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Legal Issues and Domestic Abuse

**March 29, 2016
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Presenters:
Lois Schwaeber, Esq.
Director of Legal Services
And
Gail Broder Katz, Esq.
***Pro Bono* Project Coordinator**
And
Maria Schwartz, Esq.
***Pro Bono* Project Volunteer**

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| 1. Welcome – Gail Broder Katz, Esq. | 6:30 – 6:40 |
| A. Overview of The Safe Center LI (formerly Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence) | |
| B. Overview of the <i>Pro Bono</i> Project | |
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| 2. A <i>Pro Bono</i> Project Volunteer – Maria Schwartz, Esq. | 6:40 – 6:45 |
| A. The volunteer experience with TSCLI | |
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| 3. Legal Issues and Domestic Violence - Lois Schwaeber, Esq. | 6:45 – 8:15 |
| A. What is domestic abuse? | |
| B. Overview of legal issues that may arise in the course of representing a victim of domestic abuse. | |
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| 4. Conclusion—Lois Schwaeber, Esq. and Gail Broder Katz, Esq. | 8:15 – 8:30 |
| A. Questions and Answers | |
| B. How you can volunteer with the <i>Pro Bono</i> Project | |



United Way
of Long Island



Legal Issues & Domestic Abuse

No matter what area of law you practice

- You will meet victims of domestic abuse in your practice
- Gain awareness so you can recognize her
- Refer her for help if possible
- Buy “The Impact of Domestic Violence on Your Practice – A Lawyer’s Handbook” (ABA)

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- “Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in which one intimate partner uses physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation or emotional, sexual or economic abuse to control the other partner in the relationship. Domestic violence does not necessarily involve physical violence and it equally affects all aspects of our society, rich or poor, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.” Others describe battering and domestic violence as power and control.

DV

- Domestic violence is not just physical, not merely a slap, a punch, or a kick. It is a pattern of coercive control that may be primarily psychological, economic, or sexual, but that is consistently reinforced by one or more acts of frightening physical violence or threats thereof..

DV

- This physical violence may not necessarily be directed against her, but may be used against animals, other people, or non-animate objects. It entails a credible or actual threat, of physical or sexual assault. The pattern of control and intimidation may be predominantly psychological, economic, or sexual in nature, or may rely primarily on the use of physical violence

DV

- Domestic Violence is not a one-time uncharacteristic loss of control, but a mechanism of on-going power and control. It is not one drink too many, caused by “provocation,” or even an outburst of anger fueled by a “bad day,” but is a consistent pattern of abuse.

DV

- It is not caused by alcohol abuse, substance abuse or mental health illnesses, but exists with them, and in spite of them, and they are simply used as excuses by both the victim and abuser as justification for the abuse.

DV

- “[D]omestic violence can affect anyone, regardless of age, race, economic background, religious beliefs, marital status, or sexual preference. Abusive behaviors include verbal, emotional, sexual, physical, psychological, and economic abuse and typically get worse and more frequent over time.

DV

- Any behavior that intimidates, manipulates, humiliates, isolates, frightens, terrorizes, coerces, threatens, blames, hurts, injures, or wounds someone is abuse. The batterer may deprive the victim of bodily integrity and the right to make decisions for herself and her children.

DV

- The abuser may isolate her from her friends and family. In some cases the abuser will demand sex, or threaten to withhold money for groceries, or gas, or fees for the children's activities or other necessities if he is not obeyed. Domestic violence is dangerous and can be fatal. It affects the entire community and should not be considered a private family matter."

DV

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DV

- Domestic violence is not only physical attacks such as broken bones, bruises, and black eyes. It includes slaps, shoves, and threats to kill and maim, with and without a weapon, and embraces even uncomfortable, violent or unwanted sex.

DV

- In addition, the abuser uses threats, intimidation, dominating behaviors, denigrating language, and other forms of coercion to maintain his coercive control. The abuser maintains tyrannical control over the household and uses the children to control and manipulate her. He may also undermine and belittle her parenting abilities not only to her, but to their children, friends and families.

The Safe Center

formerly THE NASSAU COUNTY COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **24 HOUR HOTLINE**
542-0404
- **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**
465-4700
- **LANGUAGE LINE AVAILABLE**
IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS



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PRO BONO PROJECT ATTORNEY CONTACT FORM

Thank you for attending our “Legal Issues and Domestic Abuse” training/seminar. This training is intended for attorneys who will be participating in our *pro bono* program. Attorneys are expected to represent a Safe Center LI client following completion of training.

Please verify the information below so we may process your CLE credit and contact you for your case assignment.

Attorney Name _____

Employer named and address: _____

Preferred mailing address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Practice Area(s): _____

_____ I am ready to fulfill my *pro bono* commitment to The Safe Center LI (formerly Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence) and the *Pro Bono* Project

_____ I am not prepared, at this time, to represent a client of The Safe Center LI (formerly Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence) and the *Pro Bono* Project. Please contact me: _____



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE
ACCREDITED MEMBER