



A Woman's Place

*A community issue. A community organization.
Community Change*

Statement of Interest: A Woman's Place

Amicus Curiae, A Woman's Place (AWP), is a private, non-profit organization that envisions a society where all individuals are safe in their relationships and can flourish. AWP provides a full range of assistance and support services for victims of domestic violence and their children, including a free 24-hour hotline, a full-service residential shelter, individual and group counseling, legal and medical advocacy, and a children's program. As domestic violence is a community issue, requiring community effort and support to successfully eradicate, AWP also provides comprehensive community-based domestic violence training, education, outreach, and advocacy. AWP's services to victims of domestic violence are free, private, and confidential.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

If even one municipality in our county has similar ordinances restricting calls to police, it poses a threat to the lives of our citizens and an obstacle for victims of domestic violence seeking assistance. We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness. Each and every life is of equal value and everyone deserves to flourish.

Thank you!

Ifeoma U. Aduba
Executive Director
A Woman's Place

Free, Private, Confidential

24-hour Hotline: 1-800-220-8116 | Administrative Office: 215-343-9241 | Fax: 215-343-3411 | P.O. Box 299, Doylestown, PA 18901 | www.awomansplace.org



A MEMBER AGENCY UNITED WAY OF BUCKS COUNTY

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within PA. 1 800 732 0999.
Registration does not imply endorsement. -PA Commission of Charitable Organizations

ALLE-KISKI AREA

HOPE
CENTER INC.



May 31, 2013

RE: Briggs v. Norristown

Statement of Interest: Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc.

Amicus Curiae, Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc. (HOPE), is a private, non-profit organization that recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. HOPE is an organization of social changes whose mission is the elimination of domestic violence through intervention, prevention, and collaboration. As such, HOPE has served the communities of the Allegheny and Kiski valleys for nearly 35 years. HOPE provides crisis hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, crisis intervention, and community prevention and education programming. These services are free and confidential and offer a trauma-informed approach that is aimed at empowerment and self-sufficiency.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Many municipalities in the communities we serve have similar ordinances restricting calls to police. This month alone, two separate families accessed HOPE's emergency shelter to avoid calling police for fear of evictions. They moved their children to HOPE's shelter with only weeks of school remaining and left the areas where each had natural support systems. We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness.

HOPE expresses interest in this on behalf of its board, advocates, and constituents. The decision at hand has the opportunity to create safety and guarantee the rights of all individuals to be free from abuse.

Respectfully,
The HOPE Center

Handwritten signature of Michelle G. Bond in blue ink.

Michelle G. Bond
Executive Director

MAIL:
PO Box 67, Tarentum, PA 15084

HOTLINE:
888.299.HOPE (4673)

TELEPHONE:
724.224.1100

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724.224.1123

E-MAIL:
HopeCenter@akhopecenter.org

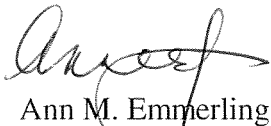
WEBSITE:
www.akhopecenter.org



*Statement of Interest from Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Re: Briggs v. Norristown*

Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is a private, non-profit organization that provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and education and prevention programs in Westmoreland County.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.



Ann M. Emmerling
Executive Director

May 29, 2013


CENTRE COUNTY
Women's Resource Center

140 W. Nittany Avenue • State College, PA 16801-4811 • 814-238-7066 • Fax 814-238-4449
Email: ccwrc@ccwrc.org • Toll Free Hotline 1-877-234-5050 • Bellefonte Office 814-355-6477

Statement of Interest: Centre County Women's Resource Center

Amicus Curiae, the Centre County Women's Resource Center, is a private, non-profit organization that provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking. Our services include a 24 hour hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, crisis intervention, advocacy and support, civil legal representation, supervised custody exchange and visitation, and a wide range of prevention activities and programs.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

While no municipalities in our county currently have similar ordinances restricting calls to police, several are considering such ordinances. We know that landlords frequently track police response to their properties and neighbors, sadly, do not hesitate to report visits by police during domestic violence incidents to the landlords. We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness. Affordable housing is exceptionally difficult to locate in Centre County and the fear of eviction increases the risk that victims of domestic violence will not seek the services and support they need from law enforcement.

Sincerely,



Anne K. Ard
Executive Director

Centre County
United Way



Member Agency



Clinton County Women's Center, Inc.
Hilton SAFE House
34 West Main Street
Lock Haven, PA 17745
570.748.9539

Amicus Curiae, Clinton County Women's Center, Inc., is a private non-profit organization that provides a variety of services to victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Services offered include temporary emergency shelter, options and supportive counseling, support groups, legal advocacy, systems advocacy, education and prevention services.

We join the Amicus Curiae brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at hand has extreme implications for victims of domestic violence, many of who face homelessness as they struggle to maintain their safety and obtain permanent stable housing for themselves and their children. Affordable housing is most often only available through subsidized housing programs that have strict regulations.

Although the local housing program has no rules or regulations related to police calls, many private landlords include this kind of restriction in their leases. The behavior of abusers is far beyond the control of their victims and despite legal implications, many abusers choose to ignore restraining orders and cause police response. As a result of fear of eviction, many women choose not to call police and endure further abuse and fear. If they do get evicted they face homelessness, economic strife and possible loss of custody of their children.





Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County
1218 W. State Street
New Castle, PA 16101

724-652-9206 BUSINESS
724-652-9222 FAX
info@crisishelter.org

CRISISHELTER.ORG

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Deborah A. Hartman, CFRE
Executive Director

The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County empowers and advocates for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. We inspire and educate citizens to create safer communities and break the cycle of violence.

May 30, 2013

Re: Briggs v. Norristown


Statement of Interest: Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County

Amicus Curiae, Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County, is a private, non-profit organization that serves as Lawrence County's domestic violence emergency shelter and sexual assault provider and has been doing so for more than 30 years. We provide a wide range of free services to women, children and men who are victims of all forms of violence including, but not limited to, domestic violence, adult and child sexual assault, child and elder abuse, and other serious crimes. Our programs include a 24-hour hotline; temporary emergency shelter; transitional housing; legal and medical advocacy; individual and group counseling, including art and music therapy; community education; school prevention education and training for professionals.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Several municipalities in our County have similar ordinances restricting calls to police. In fact, our Counseling/Advocacy Supervisor recently accompanied a victim to a preliminary hearing for a "disorderly house" charge because of too many calls to the police. Fortunately, the judge did dismiss the case.

We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Hartman, CFRE
Executive Director

The official registration and financial information of the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA

Administrative Office
308 East Maiden Street
Washington, PA 15301

Telephone: 724.223.5481

Fax: 724.223.5482

Email: admin@peacefromdv.org

Website: www.peacefromdv.org



May 29, 2013

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Briggs v. Norristown

Statement of Interest: Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA

Amicus Curiae, Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA, is a private, non-profit organization that, in addition to safe, temporary shelter in Washington and Fayette Counties, offers a number of support services including 24-hour hotline; 24-hour transportation and intake; information and referrals; accompaniment; general advocacy; in-house group and individual counseling; individual empowerment counseling for non-residents; an extensive legal advocacy program; a structured program for child residents; community support groups for women who have been in abusive relationships; food, clothing and personal care items; and an intensive community education and training component that works to both increase public awareness of domestic violence and offer wide-scale prevention programs. DVSSP also offers transitional housing (Fresh Start program) for victims of domestic violence and their children in Washington and Greene Counties, as well as a Satellite Legal Advocacy Office/Counseling Center in Greene County. The mission of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES OF SOUTHWESTERN PA (DVSSP) is to increase awareness of domestic violence and its effect on the community, to empower those victimized by providing advocacy and safe and effective services, and to work for social change designed to eliminate domestic violence.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner. We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness. This frequent reality is in direct opposition to the mission of Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle L. Robinson-Ritter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michelle L. Robinson-Ritter
Executive Director

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES OF SOUTHWESTERN PA



SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED WAY



Formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund

Briggs v. Borough of Norristown et al., No. 13-CV-2191 (EDPa)

Futures Without Violence Amicus Curiae Statement of Interest

Futures Without Violence, formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund, is a national nonprofit organization that has worked for over thirty years to prevent and end violence against women and children around the world. Futures Without Violence mobilizes concerned individuals, children's groups, allied professionals, women's rights, civil rights, and other social justice organizations to join the campaign to end violence through public education/prevention campaigns, public policy reform, model training, advocacy programs, and organizing. Futures Without Violence has a particular interest in supporting the economic security of victims of domestic and sexual violence. For more than ten years, Futures Without Violence has worked with employers and unions to proactively address the workplace effects of violence and the resultant safety and economic costs. Futures Without Violence joins with amici in supporting efforts to ensure that victims have access to secure and stable housing, which is critical to helping victims and their families maintain safety and economic autonomy from perpetrators.

Michael W. Runner
Director of Legal Programs
Futures Without Violence



May 28, 2013

Statement of Interest: Laurel House

P.O. Box 764
Norristown, PA 19404
Phone: 610-277-1860
Fax: 610-277-6425
www.laurel-house.org

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Beth E. Sturman

Amicus Curiae, Laurel House, is a private, non-profit organization that provides comprehensive services for domestic abuse survivors and their children, along with domestic violence prevention education for students and other community members throughout Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Our services include: nine bedroom shelter for women and children who are endangered at home due to domestic violence; 12 units of post-shelter supportive housing; 24/7 Hotline; counseling; court accompaniment; support groups; on-site crisis response with law enforcement and medical personnel; teen dating abuse prevention education and community awareness education.

We join the *Amicus Curaie* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Within this past year we are aware of at least one tragic, potentially fatal, situation in which a domestic violence survivor from our area was threatened with eviction due to her phone calls to law enforcement when her ex-boyfriend repeatedly came to her home and threatened and/or assaulted her. The woman was so afraid that she would be evicted that she did not call the police when he stabbed her, leaving her to bleed out in her apartment. Fortunately, a neighbor did call the police. The woman was subsequently airlifted to the hospital and her life was saved.

Laurel House works with over 1500 domestic violence survivors each year, both through our Hotline and through direct, in person, supportive services. Many of the people who call our Hotline, or who reach out to our Counselor Advocates in other ways, are reluctant to call the police due to their fear of facing eviction. With limited affordable housing options in our region, many victims, if evicted, can find few alternatives other than returning to the abusive significant other, or facing homelessness for themselves and their children.

Respectfully,

Beth E. Sturman

Executive Director

Laurel House is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization as defined under the Internal Revenue Service code section 501c (3).
Tax-exemption entity ID: 23-2172743.

The official registration and financial information of Laurel House may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Lutheran
Settlement
House



EMPOWERING CHILDREN, ADULTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES FOR OVER 100 YEARS

Carolyn J. Wilson, President, Board of Directors


Main Site • 1340 Frankford Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19125 • 215-426-8610 Fax 215-426-0581

Statement of Interest: Lutheran Settlement House, Bilingual Domestic Violence Program

Amicus Curiae, Lutheran Settlement House, Bilingual Domestic Violence Program, is a private, non-profit organization that has served victims of domestic violence and their children since 1977, and assists over 3,000 families annually while reaching another 4,000 individuals through community-wide outreach efforts. The BDVP provides advocacy, education, outreach, one-on-one and group counseling, and transitional housing, and collaborates with three other domestic violence agencies to run the Philadelphia 24-hour domestic violence crisis hotline. Free-of-charge quality counseling services are provided to victims and survivors of DV and dating abuse regardless of gender or sexual orientation: female, male, transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or heterosexual. All of services are offered in English and Spanish to clients from all parts of Philadelphia, surrounding counties, and southern New Jersey.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Selected areas within our county have similar ordinances restricting calls to police. Such laws violate a tenants' First Amendment right to contact law enforcement. Many of the clients we serve remain within abusive relationships because they feel they have limited to non-existent options. Laws that further restrict contacting police place survivors and victims of abuse in further jeopardy. We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness. It is our firm belief that challenging such laws not only places them before the scrutiny of the court but ensures the safety of our clients.


Vashti B. Bledsoe
Program Director
Bilingual Domestic Violence Program
Lutheran Settlement House



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PCADV
Pennsylvania
Coalition
Against
Domestic
Violence



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San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: 415-546-7000
Fax: 415-546-7007
nhlp@nhlp.org
www.nhlp.org

Sent via electronic mail

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: *Briggs v. Norristown*

Amicus Curiae, National Housing Law Project (NHLP), is a private, non-profit, national housing and legal advocacy center established in 1968. Our mission is to advance housing justice for poor people by increasing and preserving the supply of decent, affordable housing; improving existing housing conditions, including physical conditions and management practices; expanding and enforcing low-income tenants' and homeowners' rights; and increasing housing opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities. Through policy advocacy and litigation, NHLP has been responsible for many critically important changes to federal housing policy and programs that have resulted in increased housing opportunities and improved housing conditions for poor people. NHLP has worked with hundreds of advocates, attorneys, agencies and housing providers throughout the country on cases involving housing and domestic violence as well as advocating for policies that help survivors access and maintain safe and decent housing.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy apart from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

/s/
Karlo Ng
Staff Attorney



NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

1400 16TH STREET NW
SUITE 330
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

www.nnedv.org
phone: 202.543.5566
fax: 202.543.5626

May 31, 2013

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Briggs v. Norristown

Amicus Curiae, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (“NNEDV”) is a private, non-profit organization and the leading voice for millions of domestic violence victims and their families, friends and allies. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

The breadth of NNEDV’s domestic violence expertise includes the combined knowledge of its network of 56 state and territorial domestic violence coalitions, including over 2,000 local programs. NNEDV has been a premiere national organization advancing the movement against domestic violence for over 20 years, having led efforts among domestic violence advocates and survivors in urging Congress to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”) of 1994 and subsequent reauthorizations. NNEDV has expertise in the nature and dynamics of domestic violence and its impact on victims; issues of financial abuse and economic security for survivors of domestic violence; and the intersection of housing policy and domestic violence. In particular, NNEDV has substantial expertise in the VAWA housing protections, the McKinney-Vento homelessness program (HEARTH Act), implementation of housing programs through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office on Violence Against Women transitional housing program, and other housing rights and protections for domestic violence survivors.


Kim A. Gandy
President and CEO



Schuylkill Women in Crisis

P.O. Box 96, Pottsville, PA 17901

swicagency@comcast.net

www.s-wic.org

May 29, 2013

SAMPLE STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Briggs v. Norristown

Statement of Interest: SCHUYLKILL WOMEN IN CRISIS

Amicus Curiae, Schuylkill Women in Crisis, is a private, non-profit organization that provides comprehensive services for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Schuylkill County, conducts public information and educational activities, and fosters social and systems change to eliminate personal and institutional gender-based violence.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Victims have no power to control the actions of their abusers. All people who are in danger should be able to call police for help without being penalized or being evicted because of their need to protect themselves. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness. Not calling police – whose purpose is to render assistance in situations where individuals are in danger – leads only to more harm to victims as well as to property and/or bystanders such as neighbors who may seek to intervene on a victim's behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sarah T. Casey'.

Sarah T. Casey
Executive Director

**SHRIVER
CENTER**

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

HEADQUARTERS:50 E. Washington St, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

P: 312.263.3830

F: 312.263.3846

BOSTON OFFICE:89 South St, Suite 407
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

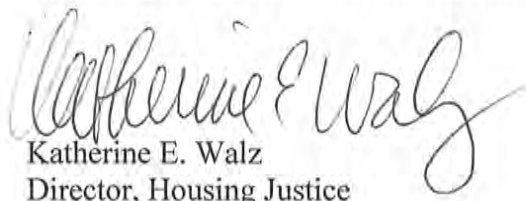
P: 617.946.4672

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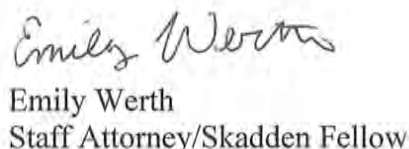
www.povertylaw.org*Statement of Interest: Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law*

Amicus Curiae, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, is a private, non-profit organization that provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. The Shriver Center achieves its mission by directly serving low-income clients, advocating for people with low-income in public policy debates, and building the capacity of the nation's equal justice providers through training and communications. The Center's Housing Justice Unit works to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing and to protect the housing rights of low-income tenants, including survivors of domestic and sexual violence and persons with criminal records. Specifically, the Safe Homes Initiative of the Shriver Center advances policy advocacy, administrative reform, and litigation to protect the housing rights of survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This case has far-reaching implications for families that have been victimized by domestic or sexual violence. Tenants who have been victims of domestic or sexual violence often face dangerous and difficult decisions about their housing. They are extremely vulnerable to homelessness as they struggle to maintain safe, stable housing and escape abuse. They are also frequently subjected to discrimination by landlords. The Shriver Center has represented victims of violence who have experienced discrimination because of their status and drafted state and federal laws to safeguard victims living in rental housing. We have grown increasingly concerned about the impact that nuisance property ordinances – also often called crime free housing ordinances – have on the safety and wellbeing of victims of domestic and sexual violence. Through our own work and that of our partners, we are aware of such ordinances resulting in victims being threatened with eviction because they sought police help with an abuser, victims not calling the police in the first place out of fear of losing their homes, abusers using the possibility of an eviction to silence victims, and victims with orders of protection being turned away by landlords that are worried about future calls to the police. We have therefore been engaged in efforts throughout Illinois to educate local governments and the public about these dangerous consequences of nuisance property ordinances, and to challenge ordinance enforcement that harms victims of domestic and sexual violence.



Katherine E. Walz
Director, Housing Justice



Emily Werth
Staff Attorney/Skadden Fellow

**Advancing justice and opportunity**

THE SHRIVER CENTER IS A RECIPIENT OF THE MACARTHUR AWARD FOR CREATIVE AND EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS



Survivors

Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 3572 GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 717-334-0589
HOTLINE 717-334-9777 OR 1-800-787-8106

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: SURVIVORS, INC.

Amicus Curiae, Survivors, Inc., is a private, non-profit organization that provides a 24 hour hotline, information and referral, individual peer counseling, support group counseling, legal advocacy/accompaniment, medical advocacy/accompaniment, advocacy in other systems that victims may possibly need to access, emergency/transitional shelter, and community education and prevention education. In the most recent fiscal year from July 2011 to June 2012, Survivors, Inc. has provided 6,269 days of shelter and nearly 7,630 hours of counseling to 673 victims of sexual assault and battering, with 159 individuals being housed in Survivors, Inc.'s Transitional Housing Program. This year at mid-year Survivors, Inc. is showing a 26.5% increase in unduplicated individuals accessing services, so it appears that the 2012-2013 may be another record year.

We join the Amicus Curiae brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

In the Commonwealth, some municipalities have ordinances restricting calls to police. This has far reaching impact, even outside of those municipalities. We know by nature of domestic violence, victims and their children may be forced to flee to a county or town outside of where they lived with their abuser. Adams County is a very rural county, and is one of the fastest growing Pennsylvania counties since 2000. This makes Adams County a perfect place to relocate a victim to further isolate and control that victim. We have assisted victims to return closer to their original community, and often, Survivors, Inc.'s dedicated staff continue to stay in contact.

Martha was moved to Adams County with her two small children. Once moving far from her support network, or what remained of it, her husband successfully continued to isolate her- and the abuse escalated. She took her children and left after a violent physical assault where he kicked her repeatedly in the stomach because she suspected she was pregnant. After seeking shelter with Survivors, Inc., she chose to relocate to Norristown. She started to put together a violence free life for herself and her children. Sadly, her peace would not last. She was not the only one that moved from Adams County, as her abuser quit his job and returned to the area as well. He began to systematically stalk and threaten Martha, and her neighbors would call the police each time he would arrive. Shortly after another assault, Martha was shocked to learn that she was being evicted. She had nowhere to go, she and her two children were homeless. She felt returning to her abuser would result in her death. (*Identifying information has been changed to maintain this victim's confidentiality)*

We regularly hear from our clients who access our services who are originally from areas with similar ordinances that restrict calling police. They are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness. This also has a chilling effect on other municipalities, as victims' fear that this can happen in their community, and perpetrators will attempt to use this information as a method of maintaining control and preventing the victim from fleeing. We have also had a large influx of victims from this area seeking shelter, for the reasons discussed.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri L. Hamrick, MNM
President and Chief Executive Officer

www.womenagainstabuse.org



May 31, 2013

Elizabeth Marx
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
3605 Vartan Way
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Statement of Interest: Women Against Abuse

Amicus Curiae, Women Against Abuse, is a private, non-profit organization, and the leading domestic violence service provider in Pennsylvania. We operate the only emergency shelter in the City for abused women and their children, the nation's first legal center for domestic violence victims, as well as transitional housing, the Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline, and community-wide education to prevent Domestic and Teen Dating Violence. Our services reach over 15,000 people each year through our residential services, legal aid, hotline counseling, and education and advocacy. It is our mission to provide quality and compassionate services in a manner that foster self-respect and independence, and to lead the struggle to end domestic violence.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Unfortunately, Lakisha Briggs saw the direct impact of this when out of fear of losing her home, she did not call the police on her abusive partner, and instead suffered physical violence so severe that she had to be airlifted to the hospital for treatment.

No victim of abuse should be subject to additional violence out of fear that she might lose the roof over her head, or subsequently, be subject to homelessness for herself and likely her children if she is evicted for trying to protect herself and her family.

Please feel free to email or call for any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elise Scioscia", is positioned above the typed name.

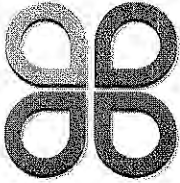
Elise Scioscia
Strategic Initiatives Associate
Women Against Abuse

215-386-1280 x105
escioscia@womenagainstabuse.org

100 South Broad Street, Suite 1341 • Philadelphia, PA 19110
P 215 386 1280 F 215 386 2476

Legal Center
100 South Broad Street, 5th Floor • Philadelphia, PA 19110
P 215 686 7082 F 215 686 7041

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-866-SAFE-014



THE LAW OFFICES OF WIN
80 North Second Street, Suite A
Chambersburg PA 17201
Phone: 717-264-6544 • FAX: 717-264-6727

Kate Cramer Lawrence - Managing Attorney
Meghann O'Reilly Karasic - Attorney
Martha I. Ewan - Paralegal
Kari M. Ramsey - Paralegal

WOMEN IN NEED
- ADVOCATING FOR PEACE AT HOME
THROUGH JUSTICE AND EDUCATION

May 31, 2013

Statement of Interest: The Law Offices of Women in Need

Amicus Curiae, the Law Offices of Women in Need, is a private, non-profit organization that provides comprehensive civil legal representation to victims of domestic violence in Franklin and Fulton Counties. The purpose of the representation is to enhance safety, autonomy, and restoration for the victims.

We join the Amicus Curiae brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness.

Sincerely,

Kate Cramer Lawrence
Managing Attorney
Law Offices of Women in Need

LIVE UNITED



A United Way Funded Agency

A copy of the official registration may be obtained from the PA Dept of State by calling, toll free within PA. 1-800-732-0999
Registration does not imply endorsement.

May 30, 2013

Statement of Interest: Women of Color Caucus of PCADV

Amicus Curiae, The Women of Color Caucus (WOCC), are a member of PCADV a private, non-profit organization. We were established on April 13, 1981, primarily to actively encourage and support the involvement and leadership of Women of Color in all PCADV programs. Women of Color reflect a diverse group of women and include but are not limited to those who are African, African-American, Asian-American, Native American, Chinese, Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic, Indo-Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Latina, Pakistani, Panamanian, Thai, and Vietnamese.

The WOCC recognizes that we must continue to strengthen the bonds between us, and together through collective action, we will work to:

- Advocate on behalf of Battered Women and Women of Color
- Serve as an advisory group to PCADV and its member programs in matters of significance to the WOCC constituency
- Provide support to the WOCC constituency who work within PCADV.

We join the *Amicus Curaie* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety while establishing stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

We represent individuals from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its municipalities and some of our counties have similar ordinances restricting calls to police. We regularly hear from our members who have direct contact with clients that are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their homes. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness. Please consider our petition to create fair housing ordinances across the commonwealth of Pennsylvania as this issue greatly affects the safety of those experiencing domestic violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully submitted,

PCADV WOCC



Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

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Statement of Interest: Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Amicus Curiae, Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, is a private, non-profit organization that was founded 39 years ago. Today, the mission of WC&S is "to end intimate partner violence in the lives of women and their children". To keep women experiencing intimate partner violence and their children safe, the following programs and services are provided by Women's Center and Shelter: 24-hour Hotline; Emergency Shelter; Children's Programs; Medical Advocacy; Legal Advocacy; Civil Law Project; MEN/S Groups; Education and the Empowerment Center (support groups).

We join the Amicus Curiae brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of who face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partners.

Shirl Regan
President/CEO
Women's Center & Shelter
Of Greater Pittsburgh



P.O. Box 9024, Pittsburgh PA 15224
Administration ph 412-687-8017 fx 412-687-3315 email info@wcpittsburgh.org www.wcpittsburgh.org



Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh is a 501(c)(3) organization effective May 2, 1974. The official registration and financial information of The Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Women's Center of Montgomery County

Elkins Park: 8080 Old York Road, Suite 200, Elkins Park, PA 19027 215-635-7340
Colmar: 2506 N. Broad Street, Suite 203, Colmar, PA 18915 215-996-0723
Norristown: 107 E. Main Street, Suite 307, Norristown, PA 19404 610-279-7474
Bryn Mawr: 14 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 209, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 610-525-1427
Pottstown: 1800 E. High Street, Suite 350, Pottstown, PA 19464 610-970-7364
Toll Free: 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-773-2424

May 28, 2013


STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Briggs v. Norristown
Submitted by the Women's Center of Montgomery County

Amicus Curiae, the Women's Center of Montgomery County, is a private, non-profit organization. Our domestic violence program, which serves more than 4,000 victims each year, provides services which include: a 24-hour domestic violence and crisis hotline; elder abuse counseling and supportive services; legal advocacy; court accompaniment; individualized peer and group domestic violence counseling; information and referral; hospital accompaniment; stalking prevention on college campuses; emergency relocation funding for victims; prevention education and outreach to the community and schools. Our programs are administered by more than 185 trained volunteers and a paid staff of 16 employees in our six offices located in Elkins Park, Norristown, Lansdale, Pottstown, Colmar and Bryn Mawr.

We join the *Amicus Curaie* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Since Ms. Briggs is a resident of our county, and this matter arises from a restrictive ordinance that exists in our community – in our county seat of Norristown – we believe that we have a particular interest in seeing this ordinance reversed. Through our work with more than 4,000 victims of domestic violence each year, we regularly encounter resistance from landlords who refuse to rent to victims trying to relocate to safety, as well as landlords seeking to 'punish' the victim with eviction for acts committed by his/her offender. Ordinances such as the Norristown ordinance further victims these individuals and frequently force them back into the abusive home.

On behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers of
the Women's Center of Montgomery County,


Maria Macaluso, Executive Director



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STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Briggs v. Norristown

Statement of Interest: Women's Resource Center, Inc.

Amicus Curiae, Women's Resource Center, Inc., is a private, non-profit organization that provides life-saving intervention services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties.

We join the *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Two municipalities in our county have similar ordinances restricting calls to police. Recently, one woman and her children were evicted after telephoning the police while her abuser was beating her in her home. We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness.



greater harrisburg

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg
John Crain Kunkel Center
1101 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103
PH 717.234.7931
FAX 717.234.1779
www.ywcahbg.org

- Childhood Programs
- Residence Programs
- Employment Services
- Emergency Shelter
- Violence Intervention & Prevention Programs
- Sexual Assault Services
- Domestic Violence Services
- Hotline 1-800-654-1211
- Veterans Programs
- YW Works Employment Programs
- Economic & Neighborhood Development
- Legal & Visitation Services
- Supported Employment

May 29, 2013

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Briggs v. Norristown

Statement of Interest: YWCA Greater Harrisburg

Amicus Curiae, YWCA Greater Harrisburg, is a private, non-profit organization that provides comprehensive crisis services and safe emergency and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and homeless women and children.

We join the *Amicus Curaie* brief submitted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The case at bar has far-reaching implications for victims of domestic violence, many of whom face homelessness across the state as they struggle to maintain their safety and establish stable housing and economic autonomy from their abusive and controlling former or current intimate partner.

Several municipalities in our county have similar ordinances restricting calls to police. In one instance, a client survived a violent attack by her boyfriend. After contacting police, seeking medical attention, and filing for a temporary protection order, her landlord presented her with an eviction notice saying she was creating a disturbance in the building. We regularly hear from our clients that they are not calling police because they are afraid of being evicted from their home. If evicted, many victims are forced to either return to live with their abuser or face homelessness.

Tina L. Nixon
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA Greater Harrisburg

