

# **BECKI TRUSCOTT KONDKAR**

## **DIRECTOR, TULANE LAW SCHOOL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLINIC**

---

### **SUMMARY**

Becki Kondkar directs the Tulane Law School Domestic Violence Clinic and is the founding Director of the Law School's Women's Prison Project (WPP). Kondkar has represented hundreds of survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, and child sex abuse in civil and criminal courts, has trained generations of law students through Tulane's clinical programs, and has educated attorneys, judges, mental health professionals, and advocates nationwide on legal system responses to gender-based violence. Before joining the Tulane faculty, Kondkar litigated family violence cases in trial and appellate courts in eleven states. Since the WPP's founding five years ago, its faculty and the students they train have won freedom for 15 women who had served a combined total of 279 years in Louisiana's prisons - most for having killed an abusive partner in self-defense. Their groundbreaking work was recently featured in a [Feminism NOW podcast](#), and has been recognized by the [Conference on Crimes Against Women](#), the American College of Trial Lawyers, the Louisiana Association of Defense Lawyers, the American Association of Law Schools Pro Bono and Access to Justice Section, and the Clinical Legal Education Association.

### **TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **TULANE LAW CLINIC New Orleans, LA (2006-present)**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLINIC AND WOMEN'S PRISON PROJECT, *Clinical Professor of Law and Director***  
Teaching and supervising student-attorneys representing intimate partner violence survivors in trial and appellate courts during year-long 6 credit-hour course; teaching 3-credit hour co-requisite trial skills course; principal investigator for two federal grants. Founded and co-direct Women's Prison Project representing survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and trafficking serving life or long sentences for killing an abusive partner or for involvement in crimes arising from their abuse.

#### **LOUISIANA STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Expert Consultant* New Orleans, LA (2012-2018)**

Consulted on and conducted statewide domestic violence training for law enforcement on behalf of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office. Consulted on training curriculum for prosecutors.

#### **NEW ORLEANS LEGAL ASSISTANCE, *Post-Katrina Disaster Assistance Project Attorney* New Orleans, LA (February 2006-November 2006)**

Provided emergency post-Katrina legal services on disaster-related issues including insurance and mortgage disputes, contractor disputes/fraud, federal disaster aid, subsidized housing, evictions, and predatory lending.

#### **RICHARD DUCOTE & ASSOCIATES, *Associate Attorney* New Orleans, LA (July 2002-September 2005)**

Litigated complex domestic violence and child abuse cases in trial and appellate courts nationwide.

#### **PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES, *Domestic Violence Staff Attorney* Asheville, NC (August 1999-June 2002)**

Litigated child custody, protective order, general family law, and related poverty law matters for domestic violence survivors in a high-volume legal services practice.

## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Juris Doctor, May 1999

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Raleigh, NC  
Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, May 1996

## PUBLICATIONS/MANUALS

Becki Kondkar & Timothy McEvoy, *Domestic Violence Practice in Louisiana*, in LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES AND PRO BONO DESK MANUAL (Gillis W. Long Poverty Law Ctr. Loyola Univ. New Orleans School of Law, 6th ed. 2023); available at: <https://probonodeskmanual.loyno.edu/domestic-violence-law-louisiana/domestic-violence-law-louisiana>

Becki Kondkar & Mark Moreau, *Domestic Violence Practice in Louisiana*, in LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES AND PRO BONO DESK MANUAL 151 (Gillis W. Long Poverty Law Ctr. Loyola Univ. New Orleans School of Law, 5th ed. 2013).

Becki Kondkar & Judith Wolfer, “*The Protective Order Case: A practice manual for lawyers*” (National Center on Protection Order Full Faith & Credit, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women grant, 2018)

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

ABA Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence and Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice, Mid-Year Meeting, “*Meet the Tulane Women’s Prison Project: Telling Untold Stories of Incarcerated GBV Survivors*,” February 2023.

United States Department of State, International Visitor Leadership Program, Victim Related Crimes: Prevention, Treatment, and Advocacy – A Project for the People’s Republic of China, “*The Legal Framework for Addressing Domestic Violence in the United States*,” November 2021.

Louisiana Survivor Informed Task Force, “*Incarcerated Women, Finding a Path Forward*,” November 2021.

Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Annual Law & All That Jazz Virtual CLE, “*Criminalized Intimate Partner Violence Survivors*,” New Orleans, La. October 2021.

United States Department of State, International Visitor Leadership Program, Domestic Violence Salon Series, “*The Legal Framework for Addressing Domestic Violence in the United States*,” March 2021.

American College of Trial Lawyers, annual conference (virtual), invited speaker, “*Introduction to Tulane Law School Women’s Prison Project, and Acceptance of Emil Gumpert Award*,” 2020.

New Orleans Family Justice Center, CLE “*Battered Justice: Challenges for Women Who Kill Their Abusers*,” August 2019.

Louisiana Board of Pardon and Parole Victim Outreach Program, “*Understanding Trauma*,” September 2019.

Louisiana Board of Pardon and Parole Board, “*Domestic Violence as a Pathway to Prison for Women*,” 2019.

Association of American Law Schools, Conference on Clinical Legal Education “*Overspecialized and Underprepared: A Critique of Clinical Legal Education and a Model for Change*,” San Francisco, California. May 2019.

National Book Foundation, Literature for Justice panelist, “*Mass Incarceration, Criminal Justice, and Gender*,” New Orleans, LA, March 2019.

Louisiana State Bar Association, Family Law Section, Advanced Family Law Hot Topics, “*Representing Domestic Violence Survivors in Family Law Cases*,” November 2018.

Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice Conference, “*Preserving Issues for Appeal in Domestic Violence Litigation*,” Baton Rouge, LA. October 2018.

Loyola Law School Annual Family Law CLE, “*Litigating a Protective Order Case*,” November 2018.

National Training Institute on Protective Order Practice for Attorneys, Battered Women’s Justice Project, 2-day training, “*Best Practices in Litigating Protective Order Cases*,” Washington, D.C. August 2018.

The Greater New Orleans Foundation, NOLA4 Women Hear Our Voices Conference, keynote speaker, “*Gender Injustice: Confronting Gender-Based Violence in Our Community*,” June 2018.

Tulane University Violence Prevention Institute, Panelist, “*Connecting the Dots Between Multiple Forms of Violence*,” VPI Launch Event, New Orleans, LA. April, 2018.

American Bar Association, HIV Law & Practice Conference, plenary panelist, “*Women and HIV*,” January 2018.

South East Regional Clinical Conference, panelist, “*Teaching Social Justice Lawyering*,” October 2017.

Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Justice Community Conference, “*Louisiana’s Post-Separation Family Violence Relief Act Law*,” and “*Motions and Trial Practice*,” Baton Rouge, LA. October 2016.

The Battered Women’s Justice Project and National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit, Institute on Protective Order Practice, 2-day national CLE training, “*Litigating Protective Order Cases*,” New Orleans, LA. May 2016.

Louisiana Sexual Assault Student Activist Conference, invited speaker, “*Intersections between Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*,” New Orleans, LA February 2016.

The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit, Institute on Protective Order Practice, 2-day national CLE training, “*Litigating Protective Order Cases*” Washington, D.C. May 2015.

Association of Women Attorneys, luncheon speaker, “*Domestic Violence Victims Who Kill Their Abusers: Exploring Whether Louisiana Should Create New Legal Remedies for Victims Serving Time*” co-presenting with Professor Katherine Mattes and Dr. Marcus Kondkar, May 2015.

The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit, Institute on Protective Order Practice, 2-day national CLE training, “*Litigating Protective Order Cases*” St. Petersburg, FL. November 2014.

Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Justice Community Conference, “*Using and Opposing Expert Witnesses in Family Law Cases*,” and “*Developing and Executing Your Trial Strategy in Family Law Cases*,” Baton Rouge, LA. October 2014.

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Colloquium, invited co-presenter for the Pre-Conference Institute: “*Testifying in Court: The Importance of Getting it Right*,” New Orleans, LA. June 11, 2014.

Children's Advocacy Center at Children's Hospital, CLE and CEU training: "***Child Custody- Challenges for the Battered Mother and Protecting Parent,***" New Orleans, LA. September 24, 2013.

18<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Summit on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma, invited co-presenter, "***Emerging Legal Issues in Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Litigation: Exploring the distinctions between admissible and inadmissible psychological testimony,***" San Diego, CA. September 9, 2013.

Battered Women's Justice Project, Violence Against Women Researcher/Practitioner Discourse: "***Domestic Violence and Child Custody –Research and Practice,***" webinar with co-trainer/researchers/author Dr. Lenore Walker, August 20, 2013.

The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit, Institute on Protective Order Practice, co-trainer for 3-day national CLE training, "***Litigation Skills in Protective Order Cases,***" Washington, D.C., August 2013.

Children's Advocacy Center at Children's Hospital, CLE and CEU training: "***Child Custody- Challenges for the Battered Mother and Protecting Parent,***" September 24, 2013.

Loyola University College of Law, Basic Mediation Training, CLE faculty presenter, "***Screening, Identifying and Addressing Domestic Violence in Mediation: Strategies for safe mediation termination,***" March 2013

Battered Women's Justice Project, Violence Against Women Researcher/Practitioner Discourse: "***Intimate Partner Sexual Assault,***" practitioner discussant with researchers/authors Dr. T.K. Logan and Dr. Walter Dekeseredy: March 2013.

Law Students for Reproductive Justice South Regional Conference, "***Domestic Violence and Reproductive Justice: Sexual autonomy and reproductive freedom in the context of abuse.***" February 2013.

Tulane Law School Domestic Violence Clinic, 6-Credit Hour Continuing Legal Education Course, "***Tools for Advocacy: Getting Beyond the Basics in Domestic Violence Litigation.***" December 2012.

The National Center on Protective Orders and Full Faith & Credit, Institute on Protective Order Practice, 2-day training, "***Litigation Skills in Protective Order Cases.***" September 2012.

Louisiana Center for Women and Government, Louisiana Women Leaders Conference on Small Business Entrepreneurship, "***Domestic Violence, Why Should Business Care?***" May 2012.

University of Southern Maine, Muskie School of Public Service, co-presenting in a two-part series with Dr. Lenore Walker, "***Assessing Parenting Capacity Evaluations in Domestic Violence Cases: The Role of the Guardian Ad Litem.***" April 2012.

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and Tulane Law Clinic Domestic Violence CLE, "***Litigation Strategies for Custody and Divorce Cases Involving Domestic Violence.***" June 2011.

Catholic Charities, Sexual Assault Awareness Training, CLE presenter, "***Child Sex Abuse in Custody Litigation.***" April 2011.

Tulane Law School Domestic Violence Clinic, Safe Escape Initiative for Pro Bono Attorneys, CLE presenter, "***Meeting Your Duties of Competence and Diligence in Domestic Violence Protective Order Cases "and "Initiating Protective Order Litigation.***" December 2010.

Tulane Law School Law Women, CLE faculty presenter, "***Ethical Considerations for Lawyers Representing Domestic Violence Victims.***" March 2010.

Tulane Law School Law Women Domestic Violence CLE, presenter, "***Using, Opposing, and Assessing a Child Custody Evaluation.***" March 2010.

Loyola University College of Law Basic Mediation Training, CLE presenter, "***Screening for Domestic Violence in Mediation.***" June 2008 and June 2009.

Battered Women's Justice Project, Violence Against Women Researcher/Practitioner Discourse: co-presenting with researcher/author Evan Stark Ph.D., and Judge Dale Koch: "***Rethinking Child Custody Decisions in the Context of Coercive Control.***" May 2009.

Battered Women's Justice Project, Violence Against Women Researcher/Practitioner Discourse: co-presenting with researcher/author Mary Ann Dutton, Ph.D., and Judge Jerry Bowles: "***Coercion in Intimate Partner Violence: Toward a New Conceptualization.***" October 2008.

The Child Custody and Domestic Violence Summer Institute, Catherine E. Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy at the University of Southern Maine: *Best Practices in Judicial Deliberations in Child Custody Cases*, June 11-13, 2008

Co-presenting with Dr. Peter Jaffe: "***Custody Evaluations in the Context of Domestic Violence***" and "***Psychological Experts: Assessing Expert Reports and Testing.***"

Co-presenting with Dr. Evan Stark: "***The Child Welfare Response: Beyond Nicholson v. Scopetta***" and "***Cross Examination of the Batterer,***" and "***Preparing the Battered Woman for Direct and Cross Examination.***"

Panelist, "***Barriers to Best Practices in the Courtroom.***"

Presenter: "***Litigation Tools: Challenging the Validity and Admissibility of Custody Evaluations***" and "***Overview of Custody Law.***"

The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice, "***Litigating Custody Cases with Limited Resources: Evidence, Motions, and Experts.***" November 2007.

Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, "***Child Sex Abuse and Child Custody Cases,***" October 2007.

The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice, "***Effective Strategies for Dealing with Custody Evaluators, Guardians Ad Litem, and Expert Witnesses Who Lack Expertise in Trauma and IPV.***" November 2006.

Legal Assistance Providers' Technical Outreach Project, United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, Advanced Litigation Seminar, panelist: "***Overcoming Barriers for Domestic Violence Victims in Child Custody Case.***" November 2005.

National Center on Full Faith and Credit, "***Interstate Enforcement of Protective Orders.***" Manchester, New Hampshire, October 2005.

Legal Assistance Providers' Technical Outreach Project, United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, "***Supervised Visitation Strategies for Civil Attorneys: Advocating for Safe Access.***" September 2005.

Battered Women's Justice Project/Coalition Advocates and National Attorney Network Conference, Advanced Litigation Session: "*Opposing Expert Witnesses: Discovery, depositions, motions practice, and cross-examination.*" April 2005.

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Annual Meeting, co-presenter: "*Guardians Ad Litem in Child Abuse Cases.*" June 2005.

Ninth Annual International Conference on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, presenter: "*Domestic Violence in Family Law Court.*" San Diego, California, September 2003.

#### **MEDIA APPEARANCES/INTERVIEWS**

National Organization for Women Feminism NOW podcast (series on women uplifting women), *The Abuse to Prison Pipeline*, January 2025; <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-abuse-to-prison-pipeline/id1709383622?i=1000683171644>

Podcast on Crimes Against Women, *Invisible Women: The Forgotten Victims of Gender-Based Violence*, June 2023; <https://www.buzzsprout.com/961615/12953999-invisible-women-the-forgotten-victims-of-gender-based-violence>

WWLTV Media Investigator Series on *Incarcerated Survivors of Abuse*, Katie Moore, <https://www.wwltv.com/article/news/investigations/katie-moore/women-serving-life-sentences-in-prison-for-killing-partners-released/289-dbd49cf3-e7b4-4003-b8c8-eb78351bfdcc>, June 2023

Verite News, *After 23 Years in Prison for Killing Her Abuser, She Hopes No One in Louisiana Has to Do That Again*, Julie O'Donoghue, <https://veritenews.org/2023/05/09/she-spent-23-years-in-prison-for-killing-her-abuser/>, May 2023

#### **HONORS/ SERVICE**

Member, **New Orleans Fatality Review Board**

Commissioner, **American Bar Association Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence**, 2019-2022

Executive Committee member, **Tulane University Violence Prevention Institute**

Steering Committee Member, **Louisiana Supreme Court Protective Order Registry**, 2018-present

Member, **Mayor's Workgroup on Domestic Violence**, 2014-present

Governor's Appointee, **State Domestic Violence Prevention Commission**, 2014-2016

#### **HONORS/AWARDS**

Recipient, **Association of American Law School's Pro Bono Access to Justice Award**, 2024

Recipient (WPP program award), **STAR Champions of Change Award**, 2023

Recipient (WPP program award), **National Conference on Crimes Against Women, Ignite Award**, 2023

Recipient (WPP program award), **Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer's President's Award**, 2021

Recipient (WPP program award), **American College of Trial Lawyers Emil Gumpert Award**, 2020

Recipient (WPP program award), **CLEA Honorable Mention for Excellence in Public Interest Project**, 2019

Recipient, 2017 **City Business Leader in Law**

Recipient, 2015 **New Orleans Police Department “Superintendent’s Coin”**

Recipient, 2015 **Association for Women Attorneys Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award**

Recipient, 2010 **LSU *Esprit de Femme* Award** for exceptional efforts toward the advancement of women