

California Women's Law Center

FALL 2020 MISSION IMPACT UPDATE

Letter from the Executive Director

BETSY BUTLER

Dear Friends:

As this challenging year comes to an end, and on behalf of the CWLC Board and staff, we thank you for supporting our work now and over the last three decades. With your help, and in partnership with our policy and community allies in California and across the country, CWLC has devoted our efforts to addressing the comprehensive legal needs of women and girls.

This year in particular, CWLC is grateful for your partnership in supporting and empowering women and girls across our state. The pandemic has dramatically affected women, especially women of color. Adding to this injustice is the glaring reality that our country is plagued with ongoing racial inequality and discrimination.

CWLC's mission is to support women and girls throughout their lifetime. Whether it be by litigating Title IX cases so female student athletes have the same opportunities as their male classmates or fighting for equal pay to ensure women can be financially secure, we are committed to enabling and empowering women and girls across the country.

It is hoped that 2021 will be a healthier, more just and equitable year for all, and that by working together we will be able to move past the pandemic and begin to recover financially and emotionally.

Wishing you and yours a safe holiday season and a healthy new year.



IN THIS ISSUE:

CWLC Report:
NCAA Data Shows Sex
Discrimination in Collegiate
Sports Getting Worse

Fighting for Fair Treatment in
Domestic Violence Cases

Advocating for Equal Pay
with the Los Angeles Sparks

CWLC Speaker Series:
Congressman Adam Schiff
Dec. 16, 2020

Past and Upcoming
Legal Trainings

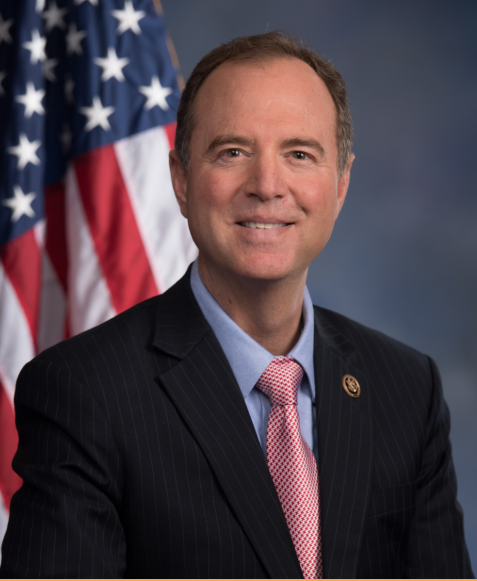
Supporting Low-Income Tenants
at Online Housing Clinics

Welcome UCLA Fellows
and Angelique Lizarde to the
CWLC team

To support CWLC and our mission, please consider making a contribution.

Donate online at www.cwlc.org.

Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to women and girls.



DEMANDING FAIR TREATMENT FOR CAMPUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES: *BOERMEESTER V. USC*

The California Supreme Court granted review in *Boermeester v. Carry*, a case involving the expulsion of a University of Southern California student for intimate partner violence. This is the first domestic violence case involving a student in California to make it to the California Supreme Court, which is a significant victory for survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

The petition for review was filed on behalf of the University of Southern California. The California Women's Law Center and Equal Rights Advocates, represented by Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, provided amicus support urging the Supreme Court to grant the petition and review the divided Court of Appeal decision. The Court of Appeal had ruled that the petitioner (the alleged aggressor) was denied "a meaningful opportunity to cross-examine critical witnesses at an in-person hearing." But, as the dissent points out, this kind of special treatment allows the aggressor to emerge as the victim and unfairly punishes the survivor.

The appellate decision was the most recent in a string of decisions from the Court of Appeal which have incrementally imposed additional, onerous requirements in university disciplinary proceedings regarding sexual misconduct and gender-based violence. These requirements are not required in any other type of school disciplinary proceedings.

As the amicus letter explains, this disparate treatment creates "a two-track system separate and unequal—which requires an opportunity to cross-examine parties and witnesses only in gender-based disciplinary proceedings, and continues to perpetuate the false adage that women who report their assault, abuse, or rape are lying."

Intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and other forms of gender-based abuse and discrimination have lifelong impacts on survivors. Only 20% of survivors report gender-based violence, and a procedural system that allows perpetrators to aggressively cross-examine victims in public settings will only further deter reporting.

In a rare occurrence, the California Supreme Court granted review of this case and also depublished the Court of Appeal's opinion. The dual wins of review and depublication happen infrequently, making this success especially important to advocates for women's rights.

CWLC DATA ANALYSIS SHOWS GROWING GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN NCAA SPORTS

Champion Women and the California Women's Law Center performed an in-depth analysis of data available via the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act. Because athletics is sex-segregated, discrimination and gaps are easy to measure. The data reveals discrimination throughout intercollegiate sports and that inequality is growing at an unrestrained rate. Some key findings included:

90% of universities and colleges discriminate against women in sports.

NCAA institutions need to provide women an additional 148,030 sports opportunities to match same opportunities offered to men.

Women miss out on \$1 billion in athletic scholarships annually

SPEAKER SERIES

In December, CWLC hosted a successful Speaker Series with Congressman Adam Schiff.

Please visit cwlc.org to watch the recorded discussion.

2021 TRAINING TOPICS

January 2021

Equity in Athletics amid COVID-19

February 2021

Pregnant and Parenting Students in K-12 School Districts Statewide

Spring 2021

Domestic Violence Restraining Order Primer and Legal Updates



SUPPORTING LOW-INCOME RENTERS DURING COVID-19

For the last three years, the California Women's Law Center has hosted free monthly legal clinics to help renters understand their legal housing rights and avoid eviction.

Because the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated financial challenges for many women and families, safe and affordable housing is an increasingly urgent need. CWLC connects attorneys who specialize in housing law with tenants who can then share their legal housing questions via phone and online video platforms.

The clinic is open to Los Angeles County residents facing eviction or other legal issues related to their housing. We invite you to share this opportunity with anyone who may be in need of assistance or advice. Visit our website at cwlc.org for more information.

SPEAKING UP FOR EQUAL PAY WITH LOS ANGELES SPARKS

THE LA SPARKS PRESENTS
THE VOICE OF AN ADVOCATE
WED, NOV. 16
1-1:30 PM
FEATURING CONGRESSWOMAN KATIE PORTER
MODERATED BY CANDACE PARKER
TUNE IN ON FACEBOOK LIVE & TWITTER

This year, we have expanded a number of our partnerships so that we can be more effective advocates for women and girls. We are particularly proud of our strengthened relationship with WNBA Champions the Los Angeles Sparks.

We are grateful the Sparks are using their platform to strengthen our communities via their #WeAreGirls Workshop, which seeks to educate and empower girls and provide mentorship.

On November 12, Betsy Butler spoke on the Sparks' [Empowering Women and Girls](#)

panel with Hidden Figures Actress Karen Kendrick, WNBA Veteran Allison Feaster, Senior Vice President of Community Relations at EquiTrust Rosemary Parsons, CEO and Co-Founder of SkinnyDipped Breezy Griffith, and Creator and voice of HighlightHER Arielle Chambers.

On November 18, Betsy spoke on the Sparks' [Pay Equity](#), #SparkTheChange panel with labor leader and civil rights icon Dolores Huerta, WNBA Player and President of the WNBPA Nneka Ogwumike, and President and CEO of LA84 Foundation Renata Simril. We are proud to be working with the Sparks to close the wage gap. It is critical for women to be able to lead financially secure lives, and we are grateful to be working with the Sparks on these pressing matters. To view the distinguished panelists discuss pay inequity, please [click here](#).

On December 16, Congresswoman Katie Porter joined the Sparks for [The Voice of an Advocate](#). The event was moderated by 5X WNBA All-Star Candace Parker.

CWLC remains committed to working to create equity and instill equality, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with our Los Angeles Sparks on these pressing issues. To support women's basketball and the Sparks, become a season ticket holder by visiting [here](#).

2020 TRAINING TOPICS

Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, CWLC staff continued to provide legal trainings and technical assistance all year.

Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

The current COVID-19 public health emergency and call for racial justice have shed light on inequities in our policies and systems that create and exacerbate health disparities for people of color. This year, CWLC trained attorneys on the intersection between COVID-19, structural racism, and reproductive justice. The presentation included a discussion about the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions and other federal actions on reproductive rights, policy changes that support access to reproductive health care during the public health emergency, and practical tips for how the legal community can advance reproductive justice and care. This webinar is available to view at cwlc.org, and offers 1 hour of MCLE credit.

Gender Discrimination in Housing

There has been a growing housing crisis in California for some time and the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly exacerbated the barriers many families face when seeking safe, affordable housing. Women are especially vulnerable economically and many are experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic, putting them at increased risk of homelessness.

CWLC offered multiple webinars focusing on the intersection of gender discrimination and housing and discussed how race, income, violence, and health are interconnected. We provided an overview of the current legal landscape in light of COVID-19, the increased role that sex discrimination and domestic violence has on housing access, and the housing protections available to survivors of domestic violence. This webinar is available to view at cwlc.org, and offers 1 hour of MCLE credit.

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

Pursuing Justice for Women and Girls

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING EQUALITY AND
JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

www.cwlc.org

WELCOME TO THE CWLC TEAM



Director of Communications and Marketing, Angelique Lizarde has extensive experience as a bilingual broadcast journalist. Most recently, she was the primary anchor for the award-winning NBC affiliate in Southern Arizona where, in addition to her on-air commitments, Angelique worked closely with Make-A-Wish Arizona, the Ronald McDonald House Charities, and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona to help those in need. Prior to her work in Arizona, Angelique was a general assignment reporter for the CBS affiliate in San Diego where she covered a variety of high profile cases, including many that made national headlines. Angelique also served as the Acting Communications Information Officer for San Diego Miramar College where she worked closely with college administrators and city officials to accomplish a variety of projects on and off campus. Born and raised in San Diego, Angelique received her undergraduate degree from the University of San Diego and a Master of Science in Broadcast Journalism from Boston University.



Legal Fellow, Taylor Gumm engages in research, writing, and other legal support in all areas of CWLC's work. While attending UCLA Law School, Taylor externed with Public Counsel's Children Rights Project working to assist families in completing their adoption proceedings. Taylor also served as a research assistant for several UCLA Law professors, focusing on criminal justice reform. Taylor received her juris doctor from UCLA School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.



Legal Fellow, Thais Alves is focused on research, writing, and other legal support of CWLC's work. While attending UCLA Law School, Thais interned with the Public Law Center working on housing issues for veterans, and also volunteered at the University of California's Immigrant Legal Services Center assisting undocumented students with their legal needs. She also interned with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and the California Attorney General's Office. Thais received her juris doctor from UCLA School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of California, at Irvine.

To support CWLC and our mission, please consider making a contribution at cwlc.org.
Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to women and girls.