

THE EQUAL TIMES

Women's rights. Nothing less.



2013 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Washington's Legislature's 2013 regular session was a roller coaster – and as we go to press, the ride isn't yet over! Although the regular session ended on April 28th, Governor Inslee called the Legislature back into special session on May 13th.

For the first time in years, control of the Legislature is split. The House is governed by a Democratic majority, while the Senate is led by a Majority Coalition Caucus formed by 23 Republicans along with Democrats Rodney Tom and Tim Sheldon. These complicated political dynamics have made it a challenging session. But with hard work, we won important victories for women and their families.

PHOTO: Gov. Inslee signing HB 1284.



VICTORIES

Legal Voice successfully led the effort to pass the Children of Incarcerated Parents Act (HB 1284). This bill will help preserve parent-child relationships when a parent is incarcerated, if doing so would be in the best interests of the child and the parent has maintained a meaningful role in the child's life.

Legal Voice Equal Justice Works fellow Lillian Hewko developed this legislation, and worked tirelessly with our lobbyists Pamela Crone and Nancy Sapiro to move the bill through the Legislature and onto the Governor's desk!

Governor Inslee signed several other bills that Legal Voice supported, including legislation to:

- Prohibit tenant-screening companies from disclosing that a prospective tenant has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking (SB 5568).
- Eliminate the archaic "marital exemption" to Washington's third-degree rape statute (SB 1108).
- Create a Stalking Protection Order for persons who are stalked by strangers or acquaintances (HB 1383).

DISAPPOINTMENTS

Unfortunately, the 2013 regular session also brought significant disappointments.

For the second year in a row, the Senate failed to pass the Reproductive Parity Act (HB 1044/SB 5798). This bill would have required health insurance plans in Washington to cover abortion services if they cover maternity care services. Although the bill passed the House 53-43, the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus refused to bring the bill to the floor – even though a majority of Senators are on record supporting the measure.

We're also appalled that the Senate refused to vote on legislation to restrict firearm possession by domestic violence abusers (HB 1840). This bill, which the House approved 61-37, would literally help save women's lives by keeping guns out of the hands of abusers.

DEFENSE

We also successfully “played defense” to block several measures that would harm women and their families, including bills that would have:

- Required parental notification before a minor could have an abortion.
- Extended the waiting period for a divorce from 90 days to one year.
- Prevented Seattle and other cities from requiring Paid Sick and Safe Days for workers.
- Repealed the Family Leave Insurance law.

And we’re not done yet. We’re still on the ground in Olympia fighting for women and their families during the special session. Although it hasn’t been an easy session, you know we’re always up for a challenge – and we won’t stop until we win.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP BROWN BAG – WANT TO LEARN MORE?
Join us at the Legal Voice offices on Wednesday, June 26 at 12:00 noon for a discussion about this past session and “what’s next.” For more information, please contact Michelle at MJohnson@LegalVoice.org or 206-682-9552x113.



BIG THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN GIVEBIG!

Your generosity amazes us! The outpouring of support shown to Legal Voice and our entire community during The Seattle Foundation’s GiveBIG was astonishing.

Together with thousands of other people, you donated more than \$11.1 million to 1,300 local charities. Legal Voice surpassed our goal and received \$49,380! THANK YOU!

We have plenty to do, and will put your dollars and support to good use as we work toward a world where every woman and girl enjoys political, social, and economic equality.



OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FRIENDS!

It was great to see so many old friends and make so many new ones at this year’s Cocktails for a Cause on Thursday, March 21st! More than 225 guests enjoyed delicious hors d’oeuvres, wine, a live jazz band (complete with a Hammond organ), and opportunities to engage with the community.

Executive Director Lisa Stone fired us up about the current legislative session and invited you all to Speak. Engage. and Give. We were also thrilled to have Abeda Jafar speak about her experience in trying to seek a parenting plan, and the obstacles that were thrown in her way including excessive court fees. With your support, we raised nearly \$30,000 at this year’s Cocktails for a Cause.

LATE BREAKING: We won Abeda’s case! The state Supreme Court ruled that indigent litigants do not have to pay court fees.



LONG-TIME STAFF LINCHPIN JUNE KRUMPOTICK IS RETIRING! SAY IT ISN'T SO!

From the moment she was hired (and even before, when she was a 1960s radical), June Krumpotick committed herself to access to justice – before anybody used that term. She has always kept the needs of pro se litigants, especially low-income women and their families, at the top of her mind.

As a paralegal with a background in linguistics, June came on board in April 1989 to expand the existing call-in help line. At that time Legal Voice (then called the Northwest Women's Law Center) focused on impact litigation and legislation. However, we also received dozens of phone calls each week from women desperate for guidance through the twists and turns of a complicated legal system. Legal Voice staff wanted to offer a phone line for these women, but we needed someone to make it happen. June did not take this challenge lightly, and eventually built a program that has engaged nearly 800 volunteers and helped too many pro se litigants to count.

June has fostered leadership in an entire generation of public interest attorneys and paralegals. Scores of law and paralegal students experienced their first client contact on the Information & Referral line, with June's patient guidance.

During her years at Legal Voice June was a leader in so many ways: serving on the planning committee of the ATJ (Access to Justice) conference in its inaugural years; helping to conceive and establish the Domestic Violence Family Law and the Cross Cultural Clinics; and creating such an extensive database of agencies and organizations to which she could refer callers that when the CLEAR line of the Northwest Justice Project was being established, the folks setting up the line copied her entire list.

June's absence in the legal aid, non-profit, and progressive communities will be felt profoundly. We're all a little sad this month, but also eternally grateful for the progress June has brought about for pro se litigants and the community as a whole. And though June is leaving her post at Legal Voice, we have no doubt whatsoever that she will keep helping people, advocating for social justice, and causing trouble where it is most needed.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR JUNE'S RETIREMENT PARTY ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH! CONTACT MICHELLE JOHNSON, mjohnson@legalvoice.org OR 206-682-9552 EXT 113, FOR MORE INFORMATION.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE!

Legal Voice is grateful to have such a wonderful community of supporters and volunteers. With your help, we are able to achieve amazing results and make positive change for women and families in the Northwest. Our 2012 Annual Report reflects that powerful impact.

In keeping with our commitment to social justice and sustainability, we've moved to an electronic format for our annual report. You can find it online at <http://www.legalvoice.org/news/publications.html>. If you would like a hard copy, please let us know. Thank you for your support of justice, equality and our work.



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR LATEST PUBLICATION? Legal Voice is pleased to announce the publication of the *HANDBOOK FOR WASHINGTON SENIORS: LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESOURCES*. Written by Washington attorneys and reviewed by staff and volunteers at community organizations, this handbook is an outstanding resource

for seniors, caregivers, and service providers. This 260-page book, available in hard copy or searchable CD, covers a myriad of subjects including health care, financial benefit programs, dealing with death, personal finances, age and disability discrimination, elder abuse, immigration, and much more. Handbooks and searchable CDs can be ordered at www.LegalVoice.org by clicking the "buy now" button, or by calling 206-682-9552x113.

SAVE THE DATE: Legal Voice Auction, Saturday, October 12th at the Seattle Renaissance Hotel.

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BECOME A VISIONARY...

I DEPEND UPON LEGAL VOICE IN MANY WAYS. I depend upon them to do work that is important to me and that I can't do myself. I depend upon Legal Voice to let me know about important issues that I'm not aware of. I depend on Legal Voice to fight the good fight over the long haul. That's why I support Legal Voice with an annual gift and volunteer my time.

Like most Legal Voice supporters, I always wish I could give a bigger gift and do more to support the work and the amazing staff. That's why I have included Legal Voice in my estate plans as a beneficiary on a retirement asset. I don't know how big that gift will be when it gets to Legal Voice, but it is my chance to give the gift Legal Voice deserves.

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 B. Michelle Johnson, Director of Development at 206-682-9552 x113, or by email at MJohnson@LegalVoice.org.



STAY INFORMED ABOUT LEGAL VOICE ACTIVITIES WHILE HELPING US SAVE PAPER!
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