

## LEGAL momentum

# The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund

**LEGAL MOMENTUM** is a national nonprofit organization that leads action for the legal rights of women. Our targeted litigation, education, policy advocacy, and research help to shape the laws and policies that affect gender equality and ensure that they are properly implemented and enforced. Successful initiatives include judicial education programs on the realities of sexual assault and domestic violence; successful advocacy for the Violence Against Women Act; and representing women who have been subjected to workplace discrimination with precedent-setting litigation.

**OUR MISSION** is to ensure economic and personal security for all women and girls by advancing equity in education, the workplace, and the courts. We provide an expert legal voice to seek justice for women in law and government policy.

**Litigate  
Educate  
Advocate  
Defend**

### WHAT WE DO:

- **Protect Domestic Violence Victims in the Workplace.**
- **Promote Education Equity and Combat Campus Sexual Assault.**
- **Advocate for a Strong Safety Net for Poor Women and Children.**
- **Protect Pregnant Workers and Women in Non-Traditional Jobs.**
- **Eliminate Gender Bias in the Courts and Criminal Justice System.**



### WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

Legal Momentum works to strengthen and promote women's opportunities for workplace equity and economic security.

We help to expand and enforce laws and policies that end sex and pregnancy discrimination for working women and eliminate workplace barriers for women, especially those in non-traditional jobs such as the uniformed services.

Legal Momentum also works together with public and private employers on workplace and domestic violence issues, so that they can provide needed accommodations for survivors and deal effectively with perpetrators. When women are economically secure, they can make the best choices about a safe future for themselves and their families.



### ECONOMIC SECURITY

Women are disproportionately poor. The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program has low enrollment and inadequate benefit levels, leaving millions of families in poverty. Legal Momentum advocates for replacing TANF with a family assistance program that would truly benefit families:

- Full federal funding;
- National eligibility standards;
- Require states to use funding only for basic assistance.

Legal Momentum also advocates for single mothers through our Single Parent Policy Advocacy Network.

## ENSURING SAFETY & EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Legal Momentum is deeply involved in requiring schools to improve their efforts to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking and to respond to survivors. We work to ensure that schools keep students safe from sexual assault by implementing effective, victim-centered policies that comply with Title IX and the Clery Act. We also educate students about their Title IX rights.

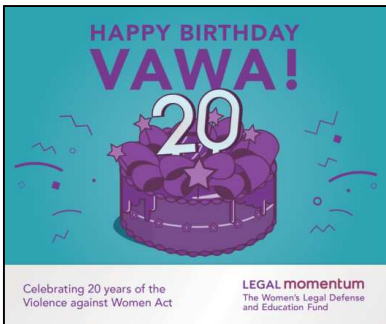


## ENDING GENDER BIAS IN THE COURTS

Judges who are not informed about sexual and domestic assault may make decisions that are unjust—and that jeopardize the safety of victims and their families. Our groundbreaking National Judicial Education Program (NJEP) educates judges, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, advocates, and others on dealing effectively and justly with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. When gender bias in the courts and law enforcement is eliminated, more survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence are likely to get fair justice.

## LEGAL MOMENTUM & THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Violence against women—domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and abuse, and stalking—was, and continues to be, a national epidemic. Legal Momentum led the fight for the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), landmark legislation that transformed the way the government, law enforcement, and the courts respond to domestic and sexual violence. Legal Momentum is deeply involved in continuing, improving, and securing funding for VAWA each time it is reauthorized.



## VAWA'S IMPACT

- Made interstate domestic violence a federal crime
- Ensured enforcement across state lines for civil protection orders
- Established the federal Office of Violence against Women (OVW)
- Saved more than \$12 billion in averted social costs in just the first 5 years
- Decreased intimate partner violence by 64%
- Reduced intimate partner homicides significantly

## GET INVOLVED

### PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

- Legal representation
- Communications and marketing
- Mentorship and career guidance

To learn more, visit our website at [www.legalmomentum.org/get-involved](http://www.legalmomentum.org/get-involved).

### DONATE

Legal Momentum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and has received an “A” rating by Charity Watch. Donations are tax-deductible.

## CONTACT US

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