

President's Message

Protecting and Empowering Against Abuse

By President Hon. C. Wendell Manning

October is observed nationally as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. One out of every four women in a relationship will experience some sort of physical abuse in her lifetime — your mother, your sister, your daughter, your friend.¹ It can happen to anyone. Domestic violence cuts across all socioeconomic lines; it affects rich, poor, black, white, young and old.

In 2012, Louisiana was ranked as having the fourth highest homicide rate among female victims killed by male offenders in single-victim/single-offender incidents. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 51 percent were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives or girlfriends of the offenders.²

Did you know?

- ▶ Nationally, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.

- ▶ Domestic violence is more than three times as likely to occur when couples are experiencing high levels of financial strain.

- ▶ Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

- ▶ The average number of times a battered woman may leave from, and return to, her batterer is between five and seven.³

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF)

is dedicated to helping protect families, empower victims and break the cycle of violence in Louisiana. I am proud to report that the LBF awarded more than \$300,000 in grants to domestic violence agencies across the state this year. These agencies empower people to leave abusive relationships and seek safety. The essential services provided by these agencies range from providing communities with a 24-hour crisis line; shelter for abused spouses and their children; legal services; education on domestic and dating violence; and establishing collaborative relationships with law enforcement, judges, clerks of court and prosecutors. According to 2012-13 statistics provided by our grantees, they were able to help more than 8,500 women and 3,500 children in Louisiana obtain safety from their abusers.

Included in the 2014 Domestic Violence Programs grantees are: Beauregard Community Concerns, Inc., Catholic Charities/Project S.A.V.E., Chez Hope, D.A.R.T. of Lincoln, Faith House, Inc., Metropolitan Center for Women and Children, Oasis,



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Project Celebration, Safe Harbor, Inc., Safety Net for Abused Persons, Southeast Spouse Abuse Program, St. Bernard Battered Women's Program, The Haven, Inc., The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc. and United Way of Central Louisiana.

As members of the legal community, we can help. Please consider joining the LBF. The LBF is working to help break the cycle of violence by helping women and children. We also assist the elderly, working poor, people with disabilities, disaster victims and many others. Through our projects and activities, we work to better the legal profession and our communities. To join, contact Membership Coordinator Danielle Marshall at (504)561-1046 or email danielle@raisingthebar.org. For more information, go to www.raisingthebar.org.

FOOTNOTES

1. Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000).

2. Violence Policy Center, "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2012 Homicide Data" (September 2014).

3. Statistics and facts: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; The National Network to End Domestic Violence; Violence Policy Center based on FBI data; and the Governor's Office on Women's Policy.

LBF Receives *Cy Pres* Award

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is the recipient of a \$10,000 *cy pres* award. Unused administrative funds from the *Elmira Preston et al v. Tenet Health Systems Memorial Medical Center et al* class action case were directed to the LBF by Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Tiffany Gautier Chase.

"The LBF is deserving of this award because of its commitment to ensuring access to equal and fair representation in civil legal aid matters for the indigent," Judge Chase said.

In 2012, the Louisiana Supreme Court adopted Rule XLIII, which names the LBF as a permissible recipient of *cy pres* funds. The LBF is the only organization specifically identified in the rule. Because of the tremendous need for civil legal services for low-income people in Louisiana, *cy pres* awards can go a long way toward meeting the need for legal services.

For more information, contact Laura Sewell at (504)561-1046 or email laura@raisingthebar.org.

Louisiana Bar Foundation Announces New Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation announces new Fellows:

Kristin L. Beckman	New Orleans
Jennifer C. Deasy.....	New Orleans
C. Kevin Hayes.....	Baton Rouge
Hon. Patricia E. Koch.....	Alexandria
Diana A. Mercer	New Orleans
Jonathan M. Rhodes	New Orleans
Weldon J. Rougeau.....	Chicago, IL
Paul L. Wood	Shreveport
Hon. Lisa Woodruff-White....	Baton Rouge