



JUSTICE IN ACTION

VOLUME I, NO. 8

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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Reader,

We know the last few months have been tough. But this month we want you to feel motivated and inspired. We do here at MBP.

This month we welcomed (remotely, of course) 5 students at MBP--two social work students from the University of Kentucky and three law students from the University of Louisville. We oriented and celebrated our Mary Byron Scholars at Assumption High School. We participated in a 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge.©

We've also done some of those things we do almost every month, and they continue to be meaningful, challenging, and exciting. We filed briefs on behalf of clients and participated in court hearings remotely. We trained justice system participants and others virtually. We provided support and advocacy and helped survivors navigate the justice system.

We're a little sad that we're not getting together with you in person this month to celebrate our 20th Anniversary as we had begun planning to do just before coronavirus changed everything. But your encouragement, your monetary support, and your commitment to making sure people like Mary are protected by the law motivate us even from afar. Thank you.

In this month's newsletter, we'll share with you a big win on appeal for a client, re-introduce you to our founding Executive Director and woman extraordinaire—Marcia Roth, remind you how our work is making a difference for marginalized non-citizens, and tell you about some remarkable former Celebrating Solutions award winners who are serving college student populations.

Happy reading,

Donde Dilbert



A WIN FOR AN MBP CLIENT

Last year we began representing a client who was seeking court protection from her ex-boyfriend—a man who had been convicted of assaulting her in the past. She had obtained a protection order against him in the past, and he had been convicted of violating it too. Unfortunately, that previous protection order was reversed in a prior appeal where our client was unrepresented. This time when she secured a new protective order and he again appealed, she connected with us, and MBP represented her on appeal.

After many months, the appeal process finally appears to be over, and we were successful in keeping her protective order in effect! The Court of Appeals affirmed that our client was entitled to legal protection due to the “original assault” and “the pattern of harassing conduct” her ex “used in his attempt to control and manipulate her.” The full Court of Appeals opinion is available at <https://appellatepublic.kycourts.net/api/api/v1/publicaccessdocuments/ec65629a66482097496e2b07df9cfb8d937a143d6cd33b5c7c86852e40c357d/download>.

Our client has expressed that she feels “very blessed and extremely grateful” for MBP’s knowledge and support as she has journeyed through the courts.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE *and* IMMIGRATION

Recently, our work has reminded us of the overlap between intimate partner violence and immigration. Like all survivors, immigrant survivors have a difficult time leaving an abusive relationship. However, immigrant survivors often face additional challenges stemming from their immigrant status such as a language barrier, lack of documentation, extreme social isolation, limited knowledge of local laws and resources, an increased risk of being separated from their children, and a heightened fear of authorities because of the risk of deportation. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducted studies that show 78% of advocates reported immigrant survivors have a fear of contacting the police. 43% of advocates have worked with clients who have dropped civil or criminal cases because of fear. Abusers are aware of the additional challenges their immigrant partners face and utilize these fears as additional opportunities for complete control over their partners. The Mary Byron Project is dedicated to fighting for immigrant survivors. For more information on domestic violence and immigration and ways we can help, please refer to the [NNEDV](#) or [The National Immigration Justice Center](#).

Immigration Policy. (n.d.). Retrieved August 18, 2020, from <https://nnedv.org/content/immigration-policy/>

Meet Our Board

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARCIA ROTH

This month we sat down with our distinguished Board Member and former Executive Director, Marcia Roth. Her dedication to our mission has been integral to the work of MBP over the last 20 years. Here's what she had to say:

How long have you been involved with The Mary Byron Project?

I've been involved with The Mary Byron Project since before its incorporation. In 2000, Pat Byron asked me to sit on the Board and upon missing the first meeting I came back to learn I would be the Executive Director!

How did you get involved with MBP?

I have known Pat Byron since 1993 and she wanted me to sit on the on the Board of the Mary Byron Foundation since I had served as the Executive Director of the Jefferson County Office for Women and was heavily involved with the need for a service that eventually became VINE.



What inspired your passion with the cause of ending intimate partner violence?

I've been passionate about this cause since my involvement with an organization called National Council of Jewish Women in the 1970's. In my work with NCJW where I ultimately served as President, I learned a lot about several social issues and became especially passionate about children's causes and violence against women.

Why do you think the work of The Mary Byron Project is important?

MBP has a niche within this crime that no one else really has. When we started we didn't want to replicate what others were already doing such as various direct service offerings for victims. We knew an organization was needed that could try to find programs that would look beyond crisis management and seek to solve the crime from the roots. The fact that we were able to view DV crime as preventable set us apart from every other organization in the field.

What is your favorite memory or accomplishment of MBP in the past?

The fact that we became a thought leader in this field makes me very proud, along with the establishment of a national reputation. We have been responsible for bringing programs to our community that have made a real difference. For example, the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), in collaboration with the police and Center for Women and Families, provides an evidence-based lethality assessment tool that law enforcement can use when responding to domestic violence calls to identify victims of intimate partner violence who are in highest danger of being killed by their intimate partners. And I am also very proud that we have evolved into the focus that we have now: enhancing justice to end intimate partner violence.

What are you most excited for in MBP's future?

I am excited that all the lessons we learned over the past 20 years are now being focused on our local community and Kentucky. Dorislee and her staff are doing such wonderful work in helping victims appeal in court in order to make good case law that can be used across the country.

What is your occupation?

Retired Executive Director of MBP. I also just finished my term as Chair of Board of regents of KCTCS.

Tell us about your family:

I am married to Louisville native, Bruce Roth. Together we have three children, three wonderful in-law children with 9 grandchildren.

What is your favorite thing to watch?

I like any Broadway show, my current favorite is Hamilton. At this point in life, I like any mindless TV show--pre-pandemic I would have said something more thoughtful. Otherwise, I watch a lot of MSNBC.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like to read, knit, and play golf.

What are the best toppings for a pizza?

Jalapenos, kalamatta olives, and anchovies.

Anything else you want to tell us about your involvement with MBP, your other work, or yourself personally that you think our readers might be interested to know?

I would just say The Mary Byron Project has been a point of pride for me and will always hold that spot in my heart.

Celebrating Solutions 20th Anniversary **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

Looking Back on Our Winners...

Each month leading to the selection of the winner of the Celebrating Solutions “Award for Excellence”, we spotlight some of our incredible former winners and their services to victims of intimate partner violence. This month the winners are higher education programs which focus on creating and educating the next generation of transformative leaders and social workers working to end interpersonal violence.

The applications of all the Celebrating Solutions and Roth winners can be found on our website at <https://www.marybyronproject.org/celebrating-solutions/>

Center on Domestic Violence, University of Colorado Denver, Program on Gender-based Violence, Denver, Colorado 2008 Celebrating Solutions Award winner.

The Program on Gender-based Violence is a graduate level academic program with a mission to end gender-based violence by fostering institutional and social change through leadership development, education, research, service and collaboration. It was the first institution of higher education to offer concentrated studies on gender violence in the nation and remains one of the handful of universities to do so. The core principles of the program are based on the understanding that to end violence, the systemic oppressions that enable and support the violence – racism, sexism, homophobia, and inequality – must be dismantled. www.domesticviolence.ucdenver.edu

Center on Violence Against Women and Children, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Violence Against Women and Children Certificate Program, (VAWC-CP) New Brunswick, NJ 2013 Celebrating Solutions Award winner.

The VAWC-CP is a master’s level social work program with a mission to prepare social workers to effectively advocate for and/or respond to survivors of violence in all types of social work settings; to engage in research; to develop, implement and manage programs and agencies that serve survivors of interpersonal violence; and to advocate for, and create, legislation and policies that support agencies that work with survivors of interpersonal violence and protect and create opportunities for clients. vawc.rutgers.edu



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