

Volunteer Work-A-Day Program Targets Domestic Violence

Work-A-Day, a program sponsored by the ABA Law Student Division, gives you an opportunity to get involved in your community. Through acts of public service, you can advance the goals of the legal profession and make a difference in your neighborhood. This year's theme is "Working to Eradicate Domestic Violence."

The traditional date for Work-A-Day is the last weekend in October, but students at many schools organize activities at different times of the month or during the year. Because October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, all law schools and students are encouraged to organize events the first week of October and throughout the month.

By participating in such activities, you'll advance the ABA's official policy, as adopted in a resolution by the ABA House of Delegates in August 2003, that "encourages law schools and law students to promote awareness of domestic through law school activities and programs." Moreover, by organizing or participating in a Work-A-Day program at your school, the Law Student Division can make a difference in the lives of countless survivors of domestic violence and their children across the country.

Examples of Work-A-Day projects incorporating this theme include fundraising to raise money for local domestic violence shelters, organizing a one-day clinic to help victims fill out court forms for civil protection orders, or planning a domestic violence awareness campaign. Additional ideas and resources are available at www.abanet.org/lsd/work-a-day.html.

By Jaime Hawk, ABA/LSD liaison to the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence 2003-2004 (article published in the September 2004 issue of Student Lawyer).

WORKING TO ERADICATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: An Activist Toolkit for Law Students¹

Purpose: to provide resources and ideas for law students to raise awareness about domestic violence and to mobilize law students to take action to address the issue in their communities for the ABA/LSD Work-A-Day and throughout the month of October

Examples of actions law students can take throughout October and for Work-A-Day:

- **Ways to raise awareness about domestic violence at the law school:**
 1. Organize a panel discussion at the law school inviting a local prosecutor, advocate, law professor and/or survivor of domestic violence to speak; 2. Organize a showing of an educational film or video (see attached list of educational films/videos and facilitation questions for roundtable discussions in the law school²); 3. Set up a table in the lobby of the law school to sell domestic violence ribbon pins and to hand out educational materials from the local domestic violence consortium or shelter; 4. Organize a one day legal clinic to assist victims of domestic violence in filling out paperwork for civil protection orders with the assistance of law professors or local attorneys.

*** Project ideas and events that some law student organizations have done: organize a *Violence Against Women Awareness Week*, a *Take Back the Night*³ march and rally to end sexual violence, start a *Clothesline Project*⁴ at your law school, or show *Defending Our Lives*⁵ and facilitate a discussion (with focus on the battered women's defense and legal implications).
- **Connect with local resources** that work to eradicate domestic violence—
 1. Call the local shelter to identify the needs of the shelter and what your law school can do to help out (e.g. organize a clothing or food drive, donate other supplies, collect old and new cell phones for the shelter, supply needed repairs to the shelter, etc.); 2. Think of other ways to raise money or volunteer time to local community organizations (see below).

¹ This project was developed in collaboration by the ABA/LSD and the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence.

² Visit the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence's website to order educational videos to show at your law school. Check with the law library to see if they have funding to purchase educational videos for the law library.

³ See <http://www.campusoutreachservices.com/tbtn2.htm>, <http://www.iglou.com/tbtn/>, or <http://www.sacnow.org/wtbn/>.

⁴ See <http://www.clotheslineproject.org/>, <http://www.now.org/issues/violence/clothes.html>, <http://www.wcstx.com/clothesline.htm>.

⁵ To order *Defending Our Lives* visit: <http://www.cambridgedocumentaryfilms.org/defending.html>.

- **Fundraising ideas to raise money for the local domestic violence shelter—**
1. Sell purple domestic violence ribbon pins throughout October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month; 2. Organize a benefit concert; 3. Sell lunch or snacks at the law school; 4. Organize a walk around campus or somewhere in the community in October to raise awareness and money for the shelter; 5. Solicit local businesses for donations for clothing (professional), certificates for haircuts, or clothing and toys for children.
- **Volunteer Opportunities** include the following: 1. Serve as an advocate on the local crisis hotline; 2. Serve as a legal advocate for victims in court; 3. Provide children’s services. [Link to 3rd Circuit’s resources](#) (Vickie’s fliers).
- **Ways to get involved with the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence—**
1. Apply to serve as the Law Student Division Liaison to the Commission on Domestic Violence (applications for this new and exciting position are due on March 15th of each year); 2. Participate in the Commission’s law student writing competition (when one is offered); 3. Participate in trainings and teleconferences offered by the Commission (through the domestic violence clinic at your law school); 4. Check the Commission on Domestic Violence’s website regularly to stay informed about upcoming events and trainings.
- **Using the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence’s Law School Report—**
This new report is a resource for all law students to promote the teaching of domestic violence in law schools. In 2004 “the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence announces its newest publication entitled, *Teach Your Students Well: Incorporating Domestic Violence Into Law School Curricula – A Law School Report*. This publication includes a description of how domestic violence is being taught in our law schools, as well as sample course materials for use by legal educators, and a chart of all of the law schools that currently include domestic violence in their programs.” A copy of the report was mailed to the dean of every ABA-accredited law school over the summer of 2004. The report can be downloaded from the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence’s website at: www.abanet.org/domviol/domviolpublication.html.
- **Resource Attachments include:** 1. Lists of helpful websites (including legal information); 2. List of educational videos; 3. Sample fliers for Work-A-Day events; 5. The LSD Third Circuit’s planned Work-a-Day activities; 6. Amnesty International Fact Sheets on Domestic Violence.

Useful websites for ABA/LSD Work-a-Day and domestic violence resources

Click here to get connected with local organizations working to eradicate domestic violence in **your state and community**— to access numbers and contact organizations by STATE click (www.ncadv.org/resources/state.htm).

Check out the following links for more information:

- www.ncadv.org (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence—visit the “links” tab for a list of national resources)
- www.abanet.org/domviol (ABA Commission on Domestic Violence)
- www.nnedv.org (National Network to End Domestic Violence—link to all 50 state dv coalitions and the VotePower Project)
- www.nrcdv.org (National Resource Center on Domestic Violence)
- www.endabuse.org (Family Violence Prevention Fund)
- www.vaw.umn.edu/library/dv/ (Violence Against Women Online Resources)
- www.ncvc.org/ncvc/Main.aspx (National Center for Victims of Crime—Dating Violence Resource Center and Teen Victim Project links).
- www.vawnet.org (National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women—“Domestic Violence Awareness Project” link)
- www.ama-assn.org (American Medical Association--SAFE Program)
- www.mndap.org (Domestic Abuse Project of Minnesota)
- www.stopfamilyviolence.com (Stop Family Violence—statistics link)
- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for advocacy, counseling and referrals.

Check out the following links for **legal resources**:

- www.abanet.org/domviol (ABA Commission on Domestic Violence)
- www.womenslaw.org (Women’s Law Initiative—“State-by-state legal information and resources for domestic violence” or “National Links & Resources” links)
- www.bwjp.org (Battered Women’s Justice Project—contains up-to-date libraries of related resources)
- www.lsc.gov/fundprog.htm (Legal Services Corporation--map of LSC Programs nationally)
- www.ncjfcj.org (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges--for model state code)
- www.abanet.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.html (ABA Legal Help Center)

Check out the following links for **international resources**:

- www.amnestyusa.org/stopviolence/index.do (Amnesty International’s Stop Violence Against Women Campaign)
- www.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights—Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women)
- www.hrw.org/women (Human Rights Watch—Women’s Rights)

Educational Films, Videos, and Documentaries

1. *Defending Our Lives*, 43 minutes (Cambridge Documentary Films, Inc.); This video contains some graphic photos, language, and descriptions of violent abuse and the stories of several women who killed their abusive partners.

2. *It's Not OK: Let's Talk About Domestic Violence* (1996); 8 ½ minutes; \$15.00; Produced by the ABA Commission of Domestic Violence, in partnership with the Walt Disney Company, *It's Not OK* is a video for professionals working with children who experience domestic violence. The video is hosted by Ben Savage, star of the TV program "Boy Meets World." The video narrates several children's experiences of domestic violence and ends with a safety-planning segment designed to teach children how to respond safely to domestic violence. To order a publication or video from the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence, please contact the American Bar Association Service Center at (800)-285-2221 or email Maria DelRosario-Martin at martinm@abanet.org.⁶

3. *Breaking the Silence: Journeys of Hope* (2002); 60 minutes (Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc. and Tatge/Lasseur Productions, Inc.); \$13.95 (for video and facilitator's guide prepared by the ABA). *Breaking the Silence* is told through the stories of abuse survivors. In their own words, they paint a vivid picture of the causes of domestic violence, the painful experience of it, and the programs that are providing support to women in the difficult transition to safety and to personal independence. To order a copy of this video, visit www.abanet.org/domviol.html or call 800-285-2221 and ask for product code #317-0320 for English version or 317-0321S for Spanish version.

⁶ For the most current publications listings and pricing, please visit the Commission on Domestic Violence's website at www.abanet.org/domviol/pubs.html.



Sample Flier

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **AWARENESS MONTH**

The American Bar Association's Law Student Division encourages the nation's law schools to participate in its Annual *Work-a-Day Project* this October.

- Every nine seconds a woman is beaten in the United States. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women each year. On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day.
- In 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner. The same year, 440 men were killed by an intimate partner.
- Studies suggest that between 3.3 - 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.
- The most rapid growth in domestic relations caseloads is occurring in domestic violence filings. Between 1993 and 1995, 18 of 32 states with three-year filing figures reported an increase of 20 percent or more.
- Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year to three million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year.

For ideas and information on how to get involved to help eradicate domestic violence, visit [\(link to toolkit website\)](#).

The “TO DO” list to expand and improve this activist toolkit:

1. **Create a list of contact student organizations and leaders at every law school** in the country that are committed to addressing domestic violence (e.g. Women’s Law Caucus, Student Organization for Victim’s Rights). In addition to contacting the SBA Presidents and ABA Reps at each law school, these additional student leaders will be contacted to encourage their use of this activist toolkit (to connect and mobilize the nation’s student leaders and to make sure each of them receives information about or a hard copy of this activist toolkit). This will update the appendix of the Commission on Domestic Violence’s Law School Report.
2. Provide sample fliers, posters, logos, other materials for law students to print out and post
3. List of externship and summer employment opportunities throughout the country for law students wanting to gain legal experience representing victims of domestic violence (contact Sarah Buel and Robin Runge; e.g. the San Diego Family Justice Center).

***Ways to gain domestic violence legal experience: 1. get involved with the domestic violence or family law clinic at your law school (if there is not a domestic violence clinic at your school, ask faculty or clinical staff where you can volunteer or work to get experience helping domestic violence victims);