
❖ The Legal Advocate ❖

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First Year of Law School

An Interview With Connie Tromble

Many of you may remember Connie Tromble, who was a Legal Advocate for Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) in Bethel for two years. (See interview in "The Legal Advocate Vol. 1, Issue 1"). Connie is just beginning her second year of law school at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Here she shares what her first year in law school was like, and what her plans are for the future.

For those readers who haven't met you before, please tell us a little about yourself and your work at TWC.

I was a Legal Advocate at TWC in Bethel for two years. We did a lot of court preparation work, developing materials to help women and children prepare for court. I'm sure this is true for a lot of shelters, but in Bethel women would often come in from the villages the night before grand jury or a hearing. We would only have that night to help them get ready for court and then we would try to stay in contact so they wouldn't feel lost if the District Attorney (DA) called a year later all of a sudden

to ask her to go to court when the grand jury hearing was a year ago.

We also helped women figure out their options, whether to get a protective order or not, whether to report the assault to the police, that kind of thing.

Describe your first year of law school.

First year law school is a much different culture than advocacy. People are very competitive in law school. I missed the feeling of everyone working together as a team. People compete for grades and for their rank in the class.

(Continued on page 9)

New fax and mailing address . . .

New Mailing Address:

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Juneau, AK 99801

Network fax: (907) 463-4493

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Because of overcrowding, half of our office has relocated into a new space. Network staff, Lauree Hugonin, Peggy Brown and Maren Haavig are sharing an office at 130 Seward St., #209. The three of them share our old fax number. The Legal Advocacy Project, Kari Robinson, Ami Heinberg and Mary Kay MacNaughton are located in a building across the street from the other Network staff, although we share the same mailing address. Please note our new fax number, listed above.

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**Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent ANDVSA opinions.*

Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey

By Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes

The following data are from the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey, a nationally representative telephone survey of 8,000 U.S. women and 8,000 U.S. men. The survey, which asked detailed questions about respondents' experiences with violence, including stalking, was sponsored jointly by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through a grant to the Center for Policy Research. The survey provides the first national data on stalking in the United States.

Key issues: This study provides empirical data on the prevalence and characteristics of stalking in the general population; How much stalking is there in the United States? Who stalks whom? How often do stalkers overly threaten their victims? How often is stalking reported to the police? What are the psychological and social consequences of stalking? Also considered in this report is the key issue of how to define stalking.

Key findings and policy implications: Analysis of survey data produced the following results:

- ◆ Stalking is more prevalent than previously thought: 8 percent of women and 2 percent of men in the United States have been stalked at some time in their life; an estimated 1,006,970 women and 370,990 men are stalked annually. Given these findings, stalking should be treated as a legitimate criminal justice and public health concern.
- ◆ American Indian/Alaska Native women are significantly more likely to report being stalked than women of other racial or ethnic backgrounds. More research is needed to establish the degree of variance and determine how much of the variance may be explained by demographic, social, and environmental factors.
- ◆ Most stalking victims (78 percent) are female and most stalking perpetrators (87 percent) are male.
- ◆ Adults between 18 and 29 years old are the primary targets of stalking, comprising 52 percent of all victims.
- ◆ Most stalking cases involve perpetrators and victims who know each other; 23 percent of all female victims and 36 percent of all male victims are stalked by strangers.
- ◆ Women are significantly more likely than men (59 percent and 30 percent, respectively) to be stalked by intimate partners, about half of whom stalk their partners while the relationship is intact. Since most stalking cases involve victims and perpetrators who know each other, future research should focus on intimate and acquaintance stalking, rather than "celebrity" stalking.
- ◆ There is a strong link between stalking and other forms of violence in intimate relationships: 81 percent of women who were stalked by a current or former husband or cohabiting partner were also physically assaulted by that partner and 31 percent were also sexually assaulted by that partner. It is imperative, therefore, that America's criminal justice community receive comprehensive training on the special safety needs of victims of intimate partner stalking.
- ◆ Less than half of all stalking victims are directly threatened by their stalkers, although the victims, by definition, experience a high level of fear.

Thus, “credible threat” requirements should be eliminated from the definition of stalking in all state stalking statutes.

- ◆ About half of all stalking victims report their stalking to the police. About a quarter of stalking cases reported to the police result in suspects being arrested. While there is some evidence that antistalking laws have increased reports to the police, more research is needed to determine antistalking laws’ full effect on reports to the police.
- ◆ About 12 percent of all stalking cases result in criminal prosecution, and about a quarter of female stalking victims and about a tenth of male stalking victims

obtain restraining orders against their stalkers. Of all victims with restraining orders, 69 percent of the women and 81 percent of the men said their stalkers violated the order. More research is needed on the effectiveness of formal and informal justice system interventions in stalking cases.

- ◆ Thirty percent of female stalking victims and 20 percent of male stalking victims seek psychological counseling as a result of their victimization. Stalking victims are significantly more likely than nonstalking victims to live in fear for their personal safety and to carry something to defend themselves. To better meet the needs of stalking victims,

the mental health community should receive comprehensive training on appropriate treatment of stalking victims.

- ◆ The average stalking case lasts 1.8 years. Since nearly a fifth of all stalking victims move to new locations to escape their stalkers, it is important that address confidentiality programs be made available to stalking victims. ❁
- ◆ *For news about the NIJ’s and CDC’s most recent publications and activities related to violence against women and family violence, go the World Wide Web pages:*
 - ⇒ NIJ: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>.
 - ⇒ CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc>.
 - ⇒ CDC’s Family and Intimate Violence Prevention Team: <http://>

	MISDEMEANORS	FELONIES	TOTAL
ANCHORAGE	8	25	33
BARROW	0	1	1
BETHEL	1	5	6
DILLINGHAM	0	0	0
FAIRBANKS	6	10	16
JUNEAU	2	2	4
KENAI	3	4	7
KETCHIKAN	0	3	3
KODIAK	4	2	6
KOTZEBUE	1	0	1
NOME	0	0	0
PALMER	1	14	15
SITKA	0	0	0
TOTAL	26	66	92

**ALASKA
STALKING CASES
FILED BY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY’S
OFFICE
SINCE ENACTMENT
OF STATUTE
(May 28, 1993)**

-compiled by Jody Lown,

Tyson doctors reach strange conclusions

By Ellen Goodman, columnist for the Boston Globe

At least they didn't crown him the Mental Health Poster Child. They just said that Mike Tyson was "mentally fit to return to boxing." Whatever that means.

The team of six doctors reported to the Nevada Athletic Commission that the champ of champs did not have – where do they get these names? – "Intermittent Explosive Disorder."

Yes, the "32-year-old right-handed gentleman" was troubled. He struggled with issues of trust and anger and "low self-esteem." But that didn't rule out the ring.

In fact, the doctors concluded, "We believe that a return to boxing will help alleviate some of the stresses contributing to his depression."

Now before we discuss the therapeutic benefits of fisticuffs, let us go back to those wonderful yester-years in the Life of Mike Tyson. Not all the way back to childhood when friends remember him mugging old ladies in the elevator. Not all the way back to the days when he said, "I like to hurt women when I make love to them. I like to hear them scream. . . . It gives me pleasure." Not even all the way back to his rape conviction.

Just back to the June night in 1997 when he bit off a piece of Evander Holyfields's ear. It was the assault on Holyfield in a boxing ring, not the assault on Desiree Washington in a hotel room, that finally outraged the boxing world.

The boxing commissioner was belatedly "speechless and stunned." Even fans began to wonder if Iron Mike was just an itsy bit out of control.

In the end, the convicted rapist had his license revoked for assaulting an aural organ. Indeed, it was the desire to get back into the ring that brought the heavyweight to the doctors for a required evaluation.

This medical team was not, whatever you may think, a group of fly-by-night shrinks for hire. Chosen from the ranks of the prestigious Massachusetts General Hospital, they packed the report with caveats about Tyson's "emotional problems and cognitive problems" and acknowledge their own limits in predicting human behavior.

But the MGH Six nevertheless declared him fit to "comply with the rules and regulations and do so without repetition of the events of June 28, 1997."

How on earth did they come up with this conclusion? Is this medicine or a hunch?

Weeks ago in North Carolina, Wendell Williamson, a murderer, successfully sued his psychiatrist

for not knowing how ill Williamson was before he fired an M-1 rifle on a street near the UNC campus. That psychiatrist asked the court, "How can I be responsible for something that is not predictable?"

In Tyson's case, if there's another ear lobe on the canvas, will the MGH Six be responsible?

Margaret Hagen, a Boston University professor of psychology and law, compares two imperfect ways we have to predict violent behavior. One is essentially intuition, a gut feeling that may be labeled in the fancy words, "professional opinion." The other is statistics, actuarial tables, risk factors.

We've known for 30 or 40 years that clinical intuition isn't worth anything. Add six intuitions together and you still get zero," she says. It's better to add up the known risk factors for violence. This boxer had broken more rules than china plates. Indeed, during his five-day evaluation Tyson threatened one of the doctors, who manfully reported that he didn't feel threatened. (Been working out, doc?)

More to the point, can any psychiatrist in his right mind determine whether a fighter in the adrenaline rush of Round Six will cross the fine line between the fair and foul violence that makes up this "sport?" Hagen describes such a diagnosis as "a combination of hubris and chutzpah."

But there is something else bizarre in the entry of the MGH Six into Boxing Psychiatry. By merely accepting the assignment to parse fair from foul violence, by agreeing to decide whether Tyson is mentally fit for the ring – not the real world – they have entered the alternative universe of boxing.

This is a world according to the Marquees of Queensberry. In this world it is OK to pummel someone to death, but not deliver a low blow. These "rules and regulations" turn a beating into a sport.

For doctors – healers – to play a role in this alternative universe is to legitimize the notion that one man can brain-damage another in, of course, a mentally healthy way. Which is, if you will forgive the layman's term, "nuts."

It's now up to the commissioners to decide whether Tyson fights again. But in this uneven matchup between Mike and the MGH Six, the shrinks went down for the count. ❀

ANDVSA WEB SITE LAUNCHED NOV. 13TH!



ANDVSA quilt

Welcome to our web site!
<http://www.ptialaska.net/~andvsa>

The site includes the topics listed below, with more to come in the future. Check out the LAP page for features designed especially for legal advocates. Regular web site updates will be published in the newsletter. Also, not to worry, any information available on the web site will be made available to all legal advocates either in the newsletter, lending library, or by snail mail (postal mail).

Overview	Legal Advocacy Project (LAP)	Other Features
Network Philosophy	About the LAP	Safety Plan
Informational Narrative	Pro Bono Project	National Resources
Clothesline Project	Court Translator Project	Links on the Web
Health Care Initiative	Legal Issues	Calendar of Trainings
AK Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Programs	Legal Question & Answer	Lending Library
Contact the Network		

VAWNET

The launch of VAWnet onto the Worldwide Web finally happened in mid-October. We are very excited to participate and to get resources for legal advocates. Applicable resources will be made available in the Lending Library and eventually on the Web Site. Right now things are still getting going and participants from state coalitions and allied organizations around the country are getting used to logging on regularly. Look for regular VAWnet updates in the newsletter.

Meet Your Sister Programs

This month our featured advocate is Catherine Vaara from Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV) in Valdez.



How long have you worked at AVV, and what did you do before?

I've worked at AVV for four years. And what did I do before? Well, two years prior to that I came from Australia. When I got here I worked at the Valdez Native Association as a Community Health Representative (CHR). It was similar to being an advocate. I used to go out on house calls because some people don't like to come in to the agency. I would make appointments, schedule trips if someone needed to go to the hospital, that kind of thing. The job came with three weeks of training that included domestic violence (dv) training.

That's great that dv was included in the training for the

job. What is your job title now and what do you do?

I am the Direct Services Coordinator. I supervise shelter advocates. We all do education and work with clients. I also do legal advocacy.

How big is Valdez?

The population is 4000, and we're right at the "end of the road." Its about a six hour drive from Anchorage; a little longer in the winter.

Describe your program at AVV.

We have four full time staff, and hopefully we'll soon have five shelter staff on call. We're a seven bed shelter. Lately we've been full most of the time, with two or three families staying at the shelter, but over the year we have residents half the year, and half the year we're empty.

We make presentations in the community, and go into the schools. We just did a training for AHTNA, the Native Corporation for the Copper River Basin area. It was a training for teenagers, and about 50 teenagers attended. They had lots of questions, it was really encouraging.

We're also really proactive in helping with the rural sexual assault and dv child abuse trainings that Linda Chamberlain is doing.

We have a group for teens

every Tuesday night at the Teen Center.

Through dv awareness month we made presentations at the Senior Center, the Foodbank, the Rotary, talking about what AVV is, what services we offer. And we participate in United Way functions.

You guys are very proactive in the community! What kinds of legal issues come up in your area?

People call with questions about divorce and child custody. We've had two calls in the last week about bail conditions. Sometimes women want to reverse a court order that keeps the perpetrator away from the victim.

We do two to three protective orders a month, and we do a lot of follow up in those cases. Clients come back to ask questions, or want to change visitation or make other modifications. We usually have contact with someone five or six times again after going to court with her once.

Are women being arrested in DV Assault cases in your community?

One time a woman was arrested and the police called to say "please come talk to her, she's a long term victim, but we had to arrest." I felt they didn't interpret the law very well in that

situation.

Another time we got a call from a woman in jail. She was a long term survivor, but had been arrested before. I believe the police had some issues in this case, alcohol was involved. I had to sit down with an officer and explain that sometimes one person looks like a perpetrator, but when you look at the bigger picture, she might really be the victim.

It sounds like you have a good working relationship with your local law enforcement.

We've called them to help with our crisis intervention training in the past. There are a few older officers who don't like the battered women's movement, but most have been through the academy more recently and received some better training.

Are there some success stories you would like to share with us?

We've been feeling really pleased lately, because we've

been working with a couple of clients who have alcohol issues, and they've gone in to get treatment, followed up with aftercare and AA, kept up contact with Mental Health Services and stayed in contact with us. They've done great, found housing, re-established relationships with their children, and really see themselves as people of worth, that they've got rights and can be respected for who they are.

That's inspiring. How about your own self-care? What do you do to keep yourself in this field?

I just recently went on a two week holiday to Georgia because my son is down there doing some training. My husband and I realized while we were away how good a break away from the area is. We came back and other people were still wrapped up in the crisis of the moment, but for me it's just been water off my back. Really getting away from it all is important.

I used to hike, but I unfortunately read Bear Tales of Alaska, so I don't hike anymore! I quilt. And I go to Australia every year for three or four weeks. Its very rejuvenating to see family. I'm not unique in Valdez in being separated from my root families. There are lots of people up here because of the pipeline that moved here.

Is there anything else you would like to add to this interview, or to tell other advocates out there?

Keep up the good work, one day at a time, one person at a time.

I've seen a lot of changes for the better in the last four years. The new domestic violence laws have helped, our police department has changed. I think the community as a whole understands that domestic violence is more then a personal problem, that it is a community problem, and it takes a whole community to support families.



Women's Legal Rights Handbook

All Network Legal Advocates should have received a box of 54 copies of the *Women's Legal Rights Handbook* by now. If you haven't please give us a call! We suggest that you set aside 5 or more copies of the handbook to keep in your library as a resource that women can borrow. Please feel free to give the book away, and let us know if you need more, but remember that we have a limited number of the books on stock.

We hope this book will be a valuable resource for you and the women and children you work with.

The Legal Advocacy Project is hiring a second attorney!

ATTORNEY– for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault non-profit agency focusing on developing a pro bono mentoring program statewide for Alaska attorneys to provide civil legal representation for victims of domestic violence/sexual assault in child custody, divorce, and protective order proceedings. Salary \$45,000 plus benefits including health insurance. Accepting applications until November 27th. Mail or fax letter of interest, resume, and three references to:

ANDVSA, attn: LAP
130 Seward St. #209
Juneau, AK 99801
Fax (907) 586-3152

Women and minorities encouraged to apply. ANDVSA is an EOE.



Ever get the answering machine when you call the LAP?!

OK, you've all been frustrated by our answering machines, but give us a moment to explain. The LAP receives an average of 15 case consultation calls a day, most requiring some research, multiple phone conversations and follow up. We participate in telephonic statewide and local advisory panels, coordinate trainings telephonically, and answer questions about our project. We get calls from all over Alaska, as well as calls from other state coalitions, legal advocacy projects, and individuals from the rest of the country. Our project consists of 2 full-time and 1 part-time workers. We're on the phone a lot! That's why we chose to have the voice mail system that we do. One phone number links us all together and is always available to take messages. If we didn't have this system you'd almost certainly get a busy signal whenever you call us. So please leave a message. We will always get back to you, and we apologize for any delay.

(Continued from page 1)

I came to law school with ideas of what I want to do and study, you don't get to do that. Your classes are dictated to you the first year, there are no electives.

I don't want to dissuade anyone who's thinking about going to law school, but it's a lot of hard work and it is not a supportive culture.

One good thing that I've gotten from this year is that I'm getting more perspective on why lawyers act the way they do. I used to wonder sometimes why they seemed not to do things, make things happen. Now I can see that there are a lot of details that they need to be careful about, and the whole concept of precedent. But I also see that there's a lot of room in the law, the gray area, and I still have the belief that you can make use of the gray area and get things done.

Are there any courses at U. of Colorado, Boulder that address DV/SA?

There are none that address violence against women specifically. I took a criminal law course in which we studied rape laws, but there was never a time when the professor said "Now we're going to talk about the cycle of violence." I'm taking a domestic relations course right now. We'll talk about divorce, prenuptial agreements, adoption, things like

that.

What are some of the other classes that you've taken?

Oh, you don't want to hear about that!

I had to take a class in evidence and one in constitutional law. Constitutional law was interesting, to talk about people's rights. I took a class in income tax, which wasn't interesting, but it pervades everything else. If you know something about tax law you know something about business, non-profits, etc.

What are your plans for a job or an internship next summer?

That's a good question because I'm applying for positions right now. The whole structure of law school is heavily based in where you work after your second semester, but at the same time you also have this huge debt. You know, the whole system is very hierarchical. 'Where you went to school,' 'where you worked your second summer,' its all very antithetical to a feminist way of thinking.

What I'm interested in doing is working with a law professor at Denver University who has established a program for students to apply for pardons for women convicted of homicide of their abusive partners. The program started last spring. I think they're doing it again this spring.

How many women were represented by students?

Between three and five, not many, and none of them are death penalty cases. I don't know the outcome. Its an interesting political situation. We hope the governor will pardon these women.

I need to find a job that will help me financially to begin to pay back my student loans, so I'm also applying to Legal Aid, which is like Alaska Legal Service in Alaska), the Dept. of Justice and some firms that do litigation.

What kind of work do you want to get into after graduation?

I'd really like to work for the Dept of Justice on civil rights cases. I think that would be fascinating. I've decided I don't want to be a DA, although that's what I thought I wanted to do at first. For social reasons I just don't want to work the really long hours you'd have to or to have a shotgun caseload with no time to review your cases. I'm not sure I'd be comfortable in that position. I'm open to working in a unit that specializes in DV/SA. Eventually I'd like to do something along the lines of what Kari Robinson is doing, or administrative work for a non-profit.

At first I'll need a job that will help me financially. My strategy is to practice litigation

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Coordinating Intervention Efforts

“With crimes of domestic violence, experience indicates that it’s the way we do business, and not the cooperation of the victim, persistence of the abuser or increasing number of crimes, that accounts for failed intervention efforts. Clearly, if the way we do business accounts for our failure, then changing the way we do business can explain success.

Collaboration among criminal justice agencies is an essential part of addressing crimes of domestic violence. Successful intervention efforts begin when the primary players—advocates, law enforcement leaders, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, court clerks and administrators—identify each agency’s legal and operational responsibilities, and their relationship to each other, then reach agreements that govern how the agencies will operate together to meet these responsibilities.

Beyond collaboration, there appear to be strategies common to success within each criminal justice program component. Agencies that succeed emphasize accountability through specialized domestic violence protocols, training and report forms; uniform procedures among like components across jurisdictions; and measures that emphasize monitoring, supervision, retraining and disciplinary action whether policy is not followed”



-By Marilyn McFadden

(Continued from page 9)

for a few years, then move into something else. Its much easier to get the job you want if you’ve practiced for a few years.

Is there anything you’d like to add to this interview?

The first year of law school is designed to break you down. The professors make a concerted effort to break down your confidence. For anyone who wants to go to law school I encourage you to weed through that junk, because it

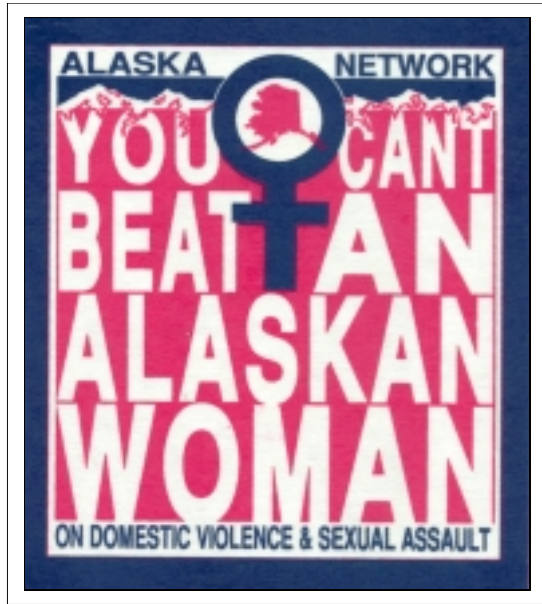
will get better. If you’re really interested in working with DV/SA issues, then think about what you want to do with a law degree. Being a DA is just about it. If you’re happy with what you’re doing, then stay right there.

Another thing, in law school people are trained to say “maybe” or “it depends.” Law isn’t something you can really grasp onto. When people are in crisis I think they’re often looking for something that they can hang onto, someone who will tell them

“this is what you can do, and this is how,” but that’s not exactly how it works.

Thank you Connie. Good luck to you. I think you’re exactly the kind of person who makes a wonderful attorney. We need more of you out there.

Thanks. Feel free to list my email address in case people would like to contact me with any more questions about law school or my work at TWC. ✿



ANDVSA Sweatshirt
 "On Sale" for \$10, (size M & L)



L.A.P. Long-Sleeved T-shirt
 \$18, Sizes M,L,XL,XXXL (XXL sold-out)

**Design varies some from image shown due to silk screen formatting*

Order Form

Description	Size(s)	Quantity	Price	Subtotal

 Name/Program

 Address

 Phone

Order Total: _____
 Shipping (\$3): _____
 Total: _____

Make checks payable to ANDVSA

Mail order form and payment to:
 ANDVSA Legal Advocacy Project
 130 Seward St., #209
 Juneau, AK 99801
 Questions? Call Mary Kay at 586-5643, x3

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