

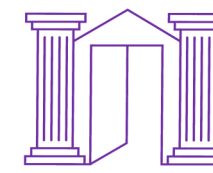
# 1970s



# 1980s



# 1990s



# 2000s



- 1971 • Group of law students at the University of Maryland School of Law and young lawyers at the Legal Aid Bureau began meeting to discuss women's issues
- 1972 • *Orner v. Board of Appeals* - successfully represented symphony harpist Rosemarie B. Orner in partnership with Legal Aid Bureau, arguing it is unconstitutional to disqualify pregnant women from receiving unemployment benefits  
• Legal hotline services began
- 1973 • Incorporated as a 501 c 3 nonprofit  
• *Doerr & Douthrit v. Walton et al* - successfully represented female teachers before the Baltimore City School Board arguing that the requirement for women to take maternity leave at the end of the fifth month of pregnancy was discriminatory  
• Successfully represented a female social worker in her claim against the Maryland Department of Employment and Social Services that its rules on maternity leave were discriminatory  
• Supported successful legislation to change law providing a pregnant woman was unable to work by operation of law, and therefore ineligible for unemployment benefits
- 1974 • *Beasley v. Bethlehem Steel and U. S. Steelworkers of America* - successfully represented female employees of Bethlehem Steel in a sex discrimination case against the company and union
- 1974 • *Legal Rights in Marriage and Divorce* published
- 1976 • *The Legal Rights of Women in Credit in Maryland* published
- 1978 • *Battered Women: A Manual for Survival* published  
• *Lazarus v. MD* - successfully represented plaintiffs in a case of pay parity for substantially equal work
- 1979 • Office and hotline move to 12 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street

- 1980 • Hotline moved to Baltimore New Directions for Women office
- 1981 • Ann Sjoerdsma hired as first Executive Director  
• *VJS v. Hughes* - successfully represented women in case challenging Baltimore Police Department's height and weight requirements  
• *Kamka et al v. E.E.O.C. et al* - successfully represented female prison guards in a case to balance their right to employment advancements with privacy rights of male prisoners
- 1982 • Office opens at 2621 Maryland Avenue  
• Settlement with the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles allowing married women to revert to their birth names on their drivers' licenses without obtaining a court order  
• Successfully represented a female nursing assistant challenging Sinai Hospital's discriminatory treatment of women after maternity leave  
• *Battered - What Can I Do?* and *Sex Discrimination in Employment* published  
• State ERA practical skills workshop for attorneys co-sponsored
- 1983 • "Domestic Violence: Responding to the Problem," conference co-sponsored  
• First annual meeting  
• "Women/Worth/Work" conference
- 1984 • Kathleen Shemer hired as 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Director  
• *Legal Rights of Unmarried Cohabitants* published  
• Partnership with House of Ruth to create the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic at the House of Ruth  
• Monthly women's legal affairs radio program hosted; continues through 1990  
• Office moved to Ann Sjoerdsma's house
- 1985 • "Pornography and the First Amendment" Conference co-sponsored  
• *Bleesz v. Bleesz* - amicus briefs submitted regarding impact of adultery in custody decision
- 1986 • Office moved to Kathleen Shemer's home.  
• *State of MD vs. Allewalt* - amicus brief submitted regarding psychiatric testimony on rape trauma syndrome  
• Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award created  
• "Child Custody: The American Family in Conflict" conference
- 1987 • "Whose Child is It? Alternatives for Parenting: Adoption, Reproductive Technology and Surrogate Mothering" conference  
• Worked with Baltimore Justice Campaign to amend Baltimore City law to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination  
• Conducted research and submitted testimony for "Gender Bias in the Courts Report"  
• Filed amicus brief in *Burning Tree Country Club* sex discrimination and tax preference case; initiated an investigation into admissions of private clubs and surveying law firms about practices regarding clubs and organizations that have discriminatory membership policies
- 1988 • "Separating Sex & Violence" Conference
- 1989 • "Money, Power & Gender: The Economic Impact of Divorce" Conference

- 1990 • Family Law Hotline launched  
• *Equitable Life Insurance vs. MD Commission on Human Relations* - joined an amicus brief challenging discriminatory insurance rate setting against women and minorities.
- 1991 • Family Law Hotline got 800 number, obtained funding and won national recognition ABA award  
• "Can You Have it All: Women and the Legal Profession" and "Fetal Protection: Whose Job Is It?" conferences  
• Supported successful abortion rights legislation  
• Supported successful legislation allowing battered spouse syndrome defense
- 1992 • "The Medical Gender Gap and the Crisis in Women's Health Care" conference.  
• *Gerald Wynn Elland v. MD* - joined amicus brief supporting the extension of Batson to gender under the Maryland ERA and disallowing peremptory challenges to exclude jurors based on gender  
• Organized in support of Question 6 statewide referendum on choice
- 1993 • Rosalyn B. Bell Award created recognizing outstanding achievements in family law  
• Joined with other advocates to fight nomination of a delegate who made derogatory comments about women
- 1994 • "Gender & Power in Maryland Politics," conference to increase number of women in Legislature hosted with Alliance of Black Women Attorneys  
• Financial planning seminar presented
- 1995 • Legal Forms Helpline launched; received National Association for Court Management Justice Achievement Award  
• Office moved to Towson
- 1996 • First annual "Girls Can Do Anything" breakfast  
• Family Law Center opened; became Kaufman Center for Family Law in 1997  
• Outreach effort to Hispanic community regarding Domestic Violence Act, in partnership with the Hispanic Bar
- 1997 • The Protection Order Advocacy and Representation Project (POARP) opened in Baltimore City  
• "Sexual Harassment: Terms of Endearment? Moving Beyond "He Said, She Said" in the Workplace" conference  
• First Access to Justice Award presented.
- 1998 • Website launched  
• "Medical Privacy in the Information Age: Access, Ethics and Accountability" conference  
• *Dietz vs. Dietz* - Amicus brief submitted by Kaufman Center for Family Law arguing a wife did not acquiesce to the trial court's determination when she accepted court-ordered installments of a monetary award  
• Organized against GBMC's attempted merger with St. Joseph's Hospital that would have cut off abortion services  
• Supported successful bill establishing "cruelty of treatment" as grounds for divorce
- 1999 • Denise Davis hired as 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Director  
• Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (MEDOVI) launched  
• Domestic Violence Assistance Project (DVA) opened in Montgomery County in partnership with House of Ruth

- 2000 • Filed appeal in *Peterson* regarding Emergency Family Maintenance in domestic violence cases  
• Researched and wrote report regarding Family Violence Option for victims of domestic violence applying for TANF
- 2001 • Tracy Brown hired as 4<sup>th</sup> Executive Director  
• Family Law Hotline expanded to 5 days per week in partnership with the Legal Aid Bureau  
• Comprehensive statewide research conducted on custody and property distribution decisions in family law cases; report published 2004
- 2002 • Pro Bono Service award from the Pro Bono Resource Center in Maryland  
• POARP expanded to Baltimore County in partnership with House of Ruth
- 2003 • Your Money Matters: A Guide to Financial Independence for Women published
- 2004 • POARP expanded to Carroll County; participation in Montgomery County DVA ends  
• Students Supporting the Women's Law Center groups formed at University of Baltimore School of Law and University of Maryland School of Law
- 2005 • Reduced Fee Custody Project, subsequently called Judicare, launched  
• MEDOVI expands to full time attorney; full time Legal Advocate added in 2007
- 2006 • Family Law Hotline expanded with staffing by contractual attorney supplemented by volunteers  
• Spanish services added to the Legal Forms Helpline  
• Replication and comparison study of custody and property distribution completed; policy recommendation to adopt alimony guidelines  
• Employment Law Hotline launched
- 2007 • First Wine and Chocolate event held  
• Art for Change event held
- 2008 • Kaufman Alimony Guidelines launched
- 2009 • Amicus brief filed in Boemio case supporting the use of alimony guidelines by judges  
• Received Maryland Association of Nonprofits Standards for Excellence Certification  
• Feminist Discussion Series - Health, Wealth and Well-Being  
• Appeal filed in Wardle regarding custody and financial distribution in a domestic violence case
- 2011 • Launched Limited Scope Representation Project  
• Launched new logo to celebrate 40th anniversary  
• Appeal filed in Spector regarding jurisdiction when a victim of domestic violence seeks a protective order after fleeing from another state
- 2012 • Framing Feminism Discussion Series: 40 Year Fight for Fairness and Emerging Issues  
• Celebrated 40th anniversary