



# JUSTICE IN ACTION

VOLUME II, NO. 9

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## FROM OUR TEAM

Dear Reader,

On the eve of the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), we hope to connect you with a powerful resource for advocacy and action through the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Their 2021 campaign, #Every1KnowsSome1, emphasizes just how pervasive this violence is. Reflecting on the scope of the effects of intimate partner violence renews our passion to see it brought to an end. The task may seem daunting, but we hope that you are encouraged reading about our recent win in the Kentucky Supreme Court, as well as the testimonial from one of our clients. We are also proud to highlight another of our Mary Byron Scholars, Ainsley Wuerth. Thank you for coming alongside us in our mission to enhance justice to end intimate partner violence.

Happy reading,  
The MBP Team

# Someone you care about is likely experiencing domestic violence

WHETHER YOU CAN SEE IT OR NOT.



**EVERY1 KNOWS SOME1**  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2021

Next month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), a time when intimate partner violence survivors, advocates and allies join together to raise awareness across the country. This year the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEEDV) is kicking off a campaign, #Every1KnowsSome1, which strives to highlight how common domestic violence is and that it is more than physical violence. Visit [NNEEDV's website](#) to learn more about this year's campaign.

## APPELLATE PROGRAM *Case Highlight*

In August, the Kentucky Supreme Court issued an opinion in a case handled by the Mary Byron Project, which has significantly improved the legal protections available for minors seeking protective orders for stalking, sexual assault, or dating violence in Kentucky Courts. In *Smith v. Doe*, the Kentucky Supreme Court announced that minor petitioners seeking such protections are entitled to confidential hearings and appointment of counsel. This was a win for survivors of violence. The Court of Appeals, which had previously ruled on these issues, granted such protections only to those against whom protective orders were sought. After the Mary Byron Project took this case to the Kentucky Supreme Court, those seeking protection have the same rights to representation and confidentiality.

# SURVIVORS SPEAK

*Testimonials from MBP Clients*

“ It is truly painful for a victim of domestic violence, not knowing the local language, not having money, not understanding the laws to fight against domestic violence. Thank you for showing me that I have a voice, that I have rights, that I am a human and that [my immigration status] does not entitle a man to assault me, humiliate me, torture me.

This victory is not only mine, but it belongs to all those who were fighting by my side in this battle. ”

-M.F

## *Meet Our Scholars*

AN INTERVIEW WITH AINSLEY WUERTH



**Name:** Ainsley Wuerth

**College Major and/or Occupation:** Biomedical Engineering on a Premedical Track

**During what years were you a Mary Byron Scholar?** 2017-2020

**What inspired your passion with the cause of ending dating violence?** I was introduced to the concept of ending dating violence through my work with Green Dot at Assumption, and I realized how prevalent of an issue it truly is. I have always been a huge advocate for women's rights, and I knew that this was an issue that would come to impact many individuals in my life. As I learned more about dating violence, I saw how I could use my skills and talents to make

**How did being a part of the Scholars program impact you both at the time, and in the future (i.e. your college major, career choices, volunteer efforts, etc.)?** As a Mary Byron Scholars, I was taught that I would be able to make a real difference in helping people. I could plan awareness campaigns and education events that could impact my peers and teach them about the warning signs of dating violence and encourage them to support friends that may be in an abusive relationship. I was empowered by this program to feel educated enough to continue to help educate other people in abusive relationships throughout the rest of my life. In the future, although my current career plan does not directly relate to this issue, I know that I can use the skills and knowledge from this program to keep spreading awareness and encouraging my friends and family to get help when they need it.

**What is your favorite memory of the Scholars program?** My favorite memory is the awareness presentation that we gave during my Senior Year Mission Week. By that year, we had our presentation perfected, and each of the Scholars were so proud of our hard work. As this being my final year, I was so proud of the work I had done through the year, and I realized how many young women I had impacted through our work. I was always proud of these presentations, but my final one truly seemed to be a perfect culmination to three years of hard, important work.

**Anything else you want to tell us about your involvement with the Scholars program, your other work, or yourself personally that you think our followers might be interested to know?** Once you learn about the prevalence of dating violence, the warning signs, and all of its other aspects, this is information that you can carry with you for the rest of your life. It is beyond empowering to be able to share this information to whoever needs to hear it, and it can truly save a life. The work that the Mary Byron Project does is invaluable, and I have been continually inspired through my work with this organization

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