



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PROSECUTION, PRO BONO, AND ADVOCACY

Thursday, September 26, 2024 In-Person

U.S. Courthouse, 801 W. Superior Avenue, 7th Floor Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio

12:30 pm: **Welcoming remarks**

- Rebecca C. Lutzko, United States Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

12:45 pm: **Domestic Violence (DV), framing the scope and impact of DV, updates in statutes, applicable civil protection orders, and courts of jurisdiction.**

- Alexandria Ruden, Senior Attorney, Legal Aid Society

1:15 pm: **Role of effective advocacy, avenues of relief, and assistance for victims of Domestic Violence.**

- Timothy Boehnlein, Project Specialist, Geiger Institute

1:45 pm: **Prosecution of Domestic Violence challenges and stalking, *United States v. Rahimi* (June 21, 2024) update.**

- Verlinda Powell, Prosecutor, City of Cleveland
- Adam Joines, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

2:15 pm: **The vital importance of pro-bono, legal aid assistance to Domestic Violence victims.**

- Lauren Gilbride, Managing Attorney, Legal Aid Society

2:45 pm: **Closing remarks and adjourn.**

BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS, MODERATORS AND PRESENTERS

Rebecca C. Lutzko was appointed as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio on June 9, 2023. She leads a staff of approximately 175 employees, located in offices in Cleveland, Toledo, Akron, and Youngstown, who represent the United States of America in federal courts in Ohio's northern 40 counties. Ms. Lutzko supervises the prosecution of federal crimes in the district, including crimes related to public corruption, civil rights violations, white collar crime, child exploitation, terrorism, firearms offenses, narcotics offenses, violent crimes and more. The office also defends the United States in civil cases, files civil suits and conducts civil investigations on behalf of the United States, and collects debts owed to the United States.

Ms. Lutzko has served the district as an Assistant United States Attorney since 2005, holding both leadership and line assistant positions in the office. She served as the Chief of the Appeals Unit from 2017 to 2023, overseeing all briefing and arguments by the office in criminal cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She also served as the Deputy Chief of the Major Fraud and Corruption Unit from 2010 to 2011. Ms. Lutzko has prosecuted complex criminal cases involving fraud, money laundering, campaign-finance violations, public corruption, government-program fraud, and investment fraud, including a scheme to defraud almost 600 investors based on false claims involving the purported FDA-approval of a medical device. She has also prosecuted numerous complex narcotics conspiracies, including a large online pharmacy operation that illegally distributed over 4 million prescription pills in more than 40 states, as well as other doctor-involved drug trafficking and healthcare-fraud schemes.

Before becoming an Assistant United States Attorney, Ms. Lutzko was an associate at BakerHostetler in Cleveland, from 1998 to 2005. Prior to that, she served as a law clerk for The Honorable Alice M. Batchelder of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Ms. Lutzko received her J.D., *cum laude*, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1997, and her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Boston University in 1993.

Alexandria Ruden is the 2020 recipient of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, "Robert Denton Special Achievement Award". Ms. Ruden is a Senior Attorney at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and has personally helped more than 5,000 survivors of domestic violence throughout her 40 years of practicing law. She began her legal career at the Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland in 1980. In 1984, she joined the Legal Aid Society where she began the firm's domestic violence practice.

A renowned local, state and national leader, Ms. Ruden's career achievements have made a difference at the systemic level by influencing laws, policies, procedures and entire systems that have impacted countless lives. She is a resource to various legislators who request insight into the statutory schema on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. She has participated in and led substantive trainings on various topics for judges, magistrates, law enforcement, attorneys, guardians ad litem, staff and others. She continues to expand her knowledge of domestic violence laws by monitoring trends and developments in case law. Additionally, Ms. Ruden serves on the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence.

Timothy Boehnlein, M.A. has a Master's Degree of Counseling Psychology from Cleveland State University. He has over 32 years of experience in the domestic violence field. He has experience assessing domestic violence offenders, facilitating batterer intervention groups, and completing offender diagnostic assessments. Additionally, he has experience in operating and managing a supervised visitation center, served as a justice system advocate supervisor and was the associate director of a local domestic violence agency.

Tim has worked extensively in the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County on the implementation and expansion of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team. This initiative started as part of a demonstration initiative through the US Department of Justice and the Office of Violence Against Women. As part of this initiative, he has assisted many police departments in implementing the Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement, an on-scene evidence-based lethality assessment tool.

Currently, Tim is a Project Specialist for the Geiger Institute, a national initiative to end domestic violence homicides. He works with a wide range of communities to implement the Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement and Domestic Violence High Risk Teams.

Tim has a credible reputation throughout Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio as a speaker, trainer and expert in the field of domestic violence. He has spoken extensively on the issues of domestic violence, victim advocacy, offender intervention, lethality assessment, strangulation, stalking and teen dating violence. He has provided professional trainings for The Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial and Court Services Division, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Metro Health Hospital Family Practice Residents, The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, The Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College and multiple police departments throughout the state of Ohio.

Verlinda Powell is the First Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Unit. Licensed to practice law in the State of Ohio, Prosecutor Powell has spent her career as a Prosecutor in the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office. Presently, Deputy Prosecutor Powell supervises attorneys assigned to the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Unit and in addition handles cases in court. As a Prosecutor in the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Unit, Prosecutor Powell reviews and make determinations regarding charging on police reports, handle cases in court from the pre-trial to trial stage and oversees any applicable appeal of a case. The City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Unit is partially funded by the VAWA grant. This specialized unit is a collaboration between the City of Cleveland Police Department, City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office and Cuyahoga County Witness Victim Service Center. Detectives, advocates and prosecutors assigned to the unit work with victims of domestic violence in a one stop shop to navigating the criminal justice system and obtain needed social services assistance. Prosecutor Powell work with the Domestic Violence Unit has also involved participating in various trainings and community outreach events surrounding issues of domestic violence. Prosecutor Powell graduated from Oberlin College where she received a B.A. in History. Prosecutor Powell also graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law with her Juris Doctorate. Prior to her work as a Prosecutor, Ms. Powell was a Justice System Advocate helping victims of crime navigate the criminal justice system.

Adam Joines works as a criminal Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio. As a trial lawyer, he handles a wide variety of criminal cases and investigations concerning violent offenses (including gun crime), drug trafficking, fraud, and environmental crimes. He also handles appeals to the Sixth Circuit in

written briefs and oral argument. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2021, Adam worked at Jones Day for seven years as civil litigation associate, and before that at Katten Muchin Rosenman in Chicago. While in private practice, Adam routinely represented pro bono clients in immigration, housing, and civil rights matters. He earned his Juris Doctorate, summa cum laude, in 2013 from the University of Illinois College of Law; and his Bachelor of Business Administration in finance and economics, summa cum laude, in 2010 from the University of Notre Dame.

Lauren Gilbride is the Managing Attorney of Intake and the Volunteer Lawyers Program at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. She oversees an intake department that handles over 15,000 requests for service per year and provides advice and other assistance to many of the applicants. In addition, she manages the Volunteer Lawyers Program, which engages over 3000 volunteer attorneys, law students and paralegals throughout northeast Ohio. Lauren has developed and managed several successful pro bono programs, including the Expungement Clinic and Landlord Tenant Project. Lauren has presented on a variety of substantive legal topics both locally and nationally. She is a member of Legal Aid's Ethics Committee. The committee is tasked with addressing ethical concerns and educating staff and volunteers about ethical issues pertinent to legal services work. She is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law and received her B.A. from the University of Michigan.



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
PROSECUTION, PRO BONO, AND ADVOCACY
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Thursday, September 26, 2024
12:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.**

U.S. Courthouse, 801 W. Superior Ave, 7th Floor Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio

NAME:	
AGENCY:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
PHONE NUMBER:	
ATTORNEY REG. NO.:	

Please e-mail your registration form to the following:

- E-Mail: Jena.Suhadolnik@usdoj.gov

All registration forms must be received by September 25, 2024.

Your registration form is your confirmation. Confirmation letters will not be sent.

Questions should be directed to Jena Suhadolnik, Program Assistant, at
Jena.Suhadolnik@usdoj.gov or (216) 622-3695.

There is no charge to attend this training.

S. 717

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and eighteen*

An Act

To promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors
of domestic violence.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Pro bono Work to Empower
and Represent Act of 2018” or the “POWER Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Extremely high rates of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking exist at the local, State, tribal, and national levels and such violence or behavior harms the most vulnerable members of our society.

(2) According to a study commissioned by the Department of Justice, nearly 25 percent of women suffer from domestic violence during their lifetime.

(3) Proactive efforts should be made available in all forums to provide pro bono legal services and eliminate the violence that destroys lives and shatters families.

(4) A variety of factors cause domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and a variety of solutions at the local, State, and national levels are necessary to combat such violence or behavior.

(5) According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, which conducted a census including almost 1,700 assistance programs, over the course of 1 day in September 2014, more than 10,000 requests for services, including legal representation, were not met.

(6) Pro bono assistance can help fill this need by providing not only legal representation, but also access to emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare.

(7) Research and studies have demonstrated that the provision of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking reduces the probability of such violence or behavior reoccurring in the future and can help survivors move forward.

(8) Legal representation increases the possibility of successfully obtaining a protective order against an attacker, which prevents further mental and physical injury to a victim and his or her family, as demonstrated by a study that found that 83 percent of victims represented by an attorney were

able to obtain a protective order, whereas only 32 percent of victims without an attorney were able to do so.

(9) The American Bar Association Model Rules include commentary stating that “every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer”.

(10) As leaders in their legal communities, judges in district courts should encourage lawyers to provide pro bono resources in an effort to help victims of such violence or behavior escape the cycle of abuse.

(11) A dedicated army of pro bono attorneys focused on this mission will inspire others to devote efforts to this cause and will raise awareness of the scourge of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the country.

(12) Communities, by providing awareness of pro bono legal services and assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, will empower those survivors to move forward with their lives.

SEC. 3. DISTRICT COURTS TO PROMOTE EMPOWERMENT EVENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period of 4 years, the chief judge, or his or her designee, for each judicial district shall lead not less than one public event, in partnership with a State, local, tribal, or territorial domestic violence service provider or coalition and a State or local volunteer lawyer project, promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and engage citizens in assisting those survivors.

(b) DISTRICTS CONTAINING INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—During each 2-year period, the chief judge, or his or her designee, for a judicial district that contains an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) shall lead not less than one public event promoting pro bono legal services under subsection (a) of this section in partnership with an Indian tribe or tribal organization with the intent of increasing the provision of pro bono legal services for Indian or Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Each chief judge shall—

(1) have discretion as to the design, organization, and implementation of the public events required under subsection (a); and

(2) in conducting a public event under subsection (a), seek to maximize the local impact of the event and the provision of access to high-quality pro bono legal services by survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS.—Not later than October 30 of each year, each chief judge shall submit to the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts a report detailing

each public event conducted under section 3 during the previous fiscal year.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1 of each year, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to Congress a compilation and summary of each report received under subsection (a) for the previous fiscal year.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Each comprehensive report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of how each public event meets the goals set forth in this Act, as well as suggestions on how to improve future public events.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall use existing funds to carry out the requirements of this Act.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*