



Women's
Law Center
of Maryland

*Annual Celebration
& Awards Ceremony*

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
6 pm - 9 pm

The Cove at Citron
2605 Quarry Lake Drive • Baltimore, Maryland 21209

*Celebrating the Women's Law Center
& honoring Maryland's exceptional Leaders.*





Support the Women's Law Center of Maryland & Get Involved

Visit www.wlcmd.org/donate to make a donation or learn about other ways to give, such as workplace giving or Maryland Pro Bono Reporting. Annual membership is \$75 for individuals and \$15 for students. Your membership demonstrates community support for the Women's Law Center's mission and values and helps us continue to serve as a voice for justice. All donations \$75 or more include membership dues.

Visit www.wlcmd.org to learn how to Get Involved, such as serving on our Judicial Selections Committee, volunteering for the Employment Law Hotline, or signing up for our Legislative E-Alerts or newsletters.

Make a Donation to advance justice now!

Event Schedule

- 6:00 pm Cocktails & passed Hors D'oeuvres
- 7:10 pm Welcome, State of the Organization
Katie Curran O'Malley, Esq.
Executive Director, Women's Law Center of Maryland
- 7:20 pm Keynote Address
Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller
- 7:40 pm Awards Introduction
Kelly Tribble Spencer, Esq.
President, Board of Directors
Women's Law Center of Maryland
- 7:45 pm Awards Ceremony
- Dorothy Beatty Award**
Michelle Daugherty Siri, Esq.
Executive Director, Maryland Legal Services Corporation
- Rosalyn Bell Award**
Margaret Johnson, Esq.
Director, Bronfein Family Law Clinic
Co-Director, Center on Applied Femenism
Professor, University of Baltimore, School of Law
- Access to Justice Award**
Attorney General Anthony Brown
Maryland Attorney General
- 8:05 pm Closing Remarks
Sarah David, Esq.
Vice President, Board of Directors
Women's Law Center of Maryland
- 8:10 pm Raffle Drawing
Champion of Justice Sposnor, Saul Ewing LLP



Women's Law Center *of Maryland*

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

As a leading advocate for justice and fairness for women, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. advocates for the protection and expansion of women's legal rights by providing legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change. Founded in 1971 and incorporated in 1972 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization, the Women's Law Center works to protect the safety, stability, and rights of a vulnerable population of predominantly low-income women and their families. Legal representation and education projects equip women with resources to address critical issues involving domestic violence law, immigration law, family law, and employment law. Using experience gained from work with clients, as well as through research and policy analysis, the Women's Law Center compiles first-hand knowledge and facts to inform its advocacy initiatives and other projects that advance equal rights for all Marylanders.

OUR VISION is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women.

THE MISSION of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work towards this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.



Women's Law Center *of Maryland*

HONORING OUR LEADERS

Each year at its Annual Celebration & Awards Ceremony, the Women's Law Center of Maryland celebrates distinguished Marylanders who have made dedicated and enterprising contributions to protect and promote justice and fairness for women. The Women's Law Center's Board selects candidates based on research and its extensive knowledge of the Maryland community.

Rosalyn B. Bell Award

The Rosalyn B. Bell Award recognizes achievement in family law. The Honorable Rosalyn B. Bell, Maryland Court of Special Appeals, retired, was the first recipient of the award that was named after her in 1993.

Dorothy Beatty Award

The Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of women's rights. In 1986, the award was named in memory of Dorothy Beatty, one of the first members of the Women's Law Center and a Board member for many years.

Access to Justice Award

The Access to Justice Award recognizes individuals who made significant improvements in access to legal information and services for low-income Marylanders.

29th Annual Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award

MICHELLE DAUGHERTY SIRI, ESQ.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Michelle Daugherty Siri is the Executive Director of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, the state's largest funder of civil legal aid. Established in 1982 by the legislature, MLSC's mission is to ensure low-income Marylanders have access to stable, efficient and effective civil legal assistance through the distribution of funds to nonprofit legal services organizations. A first-generation Iranian-American, Ms. Siri earned her J.D. with honors from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in 2002. After a career spanning private and public sectors, she transitioned to the nonprofit sector, spending nearly nine years as the Executive Director of the Women's Law Center of Maryland, championing women's safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy.

Ms. Siri currently serves on the boards of the Baltimore County Bar Association, the Maryland Bar Foundation, the Maryland State Bar Association, GBMC Hospital, and Freedom In Reproduction Maryland (FIRM), whose mission is to establish reproductive freedom as a constitutional right in Maryland. She has previously served on the boards of Planned Parenthood of Maryland, her law school's Alumni Board, the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, and the Maryland Equal Pay Commission. Believing in women uplifting one another, she co-founded The Riveters, Maryland's first law club for women in the legal profession in 2023. Her notable achievements include advocating for key legislations like the 2015 Equal Pay for Equal Work Act, the 2018 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, and the Reproductive Rights Package of 2023. She has received numerous awards, including the Benjamin Cardin Award, The Rita C. Davidson Award, the Judith P. Ritchey Award, the Daily Record's Leadership in the Law award, and is a member of the Daily Record's Circle of Excellence for having been named three times to Maryland's Top 100 Women. Residing in Baltimore County with her husband, two teenage sons, and two rescue dogs, Ms. Siri, an avid baker and runner, has completed 18 half-marathons, one full marathon, and 5 triathlons. In her leisure, she plans travel and attends live music shows, balancing her passion for justice, family, and personal interests.

Award Recipients

29th Annual Rosalyn B. Bell Award

MARGARET E. JOHNSON, ESQ.

DIRECTOR, BRONFEIN FAMILY LAW CLINIC

CO-DIRECTOR, CENTER ON APPLIED FEMENISM

PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE, SCHOOL OF LAW

Margaret E. Johnson is a Professor of Law; Director, Bronfein Family Law Clinic; and Co-Director, Center on Applied Feminism at The University of Baltimore School of Law. Since 2006, Professor Johnson has trained scores of law students and clinical teaching fellows in client-centered and justice-forward family law practice. The clinic's practice provides pro bono representation and legislative advocacy focusing on intimate partner violence (IPV) and LGBTQIA family law issues. For example, with the Safe Homes Coalition, she and her students successfully advocated for laws requiring safer housing opportunities for IPV survivors. Her IPV scholarship addresses critical legal issues around survivors' agency, decision-making, and social support access and is regularly cited by courts, scholars, and the media.

Most recently, Professor Johnson has become a leading scholar and advocate relating to issues of menstruation law and policy, including in areas of employment and education discrimination. Working with the Reproductive Justice Inside and other coalitions, Professor Johnson has participated in advocacy campaigns for period product provision in Maryland's schools, jails, and prisons; better bar exam policies; federal education and employment law regulations protecting against menstruation and menopause discrimination; and improved school menstruation education curricula. As a Fulbright Scholar in 2023, Professor Johnson collaborated with Australian researchers to produce *Menstrual Justice: A Human Rights Vision for Australia*, a cross-disciplinary report seeking law and policy reform. Professor Johnson serves on the expert panel for *Our Bodies Ourselves Today*. She has served as a visiting professor at NYU Law, Georgetown Law, and American University, Washington College of Law. Professor Johnson was recognized with the USM Board of Regents' Faculty Award for Public Service and was named one of the Top 25 Women Professors in Maryland. Professor Johnson is a graduate of Wisconsin Law School, cum laude, and Dartmouth College.

Access to Justice Award

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANTHONY BROWN **MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Anthony G. Brown assumed office as Maryland's 47th Attorney General on January 3, 2023, the first African American to hold this position in Maryland history. Previously, Attorney General Brown represented the 4th Congressional District from 2017 to 2023, served as Lieutenant Governor from 2007 to 2015, and in the House of Delegates as Vice Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Majority Whip from 1999 to 2007. Since being sworn in, Attorney General Brown has established the Office of Equity, Policy, and Engagement to focus on strategies, initiatives, policies, and practices that will improve the equity and fairness in the criminal justice system. Attorney General Brown has also advocated for and was successful in passing legislation with the Maryland General Assembly including Civil Rights Enforcement Authority, expanding Independent Investigations Division Prosecutorial Authority, and converting the Hate Crimes Response Task Force to a Commission on Hate Crimes Response and Prevention. In October of 2023, Attorney General Brown partnered with Maryland Public Defender Natasha Dartigue to create the Maryland Equitable Justice Collaborative (MEJC), a first of its kind initiative dedicated to reducing the mass incarceration of African Americans and other marginalized groups in Maryland prisons and jails. MEJC's goal is to examine and assess the scope and causes of this crisis, and to develop a data-driven approach to addressing it.

Attorney General Brown's mission is justice and equity, a longstanding commitment aimed at improving the lives of all Marylanders. As Lieutenant Governor, he advocated for the repeal of the death penalty, the decriminalization of marijuana, the expansion of record expungements, stringent background checks and training requirements for gun sales, and banning large-capacity magazines and certain assault rifles. In Congress, Attorney General Brown again championed common-sense gun safety laws, measures to expand access to the ballot, protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay, defending the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community and was a lead sponsor on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. He worked in the General Assembly and in Congress to expand protections for victims of domestic violence, abused and neglected children, and veterans with unmet mental and behavioral health needs. Attorney General Brown received a bachelor's degree from Harvard College, a law degree from Harvard Law School, and has been a member of the Maryland bar since 1994. A retired Colonel in the Army Reserve, Attorney General Brown served three decades as an aviator and Judge Advocate General. He graduated first in his flight class and received both Airborne and Air Assault qualifications. Attorney General Brown was awarded the Legion of Merit for his distinguished military service and earned the Bronze Star while deployed to Iraq in 2004 to 2005. Attorney General Brown completed his military service commanding the 153rd Legal Support Organization.

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Past Award Recipients

DOROTHY BEATTY MEMORIAL AWARD

1994	Beverly Anne Groner
1986	Constance Beims
1987	Honorable Mary Ellen Rinehardt
1988	Delegate Anne Perkins
1989	Anne Gordon
1990	Honorable Robert C. Murphy, Roger Titus
1991	Hon. Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman,
	Susan Hardwerger/Tannenbaum,
	Ann Hoffman, Mardon Walker, Susan Leviton,
	Ellen Luff, Bea Cowen
1992	Honorable Barbara Mikulski
1993	Judith Wolfer, Bebe Verdery
1994	Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow
1994	Honorable Diana G. Motz, Honorable Irma S. Raker, Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia
1995	Honorable Barbara Kerr Howe, Sayra Wells Meyerhoff
1996	Jayne Miller, Barbara Samuels
1997	Senator Delores Kelley, Delegate Sharon Grosfeld, Delegate Sue Hecht
1998	Honorable Ellen L. Hollander, Melanie C. Pereira
1999	Kathleen F. Shemer
2000	Honorable Sally Denison Adkins
2001	Delegate Maggie L. McIntosh
2002	Dean Karen H. Rothenberg
2003	Lyn P. Meyerhoff Fund
2004	C. Christopher Brown
2005	Judith Vaughan-Prather
2006	Wendy L. Kahn, Esq.
2007	Susana SaCouto
2008	Honorable Charlotte Cooksey
2009	Glendora Hughes
2010	Delegate Kathleen Dumais
2011	Planned Parenthood of Maryland
2013	Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera
2014	Honorable Barbara Baer Waxman
2015	One Love Foundation
2016	Equal Pay for Equal Work Act - Senator Susan C. Lee & Delegate Kris Valderamma
2017	Lisae C. Jordan, Esq.
2018	Working Matters Coalition
2019	Tracy Brown
2020-2021	Nicole Hanson-Mundell
2023	Robyn Elliott
1994	Professor Jane C. Murphy,
1995	Professor Barbara Babb
1996	Atty. General J. Joseph Curran, Jr., Delegate Kenneth Montague, Jr.
1997	Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman
1998	Honorable Mary Ellen Rinehardt
1999	Honorable Robert M. Bell
2000	Honorable Albert Matricciani
2001	Honorable Martha F. Rasin
2002	Honorable Louise G. Scrivener
2003	Honorable Marcella A. Holland
2004	Debra Gardner, Deborah Frase
2005	Plaintiffs, Deane & Polyak v. Conaway
2006	Senator Sharon Grosfeld
2007	Leslye E. Orloff
2008	Honorable Ann N. Sundt
2009	Lt. Governor Anthony Brown
2010	Honorable Audrey J. S. Carrion
2011	Honorable Julia Weatherly
2013	Marylanders for Marriage Equality
2014	Honorable Cathy Hollenberg Serrette
2015	Honorable Cynthia Callahan
2016	Honorable Karen C. Friedman
2017	Professor Leigh Goodmark
2018	Susan Carol Elgin, Esq.
2019	Honorable Diane O. Leasure
2020-2021	Sheila K. Sachs
2023	Marla Zide

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

1997	Frank Broccolina
2000	Jane Wiley
2003	Maryann Z. Fiebach
2004	Honorable Dale R. Cathell
2005	Rhonda Lipkin
2006	Honorable J. Joseph Curran, Jr.
2007	Patricia Chiriboga-Roby
2008	Susan Erlichman
2009	Louise Carwell
2010	Sharon E. Goldsmith
2011	Sidney Ford
2013	Dorothy Lennig
2014	Martina E. Vandenberg
2016	Ward B. Coe, III
2017	Connie Kratovil-Lavelle
2018	Bonnie A. Sullivan
2019	Erricka Bridgeford
2020-2021	Sherrilyn Ifill
2023	Natasha Dartigue Debbie Feinstein

ROSALYN B. BELL AWARD

1993	Honorable Rosalyn B. Bell
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Past Award Recipients

40TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD WINNERS (2012)

In celebration of our 40th Anniversary, rather than presenting our traditional awards, we selected one recipient from each decade of our 40 year history: 1970's (Sally Gold); 1980's (Claire Smearman); 1990's (Susan C. Elgin); 2000's (Students Supporting the Women's Law Center).

50TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD WINNERS (2022)

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Law Center, the Board recognized the past, present, and future of advancing justice in Maryland through three 50th Anniversary Awards: Legacy of Leadership Award (Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera); Power of the Present Award (Speaker Adrienne A. Jones); and Foundation of the Future Award (Susan Francis).



INSPIRATION THROUGH ACHIEVEMENT

Communities working together can affect positive change. We proudly support the **Maryland Women's Law Center** in helping to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for all women in Maryland.

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We Proudly Support the
**Annual Celebration & Awards
Ceremony of the Women's Law
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We applaud the work WLC and its 2024 honorees are doing to give Maryland women access to legal representation and justice under the law!

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Thank you to the
Women's Law Center
of Maryland for all the
outstanding work you do.
We are proud to support
you and your mission.

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Saturday,
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What are people saying about William?

"I didn't die even once!"

~ Kelly

"William's anecdote about how it would be better if we just had one big curvy toe really spoke to me."

~ Alice

"Most photographers bring too many snakes. William didn't bring any snakes at all."

~ Benjamin

"It's clear that William did not go into cardiac arrest."

~ Paramedics



Very Special
Mom, 1991



Nice Camera
Event Guest, 2022



Eye brows
Has Them, 2024



Ok, jokes aside,

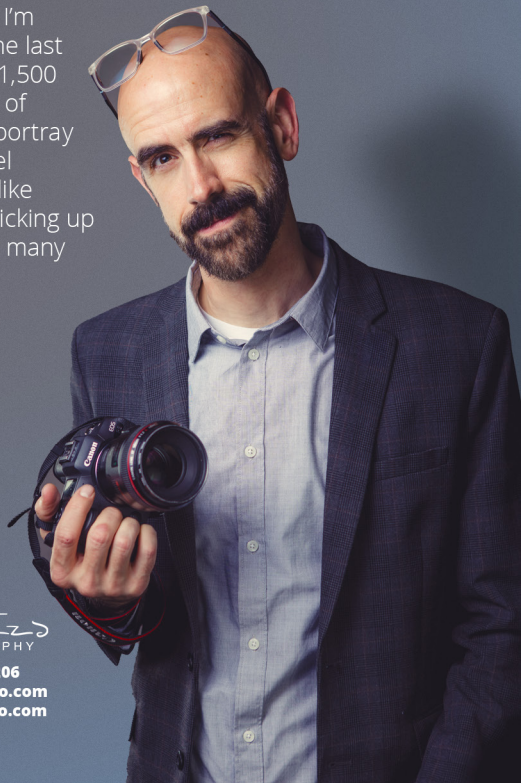
I have been doing this a long time, I'm good at it, and I'm passionate. In the last 18 years I have helped more than 1,500 businesses and individuals get out of their own head and relax so I can portray them in a way that makes them feel confident and look approachable, like someone people would feel safe picking up the phone and calling—something many lawyers sorely need.

I'm wandering around this event *right now*. Come talk to me, scan the QR code below, or make some kind of a loud duck sound and I'll come find you.



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PHOTOGRAPHY

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for women.

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In Honor of the Women at the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland

Thank you for your demonstrated compassion and dedication to serving low-income Marylanders! These staff members have been with PBRC for two or more years:

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Kiah E. Pierre
Annie B. Speedie, Esq.
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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

THE MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
congratulates the
Women's Law Center of Maryland and the
honorees at the 2024 WLC Awards Presentation.



www.marylandwomen.org



BEST WISHES FOR
CONTINUED
SUCCESS TO ALL OF
TONIGHT'S WLC
HONOREES



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Congratulations to Michelle Daugherty Siri
and The Women's Law Center of Maryland.

We are proud to partner in our work together!

OUR MISSION

To lead diverse community partners
toward the common purpose of
reducing the occurrence and impact of
intimate partner violence.



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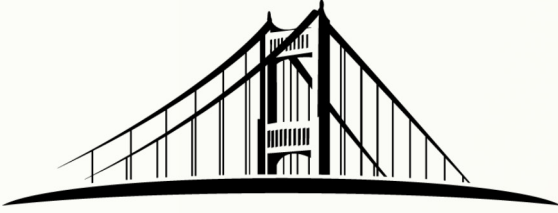
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congratulates all
the well-deserving
awardees.



Z I D E
L A W G R O U P L L C



CONGRATULATIONS
AND THANK YOU
TO THE AWARDEES.
YOUR DEDICATION
AND PASSION HAVE
MADE A PROFOUND
IMPACT ON OUR
COMMUNITY!

Meghan Marek, Esq.
Immediate Past
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Women's Law Center of Maryland

PROTECTS LEGAL RIGHTS AND IMPROVES ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY:

PROVIDING LEGAL HELP TO INDIVIDUALS

Protection Order Advocacy & Representation Project (POARP): Offers legal and supportive services to victims of domestic violence seeking protective orders.

Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (MEDOVI): Represents foreign-born domestic violence, trafficking, and sexual assault victims in immigration proceedings.

Judicare Project: Pays private attorneys a reduced fee to handle contested family law cases.

CLAS Project: Provides collateral legal services for survivors of domestic violence in family law cases.

Education: Provides basic family law and employment legal information and referrals through hotlines.

Publications: Offers information on a broad range of topics that affect women—including domestic violence, family law, employment law, and financial planning.

WORKING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Legislative Advocacy: WLC monitors and takes positions on bills that may affect women's rights, and garners grassroots support for issues impacting women by emailing legislative alerts.

Research and Policy Analysis: WLC identifies emerging issues that have a broad impact on women's rights and develops policy recommendations to overcome barriers to equality for women.

Judicial Selections: The Judicial Selections Committee interviews and rates candidates for judicial office to promote a system that is free of gender bias.

Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities: WLC fosters commitment to women's issues by providing opportunities for individuals to become involved in its work. Volunteers can serve on committees or as community ambassadors while attorneys can use their training to work on hotlines or mentor law students.

Partnerships: WLC participates actively on coalitions and committees to provide input regarding policy issues affecting women.

Contribute to Justice

WLC IS A LEADING VOICE FOR JUSTICE IN MARYLAND

Our success is thanks to our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and passionate supporters like you. Every year, we help thousands of individuals and achieve legislative and advocacy victories. But we can't do it alone. We need your investment and involvement to achieve our vision of a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women in Maryland.

BE SAFETY.
BE. SECURITY.
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