



1973

1971: A 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. The Women's Law Center emerges!

1972: *Stuart v. Board of Elections* - case is filed to allow women to vote using their birth names. One of WLC's founding members, Gerry Sweeney, is the law clerk to the judge hearing the case and researched the opinion in the *Stuart* case.

1972: *Orner v. Board of Appeals* - WLC and the Legal Aid Bureau successfully represent symphony harpist Rosemarie B. Orner, arguing that it is unconstitutional to disqualify pregnant women from receiving unemployment benefits.

1972: Maryland ERA passes

1982: After a decade of fighting for ratification, the ERA fails. In the end, only 35 of the 38 required states ratify the amendment.

1973: WLC Articles of Incorporation are signed by early activists Susan Tannenbaum, Ann Hoffman and Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman.

1973: WLC member Ellen Luff testifies before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee against bills in opposition to the ERA. Luff's testimony helps kill the bills and fuels the formation of the Governor's Commission to Study Implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment. Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman, WLC founder, chairs the commission for three of its five years.

1981: Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

1979: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is created.

1973: *Doerr & Douthrit v. Walton et al* - WLC successfully represents female teachers before the Baltimore City School Board to argue its requirement that women take maternity leave at the end of the fifth month of pregnancy violates the U.S. and MD Constitutions.

1973: Roe v. Wade

1973: WLC assists Senator Rosalie S. Abrams in support of legislation to change the current law that stated that a pregnant woman was unable to work by operation of law, and therefore pregnant women were ineligible for unemployment benefits. The new bill becomes law July 1, 1973.

1973: American Troops withdraw from Vietnam; 1975: War finally ends

1974: *Beasley v. Bethlehem Steel and U. S. Steelworkers of America* - WLC member Emily Rody successfully represents female employees of Bethlehem Steel in a sex discrimination case against the company and union.

1978: *Lazarus v. MD* - WLC member L. Paige Marvel successfully represents plaintiffs in a case of pay parity for substantially equal work.

1978: 25 members strong!

1982: WLC publishes *Battered - What Can I Do?* and *Sex Discrimination in Employment*

1982: WLC hires its first executive director, Ann Sjoerdsma.

1982: WLC member Mary Ellen Rinehardt becomes the 5th woman appointed to the District Court for Baltimore City. She is part of a wave of women appointed to the bench.

1981: WLC publishes *Legal Rights in Marriage and Divorce* and *Legal Rights of Unmarried Cohabitants*

1981: *VJS v. Hughes* - WLC member Ann Hoffman successfully represents female job applicants and uniformed employees of the Baltimore City Police Department in a sex discrimination suit challenging height and weight requirements.

1981: *Kamka et al v. E.E.O.C. et al* - WLC members Emily Rody, Mary Ellen Rinehardt and Kathleen Sweeney successfully represent female prison guards in a case to balance their right to employment advancements with privacy rights of male prisoners.

1979: WLC office moves to 12 E. 25th street.



1983

1985: Along with MD Commission for Women and others, WLC hosts "Pornography and the First Amendment" Conference.

1985: *Bleesz v. Bleesz* - WLC participates as *amicus curiae* in a child custody dispute where a judge denied custody of a six-year-old boy to his mother because she committed adultery, despite the lack of evidence that the adultery had a harmful impact on the child. The case goes before the CSA twice and WLC submits a brief each time.

1984: Geraldine Ferraro is the first female vice-presidential candidate of a major political party (Democratic Party).

1985: Dorothy Anne Beatty dies; 1986: WLC creates Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award for contributions to women's rights.

1984: A House and Senate resolution is introduced on comparable worth. WLC member, Delegate Barbara O. Kreamer, who chaired the WLC's Comparable Worth Committee, and Sen. Dennis Rasmussen sponsor the resolution, and it passes.

1987: WLC hosts conference on surrogacy issues entitled "Whose Child is It?"

1987: WLC works with the Baltimore Justice Campaign to amend Baltimore City law to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The effort succeeds.

1984: House of Ruth create the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, with the help of the WLC. The WLC prepares written materials to train volunteer attorneys to represent abused women, conducts training sessions and accepts cases for dispersal to WLC members.

1986: The Supreme Court rules in *Meritor Savings. Bk v. Vinson*, that sexual harassment in the workplace is tantamount to sexual discrimination and, thus, illegal.

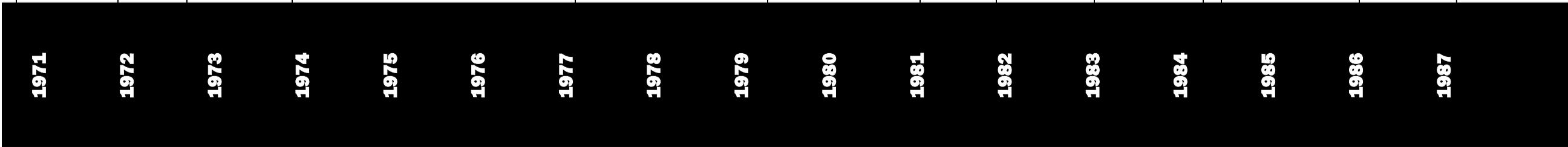
1983: First annual meeting!

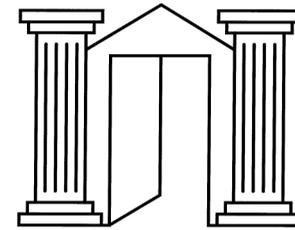
1983: Kathleen Shemer begins as an intern and later becomes the 2nd Executive Director.

1986: WLC office moves to Kathleen Shemer's home.

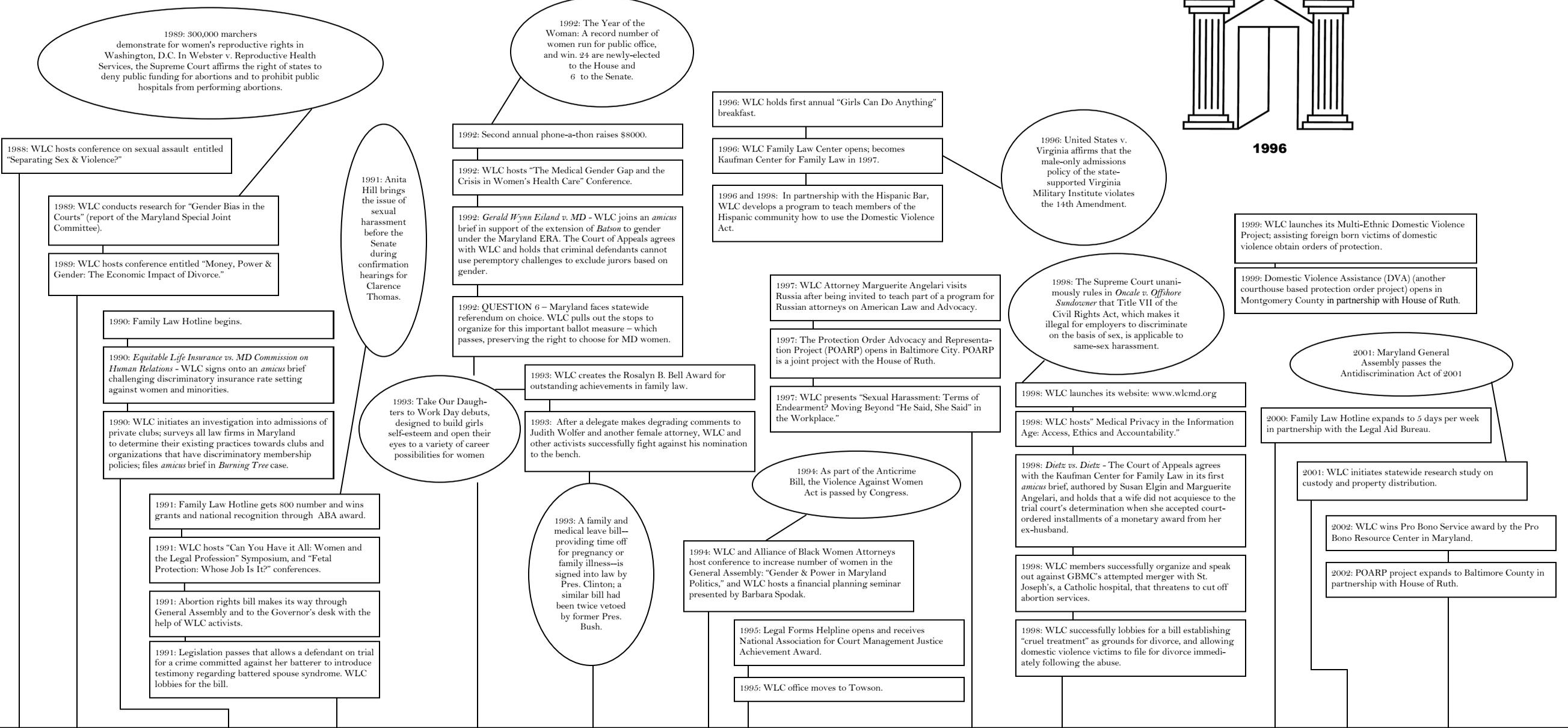
1983: WLC participates in statewide effort to ensure comparable worth in salaries, and plans and participates in a statewide conference on comparable worth entitled "Women/Worth/Work."

1986: *State of MD vs. Allexalt* - WLC files an *amicus* brief arguing that psychiatric testimony on rape trauma syndrome should be permitted when the defendant claims consent and the Court of Appeals agrees.





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