

Friday, February 3, 2023 | 2-5:45pm

Tulane University Law School, Room 110
6329 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

Event Description: Tulane University Law School will host the ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence to share more about its Women's Prison Project – a clinical program that launched in 2020 and has since won freedom for eight women who had been serving or facing life or long sentences related to intimate partner violence or sexual assault. Participants will (1) hear from a panel of formerly incarcerated women who had been serving life without parole sentences for defending themselves against abusive partners; (2) learn about the Project's innovative approaches to expand access to justice for incarcerated survivors; and (3) workshop ideas and opportunities to replicate, expand, build-upon, or enhance the Project's design and mission in other states or on a national or regional scale.

About The Women's Prison Project: The WPP's core mission is to seek freedom for women who are incarcerated for killing an abusive partner or for participating in crimes under the duress of an abusive partner. We spotlight gender-based violence and trauma as prevalent pathways to prison for women, reaching a population that has remained on the fringes of mainstream criminal legal reform movements. Our key activities include:

- Providing direct legal representation for survivors in pre-trial, post-conviction, and pardon and parole hearings;
- Shedding light on how Louisiana laws continue to result in unjust arrests, prosecution, and incarceration of abuse survivors;
- Expanding access to justice for incarcerated survivors of abuse through innovative pilot projects such as the "Access to Justice Project" to design, train, resource, and support the "jailhouse lawyer" program in Louisiana's women's prison;
- Building a state-wide coalition of support for gender-focused criminal legal reform and the decarceration of intimate partner survivors in Louisiana.

Learn more about the Women's Prison Project:

Six women are free because of the Tulane Women's Prison Project, November 16, 2021
(<https://law.tulane.edu/news/six-women-are-free-because-tulane-womens-prison-project>)

Women's Prison Project and clients work together to advocate for survivors, November 15, 2022
(<https://law.tulane.edu/news/women's-prison-project-and-clients-work-together-advocate-survivors%C2%A0>)

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Agenda

Time	Topic	Participants	Overview
2-2:10pm	Introductions	All	
2:10-3:10pm	WPP Stories Panel	Clients Attorneys Student Attorneys	Learn about the work of WPP from clients previously serving life without parole in Louisiana after defending themselves from abusive partners, and also the attorneys who support them.
3:10-3:20 pm	Break		
3:20-4pm	Expanding Access to Justice for Criminalized Survivors	WPP Clients	Learn about WPP's collaborations with currently and formerly incarcerated people, its "jailhouse lawyer" project, and the WPP's various approaches to challenging the laws and practices that lead to wrongful convictions and the criminalization of survivors.
4-5pm	Working Groups: Imagining the Future	All	Brainstorm and Share Feedback: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building capacity for expert legal advocacy nationally, regionally, and locally2. Exploring opportunities for non-traditional coalition building3. Supporting incarcerated women from the outside4. Enhancing public awareness5. Innovating our profession: pedagogy for a new generation of lawyers

**Tulane Women's Prison Project and
ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence**



Agenda Cont'd

Time	Topic	Participants	Overview
5-5:15pm	Q&A	All	Ask and answer questions that have come up over the course of the meeting.
5:20-5:45pm	Law Clinic Tour	All	Optional tour of Tulane Law Clinic space and meeting with student attorneys