Speaker: Professor Deborah L. Rhode Stanford Law School

**2002**

**WOMEN AND FAMILY LAW**

Keynote Speaker: Justice Judith McConnell California Fourth District Court of Appeals

**2003**

**WOMEN AND THE MATERNAL WALL**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Joan Williams University of California, Hastings College of Law

**2004**

**WHAT U.S. LAWYERS CAN LEARN FROM INTERNATIONAL LAW: CONCEPTS OF GENDER EQUALITY ACROSS LEGAL CULTURES**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Martha Albertson Fineman Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, Emory University

**2005**

**THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF FEMINIST LEGAL THEORY**

(co-sponsored by Emory University's Feminism and Legal Theory Project)

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT WWW.TJSL.EDU/2009WOMENANDLAW

Conference fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, reception and MCLE materials (please check appropriate line):

\_\_\_ TJSL Alumni & Lawyers Club of San Diego Members: \$25 \_\_\_ Other: \$35 \_\_\_ Optional Box Lunch \$10

All Students, TJSL Faculty & Staff may attend the conference and reception at no charge; an optional box lunch is \$10. RSVP to Christina Becker at cbecker@tjssl.edu or 619.297.9700 x1410

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date (mm/yr) \_\_\_\_\_  
3-digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  Visa  MasterCard  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Register by 2/20/2009

- on-line at [www.tjssl.edu/2009WomenAndLaw](http://www.tjssl.edu/2009WomenAndLaw) or
- by fax 619.374.6393 or
- by mail to: Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
2009 Women and the Law Conference  
2121 San Diego Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92110

Make checks payable to Thomas Jefferson School of Law

For more information and directions to the law school, visit [www.tjssl.edu/2009WomenAndLaw](http://www.tjssl.edu/2009WomenAndLaw)

**Minimum Continuing Legal Education Credit**

Thomas Jefferson School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider. This program qualifies for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California in the amount of five (5) hours, of which one (1) will apply to Elimination of Bias.

**Continuing Education for Mental Health Professionals**

Approved for up to 9.0 Continuing Education hours for California providers, including psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, RN's, marriage and family therapists, drug and alcohol counselors (NAADAC) and certified counselors (NBCC). Individual panels may be attended separately. An additional \$7.00 fee will be collected at registration from any mental health professional seeking CE certification for one or more panel(s).

The Relationship Training Institute (RTI) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor CE credits for psychologists and is an approved CE provider for California mental health providers. RTI maintains responsibility for this program and its content.