

Women's Law Center of Maryland

JUSTICE FAIRNESS EQUALITY

wlcmd.org

102 W Pennsylvania Ave # 100

Towson, MD 21204

(410) 321-8761



OUR MISSION

For over 50 years, our MISSION has been to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work toward this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.

Our VISION is to have a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women.

OUR TEAM



Executive Director
Katie Curran O'Malley

Katie has spent her career as an advocate for women and ensuring the full benefits of the law are accessible to those most vulnerable, as a prosecutor, a district judge for over 20 years, as Maryland's First Lady, and now as the sixth Executive Director of the Women's Law Center of Maryland.



Chief Operating Officer
Jessica Morgan

Jessica has served as COO of the Women's Law Center since 1999, overseeing grants, finance, HR, IT, and events. She leads the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), advancing progressive policies for MD women. Jessica holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



Chief Programs Officer
Suzanne Perez

Suzanne recently joined the Women's Law Center as the Chief Programs Officer following several years in international trade and development. She is passionate about economic justice and brings almost two decades of government relations, policy advocacy, and women's economic empowerment expertise to the WLC.



Chief Legal Officer
Sara E. Powel, Esq.

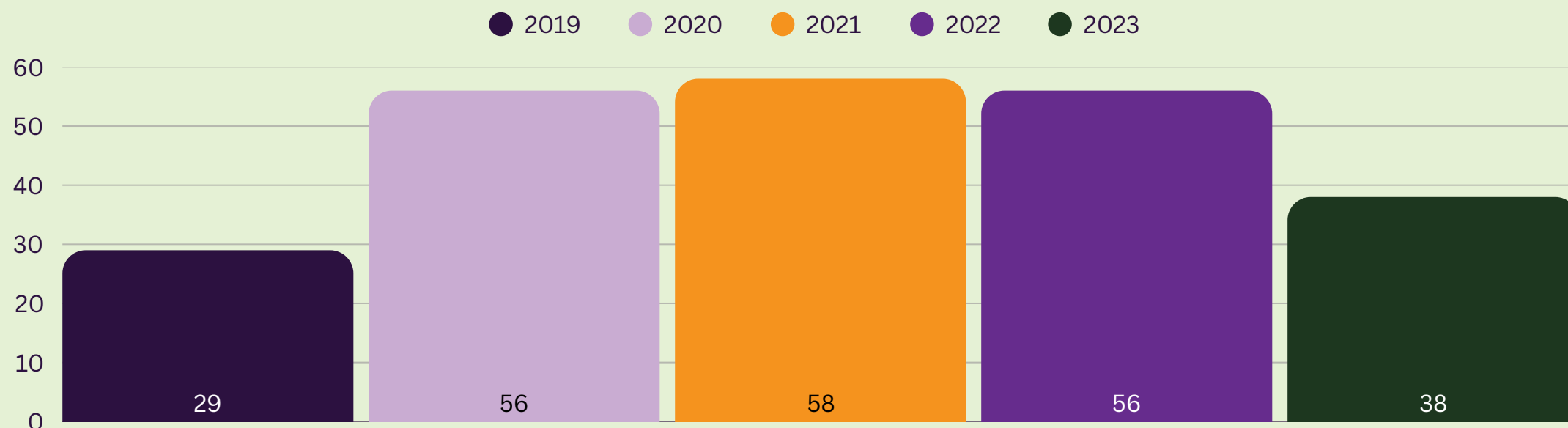
Sara has been with the Women's Law Center since 2018, serving as a staff attorney, Family Law Director, and now Chief Legal Officer. She oversees legal programs supporting survivors of intimate partner violence, earning the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence Leadership Award for her dedication.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN MARYLAND


1 IN 4 WOMEN &
1 IN 7 MEN will experience Intimate Partner Violence in their lifetime.

38 Marylanders lost their lives to Intimate Partner Violence in 2023

Total Intimate Partner Violence Deaths (2019-2023)



Maryland Intimate Partner Violence Deaths (2019-2023)

MD Counties	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alleganey					2
Anne Arundel		3	7	3	3
Baltimore Co.	8	2	10	6	7
Baltimore City	7	8	13	12	3
Calvert					1
Caroline					1
Carroll		4	1		1
Cecil		2		6	
Charles	3	5		8	1
Dorchester			1		
Frederick	1	3		1	2
Garrett		2			
Harford		4		1	
Howard			6		
Kent					
Montgomery	4	3	5	6	3
Prince George's	6	12	9	6	12
Queen Anne's			2		
Somerset		1			
St. Mary's		1	2	2	
Talbot			1		
Washington		4	1	4	2
Wicomico		2			
Worcester				1	
Total	29	56	58	56	38

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN MARYLAND

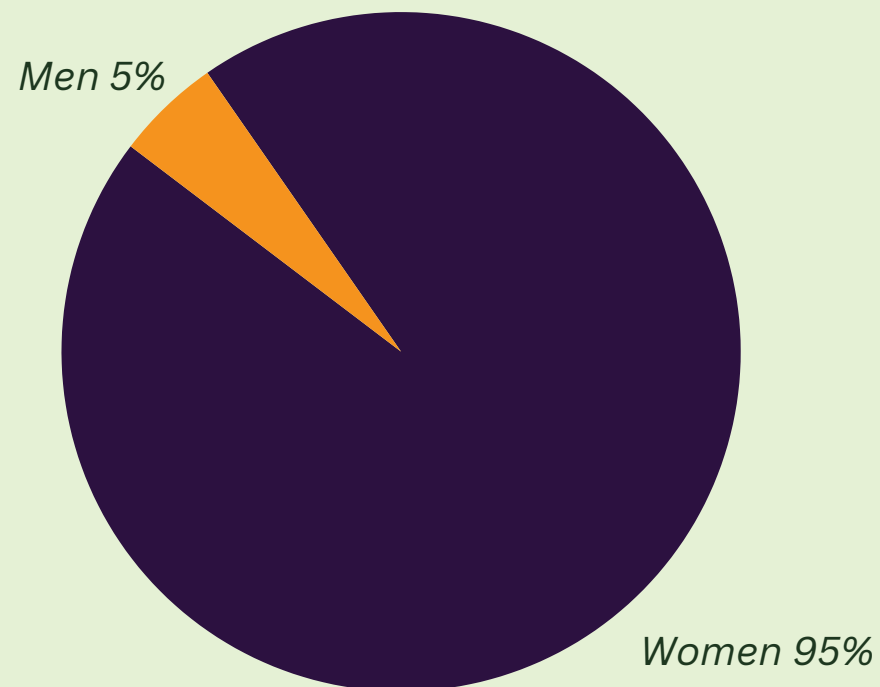
➤ **1** 2023 IPV victim was murdered while WLC attorneys waited for her in court.

➤ Black women are dying nearly **5X** their proportion within our states population.

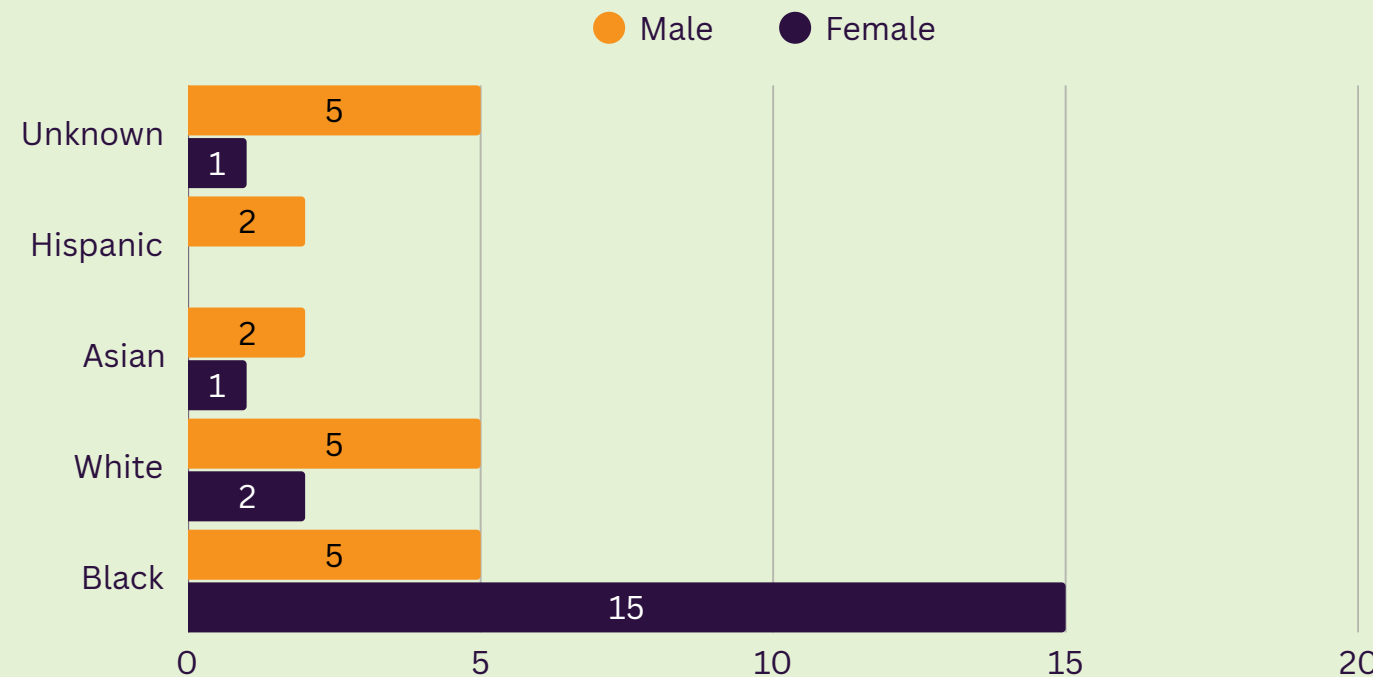
➤ **94.7%** of Intimate Partner Homicide Victims were women in 2023.

THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME FOR A VICTIM/ SURVIVOR OF IPV IS WHEN THEY ARE LEAVING.

2023 Deaths by Gender

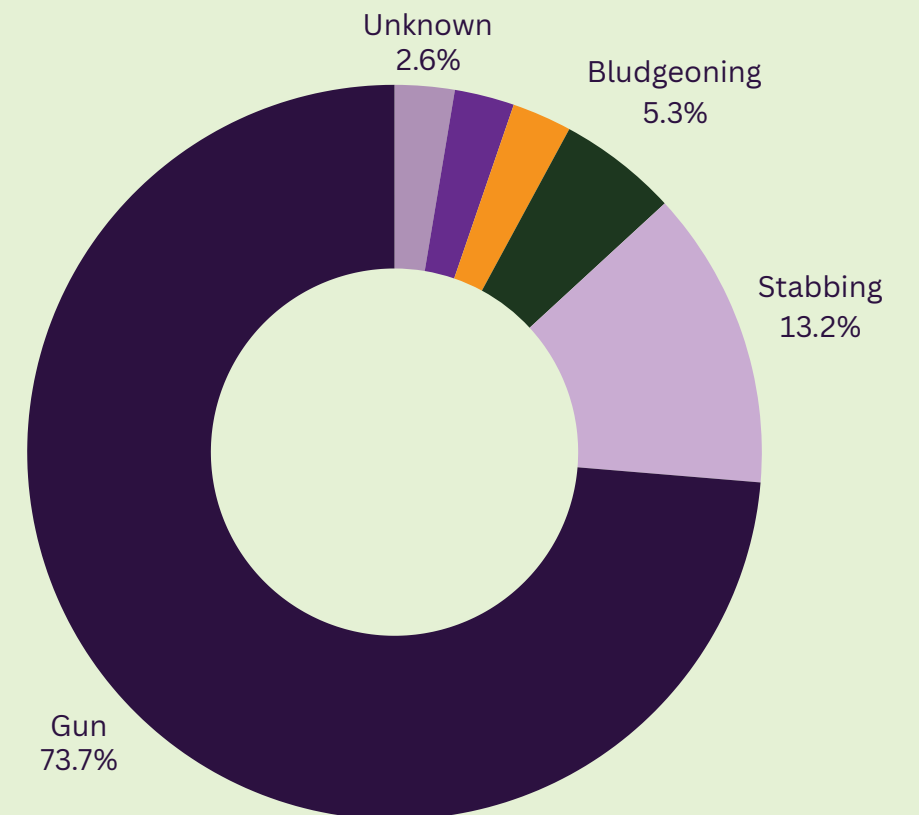


2023 Deaths by Race



74% of 2023 IPV deaths by gun.

Method Used to End Their Lives:



WHAT WE DO

We provide **free legal services, education, and referrals** to survivors of **intimate partner violence**, helping them secure critical legal protections for safety and stability. We also support survivors navigating the **immigration system** and those facing workplace **bias or harassment**, ensuring access to justice for those who need it most.

- Family Law
- Protective Orders
- Immigration Law
- Judicare Project
- Family Law Hotline
- Employment Law Hotline

HOW WE DO IT



Protective Order Advocacy & Representation Project (POARP)

POARP provides free legal representation to victims of intimate partner violence in Baltimore and Carroll Counties. Attorneys help survivors obtain, enforce, and modify protection orders to ensure safety and legal protection.



Collateral Legal Assistance for Survivors (CLAS) Project

CLAS offers free legal services to survivors of domestic abuse in divorce, custody, and protective order cases, promoting family stability, financial security, and long-term safety.



Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (MEDOVI)

MEDOVI provides free immigration legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, including VAWA petitions, U-Visas, and protection orders. Free interpretation services are available.



Judicare Project

The Judicare Project connects low-income Baltimore County residents with free legal representation in divorce and custody cases, ensuring fair access to justice through WLC's eligibility screening.



ADVOCACY

The **Women's Law Center of Maryland** drives **systemic change** through **policy advocacy, research, and legislative action**. Informed by our direct legal work and deep understanding of the legal landscape, we identify and advance policy solutions that protect and expand **women's rights**.

LEGISLATIVE & APPELLATE ADVOCACY

WLC actively **shapes laws and legal precedents** to protect women's rights and expand access to justice.'

- **Legislative Advocacy:** We work directly with lawmakers to **draft, support, and fight for policies** that enhance women's **physical safety, economic security, and autonomy** across Maryland.
- **Appellate Advocacy:** WLC signs on to **amicus briefs** in key court cases, ensuring that legal decisions reflect the realities and rights of women statewide and nationally.

Through these efforts, we **strengthen legal protections, challenge systemic barriers, and drive long-term change.**



“Together with our incredible partners, our advocacy during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly was remarkable. We championed key legislative measures on consent, the Equal Rights Amendment, sexual extortion, revenge porn, and gender-affirming care, resulting in legislation to protect physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy across the State of Maryland.”

OUR IMPACT

For over 50 years, the Women's Law Center of Maryland has provided **critical legal support** to thousands of women facing **intimate partner violence, workplace discrimination, and immigration barriers**—ensuring they are not forced to navigate the legal system alone.

- ▶ **Accepted 467 new clients,**
- ▶ Maintained **952 open cases** in protective order, family law, and immigration matters, and
- ▶ Managed **an additional 109 open cases through our Judicare Program.**

Without WLC, these clients would have faced their abusers—and the justice system—without legal support.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: 2023 LEGAL AID SERVICES

23.07M

23.07 Million- Long Term Community Impact

Cost savings & financial benefits to individuals and Maryland.

5.99M

5.99 Million- Direct Service Value

The Fair Market Value of legal services and financial relief provided.

2.2M

2.2 Million FY23 Budget

WLC delivers a 14.5x (or \$14.50 for every \$1 invested) ROI strengthening economic security and stability for Marylanders.

ECONOMIC IMPACT (2023)

\$29 million

Total Economic Impact of Legal Services

\$8.2 million

in financial stability & safety outcomes

\$3.9 million

in economic security for families

\$2.1 million

*in recovered wages
& labor protections*

\$1.3 million

*in secured benefits,
housing stability, &
cost savings*



KEY MILESTONES

1971-1973

Founding & Early Legal Wins

WLC emerges, challenging discrimination and winning landmark cases like *Orner v. Board of Appeals* and *Doerr & Douthrit v. Walton*, setting the foundation for legal advocacy.

1999-2005

Expanding Legal Access for Vulnerable Communities

Launched the Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (MEDOVI) and Judicare Project, expanding affordable legal aid for survivors of domestic violence and low-income clients in complex family law cases.

2016

Championing Parental and Pay Equity Rights

Founded the Collateral Legal Assistance for Survivors (CLAS) Project and supported Maryland's Equal Pay for Equal Work law and *Conover v. Conover*, affirming rights of LGBTQ+ parents.

1990-1997

Pioneering Legal hotlines & Protective Services

Launched the Family Law Hotline (1990), Legal Forms Helpline (1995), and Protection Order Advocacy and Representation Project (POARP) in Baltimore (1997), establishing critical lifelines for Marylanders.

2006-2010

Broadening Impact with Employment and Housing Protections

Introduced the Employment Law Hotline (2006) and successfully advocated for housing protections for domestic violence victims (2010), enhancing economic and physical security for women.

2023: Advocating for Reproductive Freedom & Consent

Collaborated on passing the Reproductive Freedom Package and legislation defining consent, demonstrating leadership in advancing bodily autonomy and survivor protections in Maryland.

TESTIMONIALS

“The Women’s Law Center was a great resource of compassion, strength and support. I firmly believe that without their help, I wouldn’t be here today.”

-WLC Client

“Access to effective civil legal services remains a critical need in Maryland, and the WLC plays an essential role in delivering those services. Each year, the WLC assists thousands of individuals who otherwise would not have access to an attorney. Clients come to the WLC seekign help with the most pressing problems in their lives: their safety and securtiy, and that of their families.”

-Meghan Marek, past Board President

“Since I found the Women’s Law Center, I’m doing so much better. I’m in school, I feel secure, I feel like I belong here. I have my rights.”

-WLC Client



“Never has the work of the Women’s Law Center of Maryland been more essential in advocating for the rights of women and other vulnerable citizens in asserting essential protections. I’m so proud to have committed partners like the Women’s Law Center of Maryland in this work as we partner together to make Maryland a better home for everyone.”

- Governor Wes Moore

OUR PARTNERS



One Promise

Counseling, Education & Housing

JO BENSON FOGEL, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SAUL EWING

LLP

Charmery

VENABLE LLP

GALLAGHER

GALLAGHER EVELIUS & JONES

**GORDON
FEINBLATT** LLC



MARYLAND
ASSOCIATION
FOR JUSTICE

Full Moon
PHOTOGRAPHY
Families, Headshots & Small Events
Est. 2015

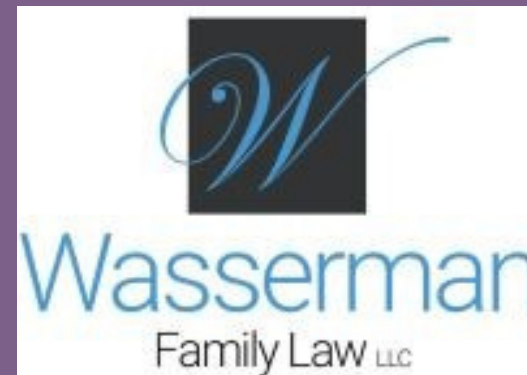
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Brown
Goldstein
& Levy**



Partnership **Wealth**
Management



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Parenthood**[®]
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Planned Parenthood of Maryland



ZIDE

LAW GROUP LLC

BOWIE & JENSEN LLC

Attorneys at Law



PHOTOGRAPHY

ROPEWALK

INVEST IN JUSTICE

Give **Today**

Your support provides free legal services to survivors reclaiming safety, security, and autonomy.

<https://bit.ly/donatewlc>

Join **WLC**

Stay engaged with exclusive updates on your impact, early advocacy opportunities, and discounted event tickets.

[Annual Membership \\$75](#)

Amplify **Resources**

Share WLC's mission by sharing resources, ensuring more people know how to get help and how to give help.

<https://bit.ly/wlcemail>

Sponsor **Change**

Partner with WLC to support survivors and connect with a network of changemakers committed to justice.

bit.ly/2025awardsinfo

Sustain **Stability**

Invest in WLC's long-term impact with unrestricted funding that fuels innovation, stability, and systemic change.

<https://bit.ly/donatewlc>

Your Support Powers Change.

Giving to WLC fuels both **immediate impact and lasting transformation**—expanding critical legal services, responding to urgent needs, and driving systemic policy reform. **Your investment provides stability today and builds a future where justice is within reach for all.**

GIVE TODAY

SCAN ME



<https://bit.ly/wlcgiving>

Justice isn't possible without access—your investment in WLC empowers survivors, transforms lives, and creates lasting change. Together, we build a future where every woman has the safety, security, and autonomy she deserves.

