

# THE EQUAL TIMES

Women's rights. Nothing less.



## COMMUNITY LAWYERING: A NEW APPROACH TO OUR WORK



*For decades, Legal Voice has fought tirelessly for gender equity, and now we're embracing a new approach to our work: community lawyering. Through **community lawyering**, we will continue to support the needs of vulnerable communities—low-income women, survivors of gender-based violence, LGBTQ people, and incarcerated women—by broadening and deepening our relationships to help **fuel our fight**.*

### WHAT IS COMMUNITY LAWYERING EXACTLY?

At its core, community lawyering is about **building power** in communities whose voices have been marginalized because of historical racial inequality. It centers their lived experiences, their stories, and their leadership.

In short, the communities most directly harmed (or helped) by policies and practices are the ones who drive the advocacy efforts—from determining what legislative priorities to pursue and what should be included in those bills, to identifying potential cases to litigate. Community lawyering enables Legal Voice to be part of this movement-building work in true partnership with organizations leading those efforts.

### HOW WILL LEGAL VOICE ACCOMPLISH THIS CHANGE?

We've already begun. Several years ago, Legal Voice's board and staff determined that race equity needed to be threaded through all of our work. We recognize that the **legal system is deeply rooted in racism**, white supremacy, and misogyny, and we are committed to ensuring that communities have a meaningful role in the creation and implementation of the policies and laws that directly affect them.

Consequently, we're building and deepening relationships with communities by joining coalitions that are led and supported by the people they represent. These coalitions include organizations led by immigrants of color, transgender women, domestic workers, and others. Legal Voice lawyers discuss and advise, along with other coalition partners, the concerns and priorities of the community.

We are currently reworking the criteria we use to select our cases to reflect this shift to community lawyering. **Our focus will be intersectional**, recognizing that women of color and other marginalized populations are situated at the junction of multiple identities. Our criteria will also consider the social and racial justice movements behind the clients' stories in a more formal, intentional approach.

### WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF LEGAL VOICE'S COMMUNITY LAWYERING CASES?

One accomplishment under this new approach is our involvement with the **Coalition for Rights & Safety for People in the Sex Trade**. We worked alongside leaders to frame and lobby for **HB 1382**, a bill that protects sex workers from prosecution if they contact emergency assistance when they are a witness or victim of violent crime.

Another project that embodies principles of community lawyering is our work with the **Washington Coalition to Eliminate Farmworker Sexual Harassment**. We worked with our partners and other groups to fashion a bill for the upcoming Washington legislative sessions that would require **mandatory sexual harassment training of managers, owners, and peers**, to protect all low wage workers.

### HOW DO YOU MEASURE SUCCESS IN COMMUNITY LAWYERING?

Our fight for equality will always include wins and losses, but we will determine our successes under the community lawyering model based on whether the process **helped empower the community** we are representing. In other words, the process is equally important as the final outcome.



## POWERING THE FIGHT: AUCTION 2019 WRAP-UP

Wow, you've done it again! Nearly 400 people came together on October 5th to celebrate Legal Voice's accomplishments over the last year, and to raise money to continue our work to protect and expand the rights of women and LGBTQ people. We raised a whopping \$205,000. Thank you for investing in a more just, equitable future and for standing with us.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of the folks who made our event so magical: to our **volunteers** who gave their time and talents, to our **local businesses and friends** who donated exciting items and experiences, and to our **Table Captains** for bringing out such fun people! And special thanks to our auction speaker, **Vanessa Soriano Power**, Stoel Rives' Seattle office managing partner and a longtime Legal Voice supporter. Vanessa has been volunteering for us since 1998 on our board and as a cooperating attorney. In her remarks, she reminded everyone that their gift is not a donation for charity, but is going to power the fight for justice and equal rights.

The auction would not be possible without the **generous support of our sponsors and friends**: Foster Garvey PC, Perkins Coie LLP, Stoel Rives LLP, and Summit Law Group, PLLC, K&L Gates, Lane Powell, Teller & Associates, Columbia Bank, MacDonald Hoague & Bayless, Polsinelli, Skellenger Bender, and Stokes Lawrence.

CHECK OUT THE PHOTOS ON OUR FLICKR ACCOUNT: [FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/LEGALVOICE/ALBUMS](https://www.flickr.com/photos/legalvoice/albums/).

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

### KICK OFF THE SEASON OF GIVING WITH LEGAL VOICE!

Thanks to all of you who have supported Legal Voice in the past. Your gift means the world to us! For those still looking to donate, **Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving back, is December 3rd**. Go online at [legalvoice.org/donate](https://legalvoice.org/donate) to lend your support or reach out to our development officer Phil Bouie at [PBouie@legalvoice](mailto:PBouie@legalvoice).

## NEW VOICES AT LEGAL VOICE

---

*Legal Voice has been changing and growing! Over the past year, we've added new, powerful voices to our staff, all of whom bring an inspiring dedication to advancing the rights of women and LGBTQ people. Meet the new Legal Voice staff doing critical work in our community!*



**ELIZA AMON**, Marketing & Communications Manager • Pronouns: she/her

Eliza has more than 15 years of legal journalism experience at *Bloomberg News*, *The American Lawyer* magazine, and *The National Law Journal*. She's written about a broad range of legal issues, with a particular focus on public policy and social justice topics. She's also a life-long activist, who decided after the 2016 election to refocus her career goals to work more directly for change.



**FAJER SAEED EBRAHIM**, Policy Counsel • Pronouns: she/her

Fajer joins Legal Voice as Policy Counsel after spending two years with us as a fellow through If/When/How, a network of law students and legal professionals focused on advancing reproductive justice. She works on issues ranging from sexual assault on college campuses to sex work and healthcare equity. Fajer completed joint degrees in Law and Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.



**CATHERINE WEST**, Staff Attorney • Pronouns: she/her

Catherine comes to Legal Voice from the Northwest Justice Project, where she worked for fifteen years. She's spent the last twenty years focused on the needs of low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized populations, including a focus on the rights of trans youth. At Legal Voice, she intends to amplify community-led strategies and solutions by working in coalition with organizations and individuals for gender equality on behalf of LGBTQ+ people and women.

## PROFILE OF A SENIOR HANDBOOK USER: GENE JACKSON

---

*When U.S. Army first sergeant Gene Jackson moved to Washington last year to be near his son and daughter after he retired, he had a lot of questions about his new community.*

Originally from Chicago, Gene's first assignment was at Fort Lewis, but in the years since, he's traveled the world and lived all over, including in California, Alabama, and Mexico.

Gene, who belongs to a number of national political organizations, soon found out about Legal Voice. After checking out our website, he ordered our *Handbook for Washington Seniors*, which quickly became a **valuable and indispensable source**.

**"Using your book helped me buy the home I see as my forever home,"** says Gene, who recently had his bid on a townhouse in Lakewood accepted. He credits the book with giving him the confidence to successfully shop for property, even when faced with realtors who wanted to hurry him along in the process.

"I got a better idea about what to anticipate and I was able to stand my ground about what to see in a house," he says.

Another aspect of the book that's profoundly helped Gene was the **section dealing with death**. He initially intended to donate his body to science, but after reading the book and looking at the *Life and Death* checklist, he realized he needed to speak to his children about his plans.

At 66, he's not expecting to go anywhere soon, but he feels comfortable knowing that when questions next arise, he can turn to the *Handbook*, which never leaves the left side of his desk.



## LEGAL VOICE

907 Pine Street  
Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98101

T 206-682-9552

W LegalVoice.org

E info@LegalVoice.org


NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
OAKLAND, CA  
PERMIT NO. 259





JOIN US ONLINE AND  
STAY INFORMED ABOUT  
LEGAL VOICE ACTIVITIES!

LegalVoice.org

 blog.LegalVoice.org

 LegalVoice

 Legal\_Voice

 Legal\_Voice

## BECOME A VISIONARY...

BY KELLI MAGUIRE, LEGAL VOICE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

*"I became a Legal Voice Visionary because I wanted to have a multi-pronged strategy to fight for systemic change—change that includes processes and systems that will help us better reflect and respond to the needs of the communities we serve.*

*I like that Legal Voice is nimble in its approach and looks not only outward but also internally, institutionalizing work that focuses on equality and race equity. And that the organization is willing to change itself to make the work relevant to more communities by focusing on gender and race equity.*

*My giving will help our work move forward into the future, which is important because I want to create a better world for everyone after I am gone. I think Legal Voice will play a pivotal role in making that wish become a reality."*

## SAVE THE DATES!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE  
AND OUR OTHER EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT  
**LEGALVOICE.ORG/EVENTS.**

### COCKTAILS FOR A CAUSE

Thursday, March 19, 2020  
6–8 p.m.

### LEGAL VOICE AUCTION

Saturday, October 10, 2020  
5:30–9:30 p.m.