

United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women  
*in Collaboration with the*  
ABA Commission on Domestic Violence  
*presents*

2008 Webinar Series

**THE LEGAL RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: TIPS AND STRATEGIES**

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**TIPS AND STRATEGIES REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE**

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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**WEBINAR FACULTY BIOS**

**Jane Aiken, Esq., Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC.**

Professor Aiken joined the faculty of Georgetown University Law Center in July 2007 after ten years at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. She is teaching evidence and developing courses in experiential learning. She is well-known for her work in clinical legal education and evidence. She has directed clinics in which students act as lawyers under supervision in cases involving a wide array of legal issues including domestic violence against women and children, HIV, housing and women's policy work in Nepal. Project. She occasionally teaches evidence for the Federal Judicial Center.

Professor Aiken has been working in Nepal from 2001 until the present. She spent time in Ethiopia during the summer of 2003 as a State Department Senior Specialist working with Ethiopian lawyers and activists on women's issues. She was a Treiman Scholar during the 2002-2003 academic year. She was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at Tribhuvan Law Campus in Kathmandu, Nepal during the Fall of 2001. In 2000 and 2001, Professor Aiken was a Carnegie Scholar in the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Professor Aiken has written many articles in the areas of on evidence and critical pedagogy including, "Teaching the Rules of 'Truth'" in the 2006 *St. Louis University Law Journal*, "Leveling the Playing Field: Federal Rules of Evidence 412 and 415," in the 2003 *Quinnipiac Law Review*, "Dealing with Complex Evidence of Domestic Violence: A Primer for the Civil Bench," with Jane Murphy, in the 2002 *Court Review*, "Protecting Plaintiff's Sexual Pasts: Coping With Preconceptions Through Discretion," in the 2002 *Emory Law Journal*, "Law as Social Work," with Stephen Wizner, in the 2002 *Washington University Journal of Law and Policy*, "Teaching 'Justice Readiness': A Developmental Approach to Legal Education," in the 2001 *National Teaching and Learning Forum*, "Provocateurs for Justice," in the 2001 *Clinical Law*. "Review, and Evidence Issues in Domestic Violence Civil Cases," with Jane G. Murphy, in the 2000 *Family Law Quarterly*. Her current article, with Katherine Goldwasser, "The Perils of Empowerment," is forthcoming.

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**Joan Meier, Esq., Executive Director, Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DVLEAP), Washington, DC.**

Joan Meier is the Founder and Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DVLEAP). DV LEAP's mission is to meet the urgent need of victims of abuse for expert *pro bono* representation to appeal unjust trial court decisions to a higher court. In addition to a number of state court cases, in the past year DV LEAP has filed amicus briefs in the Supreme Court's first ever domestic violence cases, *City of Castle Rock v. Gonzales*, and *Hammon v. Indiana*. In *Gonzales* the mother of three murdered

children sued the local police department for violation of her right to procedural due process for failure to enforce her protection order against the father. In *Hammon*, the Court began to determine the breadth of its new Confrontation Clause prohibition on use of testimonial hearsay in criminal prosecutions; an issue which profoundly impacts the viability of the prosecution of domestic violence. DV LEAP's co-counseled *amicus* brief had a visible impact on the outcome and opinion – in which the Court acknowledged the reality of abusers' frequent coercion of victims not to testify, and affirmed that proof of such coercion should result in a defendants forfeiture of his confrontation rights.

Professor Meier has been a clinical law professor for 16 years at the George Washington University Law School, where she founded two pioneering, nationally recognized interdisciplinary domestic violence clinical programs, twice receiving Violence Against Women Act grants to expand those programs. The clinics trained law students to represent battered women in court and to provide crisis intervention and advocacy for battered women in local hospitals. Both programs were co-taught with nationally recognized domestic violence expert psychologist Mary Ann Dutton. Professor Meier's latest clinical program, the Domestic Violence Project, places students with local and national organizations doing a wide range of domestic violence legal work.

Professor Meier has been a domestic violence litigator for over 20 years, and has litigated (as supervisor or principle) over 100 individual protection order, criminal contempt, and family law cases on behalf of victims of domestic violence, as well as approximately 18 cutting-edge impact and appellate cases. Over the past 20 years she has worked with many national and local domestic violence advocacy organizations, and co-authored the Family Violence Option of the 1996 federal welfare reform law, authored the first Battered Women's Employment Protection Act, and authored and advocated adoption of many improvements to the local civil protection order and custody laws. She has served as a trainer or presenter for the American Bar Association, Muskie Institute, Florida Unified Family Court, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, New Jersey Family Court and Legal Services of New Jersey, the ABA-APA Biannual Conference on Children and the Law, the D.C. Bar, the D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and many others. Professor Meier has served on the Mayor's Commission on Violence Against Women, on the Advisory Board for the National Evaluation of the Legal Assistance for Victims Program, and numerous other local and national bodies.

She has published widely on domestic violence, including both training materials and scholarly articles. Her article on domestic violence and welfare reform received the Cahn Award from the National Equal Justice Library. Her most recent publication addresses domestic violence and custody, and examines how and why some courts are failing to protect children in these cases. Most recently, Professor Meier was a commentator in the PBS documentary, *Breaking the Silence: Children's Voices*, which aired in Fall 2005. Professor Meier received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Harvard University in 1980, her J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Chicago Law School in 1983, and clerked on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She grew up in Chicago and lives with her husband and daughter in Takoma Park, Maryland.



United States Department of Justice

**Office on Violence Against Women**

*Working Together to End the Violence*

*This project is supported by Grant No. 2005-WT-AX-K011 awarded by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The opinions, findings, and recommendations expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*