The Honorable Joseph Kennedy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
434 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

September 18, 2018  

Dear Representative Kennedy:

On behalf of the more than 400,000 members of the American Bar Association (ABA), I write to express our gratitude for the enactment on September 4th of the POWER Act, which annually requires the chief judge from each judicial district to promote pro bono legal services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

We applaud the underlying goals of this law: to let survivors know that legal assistance is available and to empower them to move forward with their lives. We also appreciate Congress including in its findings the ABA Model Rules and commentary stating that “every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer.”

The American Bar Association has long promoted access to justice for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and urges every lawyer to provide legal services to those who have a limited ability to pay. Pursuant to passage of your legislation, the ABA issued a call to action for the legal profession and urged state and local bar associations across the country to work with the chief judge in their district to facilitate annual implementation.

Thank you, again, for your leadership in the noble cause of pursuing “justice for all.” Your enactment of the POWER Act is an achievement of which we all can be proud.

Please feel free to contact Aloysius Hogan in the Governmental Affairs Office at (202) 662-1767 with any questions or ways we can be of help to you.

Sincerely,

Holly O’Grady Cook  
Director  
Governmental Affairs Office