

THE EQUAL TIMES

Women's rights. Nothing less.



INTRODUCING OUR RACE EQUITY VALUES

In early February, Legal Voice's entire staff set aside our work and walked to a nearby Seattle conference space for a day-long race equity retreat. This was the latest step in our commitment over the last two years to envision and implement a blueprint that centers the voices and lived experiences of communities of color and holds each other and our organization accountable in our pledge to do this important work.

Legal Voice has historically been a white and white-led organization, and as we work toward becoming an anti-racist organization with greater diversity across our staffing and programming, we've transitioned our work in significant ways. We implemented a community lawyering model, which centers those most impacted by systemic injustice and acknowledges that the process is just as important as the outcome in building transformative community power. We changed our case selection criteria to ensure that the cases we take are reviewed through a race equity lens. And we reexamined our old hiring and personnel policies and created new ones.

We've also had difficult conversations about authenticity, microaggressions, allyship, and our role and value in movement-building work. And yet, out of these sometimes challenging discussions, a remarkable unanimity arose among our staff from our February retreat that led us to agree on three core race equity values.

As we strive to embed these values across our organization, we are excited to share them with you so Legal Voice's stakeholders and supporters can be with us on our journey.

1. WE ARE GUIDED BY ANTI-RACIST VALUES. White supremacy and systemic racism are deeply embedded in the history, fabric, and institutions of this country, including the legal system. A strong anti-racist analysis is fundamentally important to our mission and we must actively work to dismantle systems of oppression and institutional barriers that have prevented

women of color and LGBTQ+ people of color from living their lives with dignity, autonomy, and equality.

2. WE HONOR AND SUPPORT THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND OTHER MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, AND AIM TO BUILD THEIR POWER. We recognize that long-lasting social change comes from the leadership and power of communities of color and other marginalized communities in social movements. We therefore intend to leverage our resources, technical knowledge and role within the legal system in support of these movements.

3. WE VALUE BUILDING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH AND BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND OTHER MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. True collective power can be realized only when people feel fully seen and valued for their unique contributions. We honor the diversity and lived experiences of those we are in partnership with as a guiding principle in our work, and we are committed to building long-lasting, meaningful relationships in authentic, community-centered ways.

Dismantling racism and white supremacy is an **ongoing, evolving process** that will require continual self-examination and organizational change. As we've joined with thousands of people in condemning the recent police violence against Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples, we commit to this ongoing internal work and strive to show up as allies and partners with communities who are most affected by systemic racism and injustice. **WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AND ENGAGE IN THIS WORK, WHICH IS NOW MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER.**



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has upended our lives and local economies. The pandemic has exacerbated inequities in our health care, economic, educational, and social structures, highlighting the intersecting systems of oppression that leave the most vulnerable in our communities at greater risk and hardship. On our website, we pulled together a comprehensive list of resources and advocacy efforts on economic justice, reproductive health care, LGBTQ+ issues, and gender-based violence.

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO: LEGALVOICE.ORG/COVID-19RESOURCES

Legislative Wins in Washington & Idaho: More Work Ahead

This year, Legal Voice explored new strategies for our legislative advocacy as we sought to operationalize race equity across our organization. We made changes to how we work, who we work with, and what that work looks like. In Washington, we continued to press for our priority bills, most of which passed! In Idaho, most of our wins involved stopping harmful legislation from passing.

WASHINGTON

PASSED!

- ✓ Curbing abusive litigation (SB 6268)
- ✓ Addressing campus sexual misconduct (HB 2327)
- ✓ Comprehensive sexual health education (SB 5395)
- ✓ Holding insurance companies accountable (HB 2554)
- ✗ Domestic Workers Bill of Rights (HB 2511): We'll return to push for domestic workers' rights again next year!

IDAHO

BLOCKED!

- ✓ Restricting Sex-Education (HB539)
- ✓ Blocking Healthcare Funds (HB525)
- ✓ Denying Gender-affirming Healthcare (HB 465)
- ✗ Banning Transgender Girls and Women in Sports (HB 500)
Unfortunately, this bill passed. But, we've FILED a suit challenging the law!



Thanks to our **legislative champions** for fighting for and against these bills, to our **community partners** for their strong efforts, and to you, for raising your voice on the issues that matter to **you** and your community. We hope we can count on your advocacy again next year as we fight for new priority issues in Washington and Idaho.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE BILLS GO TO:

Washington: [LegalVoice.org/legislative-priorities](https://www.legalvoice.org/legislative-priorities)
Idaho: [LegalVoice.org/post/big-wins-big-losses](https://www.legalvoice.org/post/big-wins-big-losses)

FOR UPDATES AND ACTION ALERTS RELATED TO THE 2021 SESSION, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAILS AT [BIT.LY/LEGALVOICESIGNUP](https://bit.ly/legalvoicesignup).



BIG THANKS FOR GIVEBIG!

We're so inspired by YOU! As we live through a global health pandemic and the accompanying economic fallout, the need to give has never been greater. At Legal Voice, our work toward **dismantling sexism and oppression**, particularly for the most marginalized in our communities, is more important than ever. We asked and you gave—more than **\$37,000** during GiveBIG!

Also, many thanks to everyone who converted their ticket or made a donation to *Cocktails with a Cause*, after we canceled our annual April event. And a big cheer to our dedicated corporate sponsors who stood by us: **Perkins Coie, Stoel Rives, Armoire, and Skellenger Bender**.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE LEGAL VOICE AUCTION!**

Rain or shine, in-person or online, we are hosting our annual auction on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020** . We'll update you on details as we get closer to the event!

Litigation Round-Up

This Spring, Legal Voice lawyers flexed their litigation chops by tackling injustice through several legal channels. In Idaho, we challenged a recently passed **discriminatory anti-trans and anti-female athlete law**. We also filed an **amicus brief in Alaska**, lending our expertise on protecting women's rights to our ally's lawsuits. And finally, we brought **two ballot title suits**, challenging misleading information on proposed initiatives that would harm healthcare for girls, pregnant people, LGBTQ students, and others.



TRANSGENDER RIGHTS CHALLENGE IN IDAHO

- Idaho passed a law in the 2020 legislative session that bans transgender girls and women from participating in school sports that align with their gender identities and potentially subjects all female athletes to invasive genetic and genital testing. The first such discriminatory law in the nation, we filed a challenge and injunction with the ACLU, ACLU of Idaho, and Cooley law firm, seeking to allow all youth to participate in athletics and sports in a safe and inclusive manner. *Hecox v. State of Idaho*

AMICUS IN ALASKA

- When Alaska's Supreme Court held that the state's Medicaid program was required to provide abortion coverage, the Governor retaliated by reducing the budget of the state court system by the exact amount as the abortion coverage. Legal Voice filed an amicus brief to ensure the court record reflects how this abuse of power was designed to hurt poor, mainly women of color, who already face almost insurmountable obstacles to accessing justice. *ACLU v. Dunleavy*

BALLOT TITLE REFERENDUM CHALLENGES

- After the Washington legislature passed a historic, comprehensive sexual health education bill, conservative groups sponsored a referendum to repeal the bill. Legal Voice and the ACLU successfully challenged the wording of the ballot title and summary because the proposed language left out key aspects of the law being challenged, including that schools retain the ability to choose their own curriculum and that the content would be substantially different for younger versus older children. *In re: Ballot Title and Summary for Initiative No. 90 and 91*
- After a group sponsored a ballot initiative to criminalize abortion if an ultrasound detects embryonic cardiac activity (which generally occurs at six weeks), Legal Voice stepped up to challenge the wording of the proposed ballot initiative. Among other things, we objected to the term "fetal heartbeat" as shorthand because at six weeks there is no fetus, nor heart, and thus no fetal heartbeat. The judge adopted several of our recommendations, including language making clear what a drastic departure this would be from existing law. *In re: Ballot Title and Summary for Initiative No. 1698*



NEW VOICES: DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR EMILY RANDALL

MEET EMILY RANDALL, OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS! Emily brings years of experience working in development planning, strategy, and implementation at several of Legal Voice's allied organizations, with a focus on healthcare and education equity. She's a queer Chicana, a disability rights accomplice, and skilled at network building and community organizing.

In fact, you may recognize her as a member of our Washington State legislature. Born and raised on the Kitsap Peninsula, she was elected to the state Senate in November 2018 to represent the 26th District, which includes Bremerton. Like most legislators in Washington, she'll juggle her official duties with her professional work, now as our Development Director. We are thrilled Emily has joined Legal Voice and will serve on our leadership team to help guide us with our transition to community lawyering and centering race equity in our work while strengthening our financial sustainability.

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
SEATTLE, WA
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BECOME A VISIONARY...

BY DEBBIE MARANVILLE

I've been involved with Legal Voice for so long that I'm not even sure how many years it's been—at least since the 1980s. As a lawyer specializing in public benefits, and then as a professor at the University of Washington, where I taught client representation clinics in unemployment compensation, wage claims, and parenting plans, as well as courses on feminist legal theory and other subjects, I wanted to support Legal Voice's commitment to improving women's lives. So, I began making donations through my workplace giving program.

Several years ago I retired, and it was time to update my estate planning. I decided to name Legal Voice in my will. Because traditional organizations tend to slight women in their focus, and as a lawyer who is aware of all the legal issues affecting women, it was an obvious choice.

Legal Voice Visionaries are supporters and friends who have included Legal Voice in their estate plans or wills. If you are interested in our Visionaries program and would like to know more about it, please contact Phil Bouie, Senior Development Officer, at PBouie@LegalVoice.org.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE:

- Transfer stock
- Give through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)
- Designate a gift through workplace giving
- Contribute with your IRA Charitable Rollover
- Join the Ruthless Valkyrie B*tches
- Host a house party

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE AT [LEGALVOICE.ORG/DONATE!](https://www.legalvoice.org/donate)