

Briggs Hosts Talk on Domestic Violence in the Military

February 8, 2008

Briggs and Morgan, P.A. and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights present:

“Domestic Violence in the U.S. Military: Who Commits it, What the Victims Experience and How the Military Responds”

The U.S. military, consisting primarily of young men, faces domestic violence in different forms than what is found in other cultures and communities. Complicating the situation are deployments, a high degree of mobility of the population, the usual stresses on relationships, and the mission of the military: warmaking. There are also unique challenges for the victims of violence committed by service members. This seminar will explore these issues and describe the intervention model employed by the branches of the U.S. military. Presenters will review the dramatic changes in Department of Defense policy over the past three years that have resulted in a major paradigm shift that provides, for the first time, confidentiality for victims in some circumstances.

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008

Noon to 1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Briggs and Morgan

IDS Center, 22nd Floor

80 S. 8th St., Minneapolis

Loretta M. Frederick is senior legal and policy advisor of the Battered Women’s Justice Project, a national resource center on domestic violence criminal and civil legal issues. Since 1978, she has led training and consulted on domestic violence legal issues with judges, advocates, attorneys, prosecutors and law enforcement officers in the U.S. and internationally. Loretta serves as faculty for the National Judicial Institutes on Domestic Violence and was a consultant for the U.S. Marine Corps on the development of its Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence. Her work with the Minnesota State Bar Association has included her current role as chair of the Domestic Abuse Committee, as well as a past term as chair of the Family Law Section.

Connie Sponsler is the training and technical assistance manager for the Battered Women’s Justice Project. She is also responsible for managing several cooperative Department of Defense/Department of Justice projects. She served for three years on the DoD Task Force on Domestic Violence. From 1995 to 1998, she was the East Coast Site Coordinator for the U.S. Marine Corps - Coordinated Community Response Project. She lived in both North Carolina and Virginia, and worked extensively with Marine Corps installations on the implementation of their response to domestic violence. This work included training, policy development, and program assessment for family advocacy staff, Case Review members, Commands, military and civilian police, military and civilian advocates, hospital personnel, and community intervention. Connie has been an advocate for adult and youth victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault for 25 years.