



## Media Alert

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

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### **New Data Released on the Impact of Civil Legal Representation for Domestic Violence Survivors**

**WHAT:** Sojourner will host a presentation and discussion on the analysis of its *Lawyer for a Day Project*. Sojourner has formed foundational partnerships with civil legal partners who provide critical representation for clients in a wide range of civil legal matters. Sojourner recently conducted an evaluation of our *Lawyer for a Day Project*, a collaboration between Sojourner, Marquette University Law School, and Quarles & Brady LLC, where clients receive pro-bono representation while filing domestic abuse restraining orders. The analyses of this project demonstrate impressive results, and highlight the critical importance of ensuring access to civil legal representation to all clients.

**WHEN:** **Monday, March 25, 2019**  
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM – Interviews  
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM – B-roll of formal presentation

**WHO:** **Interviews Available with:**

Carmen Pitre, Sojourner President and CEO

Erin Schubert, Sojourner Director of Outcomes & Evaluation

Maggie Niebler-Brown, Legal Action's Volunteer Lawyers Project Attorney Coordinator

Angela Schultz, Marquette Law School Assistant Dean of Public Service

Emily Fons, Quarles & Brady LLP Attorney

Joe Poehlmann, Quarles & Brady LLP Associate

**WHY:** In 2018, 2,160 domestic abuse restraining orders were filed in Milwaukee County. Clients who received pro-bono representation through the *Lawyer for a Day Project* were nearly twice as likely to have their long-term

(more)

restraining order against their abuser granted. Clients represented through this project were more likely to show up to their injunction hearing (74.1% of the time) and less likely to withdraw their petition (2.6% of the time) than clients not represented through this project (53.2% of the time and 4.1% of the time, respectively).

**WHERE: Sojourner Family Peace Center**  
619 W. Walnut St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**About Sojourner**

The mission of Sojourner is to transform lives impacted by domestic violence. Sojourner provides crisis housing, system advocacy, and individual support to people who are hurting. Sojourner is the largest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving over 12,000 clients annually. Our primary goals are to ensure the safety of victims of family violence and to provide a pathway out of violence for victims and abusers through opportunities to make positive and lasting changes for themselves and their children. Sojourner is committed to creating communities where people live peacefully. For more information, visit [www.familypeacecenter.org](http://www.familypeacecenter.org) or call Sojourner 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 414-933-2722.

**About Family Peace Center**

Sojourner is one of the first in the nation to house holistic services for survivors of domestic violence, all under one roof. Sojourner and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin formed a unique partnership to create one of the first co-located child advocacy and family violence centers in the country. The Family Peace Center accommodates a number of co-located and visiting partner organizations including the Milwaukee Police Department Sensitive Crimes Unit, Milwaukee Public Schools, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Aurora Healthcare Abuse Response Services, and others. Families receiving services at the Family Peace Center have access to a wide array of services to support their efforts to achieve healing, self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse.

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