

The 2018 Annual Pursuit of Justice Awards Luncheon honoring Rita Hall, It's On Us, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, and Lois Thompson



The California Women's Law Center held its annual Abby J. Leibman Pursuit of Justice Awards lunch and ceremony on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. We were thrilled to honor Rita Hall, founder of Handbags of Hope; It's On Us, the national campaign to prevent sexual assault; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis; and CWLC Board President Lois Thompson. Robyn Ritter Simon served as our Mistress of Ceremonies.

The California Women's Law Center is working to end discrimination and eradicate violence against women. We are therefore grateful for the commitment and dedication these dynamic leaders have demonstrated to improve the lives of women and girls in California and across the nation.

Rita Hall created *Holy Helping Hands*, a non-profit organization providing support to women and families in need, as well as Handbags of Hope, which holds numerous events each year to support victims of domestic violence and their families. **It's On Us** raises awareness about sexual assault and harassment on campuses around the country and is working to build a nation where abuse is not tolerated and survivors are supported. **Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis** has been a champion of women and families for decades through her service to the public and, more recently, created the Los Angeles County Initiative on Women and Girls which examines issues that lead to inequitable gender outcomes and recommends changes to improve the quality of life for women and girls. **Lois Thompson** has generously served on the CWLC Board for twelve years (seven of those years as Board President) where she spent hundreds of hours pursuing justice for women and girls through her Board leadership and numerous pro bono efforts. We thank you, Lois, for your service and dedication to CWLC.

A special thank you to our sponsors, donors and attendees for helping make the 2018 Pursuit of Justice Awards a tremendous success. Together, we are making California safer, healthier and more just.

Women in Green Panel

In May, CWLC's Executive Director Betsy Butler participated in a panel discussion about gender equity with members of the design, building and construction community in Los Angeles. The breakfast panel was hosted by Women in Green which is affiliated with the Los Angeles chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Advocating for Safe Housing for Veterans

In May, CWLC's Senior Staff Attorney Amy Poyer presented a training titled "Legal Housing Considerations for Serving Disabled Veterans" at the California Department of Veterans Affairs 2018 Leadership Summit. The presentation explored the legal landscape for veterans housing accommodations under the law and discussed the particular issue of accommodations for women veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of Military Sexual Trauma.

Speaker Series with Congressman Adam Schiff



In April, CWLC was honored to feature Congressman Adam Schiff at our Distinguished Guest Speaker Series. In front of a packed house at the West Hollywood City Council Chambers,

Congressman Schiff addressed many issues of concern to Angelinos during his talk titled "An Update from Washington." We thank Congressman Schiff for leading an informative discussion and sharing his perspective on a number of pressing matters affecting our country.

The Supreme Court: What's At Stake

In August, CWLC and the Feminist Majority Foundation held an informative and important conversation about the Supreme Court and the direction of the federal judiciary. Panelists included



Michele Goodwin, Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Law; Brad Sears, Associate Dean of Public Interest Law at UCLA School of Law; and Amanda Hollis-Brusky, Politics Department at Pomona College. The panel was moderated by Betsy Butler, CWLC's Executive Director.

2018 #WeAreWomen Campaign



CWLC has been a strong supporter of the Los Angeles Sparks and their #WeAreWomen campaign since its creation in 2015. The staff and team members of the LA Sparks are dedicated community representatives who are actively working to improve the lives of girls and young women through their empowerment and confidence building programs. In addition, this year as in 2017, CWLC secured over 100 tickets to the #WeAreWomen game for incarcerated youth in Los Angeles County's juvenile halls. Thank you, Los Angeles Sparks, for your generosity and dedication to the community!

This year, Betsy Butler was chosen as the LA Sparks 2018 Woman of the Year, an honor she particularly appreciates because of our shared commitment to the empowerment of women and girls.

Fighting for Women and Children's Safety

In June, the California Women's Law Center filed an amicus brief with the California Court of Appeal in support of an appeal brought by a domestic violence victim seeking custody of her child. The appeal centers around the application of California Family Code section 3044, which creates a rebuttable presumption against granting custody to a parent who has perpetrated domestic violence against the other parent. Under the rebuttable presumption, once a judge finds domestic violence has occurred, the court will not grant custody to the abusive parent unless they can rebut the presumption by providing that the child is safe.

The amicus brief argued that clarity from the appellate courts is necessary in application of this presumption because the presumption is frequently misapplied by trial courts who do not consider each factor in the statute or improperly consider extraneous or irrelevant factors in rebutting the presumption. The brief also notes the importance of having clear authority from the court because the vast majority of litigants in custody cases involving domestic violence proceed pro per (without legal representation).

CWLC Outreach and Trainings

Oct. 25 - "Creating a Level Playing Field for Girls: Title IX Athletics in Schools and Beyond"

Please join us on October 25, 2018, for a Title IX Athletics training webinar titled "Creating a Level Playing Field for Girls: Title IX Athletics in Schools and Beyond" from 12:00 - 1:00 pm PST. We will address legal requirements mandating equity for girls playing sports in high school and at parks and recreation facilities in California. This webinar also qualifies for one hour of MCLE credit. Please visit our website to RSVP.

We Are Here to Help

CWLC trains attorneys throughout California on our various areas of expertise, including Title IX and campus sexual assault, the rights of pregnant and parenting students, teen dating violence, and gender equity in K-12 athletics.

If your organization would like to learn more about CWLC's trainings, or would like to be trained in one of CWLC's areas of expertise, please contact us at cwlc@cwlc.org or (323) 951-1041.

In Case You Missed it!

Title IX Training Webinar

In July, CWLC partnered with BreastfeedLA and The Center for WorkLife Law to discuss "The Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Students and Employees at California Schools" in a training webinar. We reviewed the rights of pregnant and parenting employees and students in California's schools, and also provided an update on the *ABC's of Breastfeeding* Report Card.

Women's Reproductive Health Care Webinar

In August, CWLC and UC Irvine School of Law Chancellor's Professor Michele Goodwin discussed the U.S. Supreme Court's recent *NIFLA v. Becerra* decision regarding California's FACT Act. The webinar addressed the reasons the FACT Act was implemented, its application to "crisis pregnancy centers" in California, and the Supreme Court's ruling that the Act is likely unconstitutional under the First Amendment. We also discussed the future of reproductive rights in California and beyond in the wake of the decision.

Denim Day 2018

In April, CWLC observed the 19th year of Denim Day by wearing jeans with a purpose and attending the 2018 Denim Day rally and press conference on the steps of Los Angeles City Hall in downtown Los Angeles. The Denim Day campaign was developed by Peace Over Violence nearly two decades ago after a jury verdict in Italy was overturned because the Chief Judge argued that the victim's jeans were too tight for the rapist to take them off without the victims' help or consent.

We support and participate in Denim Day each year to raise awareness about sexual violence, combat harmful misconceptions, and reinforce the importance of consent.



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CWLC Hosts Interns



For the fourth year in a row, CWLC was pleased to host five Columbia Law School students this year. While Elizabeth Cheung, Rachel Horn, Lynne Howard, Ying Liu and Andrea Metz were with us, they focused on projects addressing violence against women and sexual harassment.

CWLC is proud to have had second year law school students Phelan Arata (Columbia Law School) and Nicole Malick (University of Pennsylvania Law School)

join us during the summer of 2018. They worked on projects related to reproductive rights and legislative advocacy. We thank Phelan and Nicole for their hard work and wish them the best of luck in their second year of law school!

If you or someone you know is in law school and looking to intern with us, please visit our website or send your cover letter and resume to cwlc@cwlc.org and use "LEGAL INTERN APPLICATION" in the subject line.

Meet our new Staff Member

Kathy Paspalis joins CWLC after years as an attorney, advocate, and activist. Before joining CWLC, Kathy worked as the Director of Strategic Partner Programs for Lambda Legal, and also worked in private practice for smaller boutique law firms handling civil litigation, family law, and general municipal law practices. Welcome Kathy!

Meet our new Board Member!

Kerry C. Fowler is a partner at Jones Day and has 14 years of experience litigating and trying complex civil actions. Welcome Kerry!