

C056072

IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF CALIFORNIA

DAVID WOODS, et al.
Plaintiffs/Appellants,

vs.

SANDRA SHEWRY, as Director, ect., et al.,
Defendants/Respondents

OF DECISION BY SACRAMENTO SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, DEPARTMENT 33, CASE NO. 05CS01530

**APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AMICI CURIAE
BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS/PETITIONERS;
PROPOSED AMICI CURIAE BRIEF; LIMITED TO
CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE 124250**

The National Family Violence Legislative Resource Center, (NFVLR)
and the founders and advisory members

John Archer, PhD University of Central Lancashire; Michelle Carney, PhD University of Georgia; Philip Cook Victim Advocate; Carol Crabsen, LCSW Valley Oasis Shelter, Lancaster, CA; Patrick Davies, PhD University of Rochester; Lt. Richard L. Davis Quincy College; Donald Dutton, PhD University of British Columbia; Miriam Ehrensaft, PhD Columbia University; Richard Felson, PhD Pennsylvania State University; Nicola Graham-Kevan, PhD; University of Central Lancashire; John Hamel, LCSW Batterer Intervention, San Rafael, CA; Lonnie Hazlewood, MSHP, LCDC Batterer Intervention, Austin, TX; Denise Hines, PhD University of New Hampshire Clark University; Jeniffer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, PhD University of South Alabama; Kathleen Malley-Morrison, EdD Boston University; R.L. McNeely, PhD, JD University of Wisconsin; Marlene Moretti, PhD Simon Fraser University; Tonia Nicholls, PhD BC Mental Health and Addiction Services; Patricia Overberg, MSW Central Coast Crisis Center, Salinas, CA.

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APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO FILE *AMICI CURIAE* BRIEF

The National Family Violence Legislative Resource Center (“NFVLR”) is a coalition of widely peer-reviewed social scientists, experts and authors in the field of domestic violence as well as distinguished and long-serving members of the direct-service domestic violence and law enforcement community who support research-based, gender-inclusive domestic violence solutions without advocating for a particular gender or sexual orientation. Our founding members and advisory board include court-certified batterer intervention and victim service providers in California, as well as domestic violence experts from the Universities of California, New Hampshire, Boston, Georgia, South Alabama, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania State, British Columbia, Central Lancashire, Rochester, Simon Fraser University and Columbia University. Our website is nfvlr.org.

The *amici curiae*, the founders and members of NFVLR, named herein respectfully request leave to file the attached brief in support of the Plaintiffs/Petitioners, David Woods, Patrick Neff, Gregory Bowman, and Ray Blumhorst, pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 29.1(f).

This application is limited in its support of the Plaintiffs/Petitioners to California Health & Safety Code 124250 and no other statute being challenged by the Plaintiffs/Petitioners. This application and brief are an all-volunteer effort offered as a public service to the children and all domestic/family violence victims of the State of California and to this Court.

Amici have no relationship with the parties to this action and have no personal interests in the outcome. This brief is not submitted at the request of any

parties. Rather, as those who ultimately joined this brief realized the scope of the issues this case raises and that this brief would be of maximum value to this court.

We do not represent a "cause" or any subset of competing interests other than the welfare of children and all domestic violence victims. In recent decades, the politics of domestic/family violence has become intertwined with gender politics. In our practices and research, we work equally often with women and mothers, men and fathers, and children. We are not interested in women and mothers' rights or men's and fathers' rights. We are interested in the well-being of the next generation. We are women and men representative of the legal and mental health professionals and researchers who work day in and day out in the field of domestic/family violence with children, victims, and abusers. Some of us work with Californians of diverse economic resources, backgrounds, cultures and social settings. Some of us have testified as experts in California court cases, in the area of criminal and family law.

A primary purpose of this brief is to highlight the negative consequences of excluding male victims and their children from Health and Safety Code Section 124250, as well as to point out the frequency and severity in which men and their children are victims of domestic violence and need services. *Amici* note that the lack of services for male victims is leading to profoundly negative consequences for the children of this State simply because their victimized parents are males.

INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE

The *amici curiae* are familiar with the issues in this case relating to domestic violence, or often called Intimate Partner Violence, the scope of their

presentation, and believe further argument is needed on matters. While much of the research and data cited in the following amicus brief is part of the court record we feel that it is not fully addressed by the parties' briefs. As experienced experts in the field, they are deeply concerned with California's current domestic violence policies.

We submit the following amicus brief in support of the Appellants in *Woods, et al. v. Shewry, et al.* solely to the extent that we believe California's domestic violence laws should be gender-neutral ("victims") or gender-inclusive ("men and women"), and should not exclude anyone based on gender. We are concerned that California Health and Safety Code Section 124250, for example, defines domestic violence in such a way that only women can be victims, leaving out a large population of victims who are male.

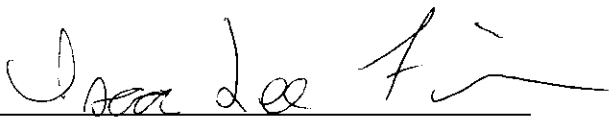
The word count certificate for this application has been certified in the following amicus brief.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons these *amici curiae* respectfully request this Honorable Court accept the accompanying brief for filing in this matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Date: 1-16-08



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**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* IN SUPPORT OF
APPELLANTS IN *WOODS, et al. v. SHEWRY, et al.***

THE *AMICI CURIAE*

The National Family Violence Legislative Resource Center (NFVLR) was founded in 2006 to encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards and advance the cause of Domestic/Family Violence prevention, to the end that the welfare of the family and society be protected. The purpose of the NFVLR is to improve the awareness about evidence based facts regarding domestic/family violence and the administration of services, treatment models and in the area policies that impact the administration of justice. This brief represents the views of the NFVLR, its founders and advisory board members regarding the issue of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) This brief is submitted pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 29.1(f) with the accompanying application. Our website is nfvlr.org.

Who Are Domestic Violence Victims?

Victims of IPV include **men** as well as women, children, and *children as witnesses*. Services should, therefore, be available to everyone affected regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Like their female counterparts, victimized males and their children often require refuge in the form of a shelter bed, and/or counseling and peer support, legal aid, and job placement services. However, victimized males do not have access to most services because of the assumption that they are only minimally impacted by IPV, if at all. **This assumption clearly**

runs contrary to an overwhelming body of research evidence: A significant minority of IPV-related physical injuries, between 25% and 43%, are incurred by men (Archer, 2000¹; Laroche, in preparation; Mirrlees-Black, 1999²; Straus, 2004³; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000⁴), and men are the victims in nearly a quarter of intimate homicides (Rennison, 2003⁵). Abusive women are sometimes bigger and stronger than their male partners and can physically overpower them; more likely than not, they make up for their smaller size by using weapons and assaulting when their partners are preoccupied, asleep or inebriated (Cook, 1997⁶; Hines et al., in press; Mann, 1988⁷; McCleod, 1984⁸; Shupe et al, 1987)⁹.

¹ Archer, J. (2000). Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. *Psychological Bulletin*, 126 (5), 651-680.

² Mirrlees-Black, C. (1999) *Domestic Violence: Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire*. Research Study No. 191. London: Home Office.

³ Straus, M. (2004). Prevalence of violence against dating partners by male and female university students worldwide. *Violence Against Women*, 10 (7), 790-811.

⁴ Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). Extent, nature, and consequences of intimate partner violence. National Institute of Justice, NCJ 181867.

⁵ Rennison, C. M. (2003). *Intimate partner violence, 1993-2001*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U. S. Department of Justice.

⁶ Cook, P. (1997). *Abused men: The hidden side of domestic violence*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

⁷ Mann, C. (1988). Getting even? *Justice Quarterly*, 5, 33-51.

⁸ McCleod, M. (1984). Women against men: An examination of domestic violence based on an analysis of official data and national victimization data. *Justice Quarterly*, 1, 171-193.

⁹ Shupe, A., Stacey, W., & Hazlewood, L. (1987). *Violent men, violent couples: The dynamics of domestic violence*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Because of cultural norms that require men to suppress feelings and that minimize female-perpetrated abuse, male victims are reluctant to verbalize fear of any kind, even when their lives are in danger (Hines & Malley-Morrison, 2001¹; Migliaccio, 2002²). Fear of disbelief at the hands of law enforcement “*surely, you’re not afraid of the little woman,*” and humiliation from male peers for “*not wearing the pants in the family,*” may also play major roles in failing to report this all too common crime. The higher reporting numbers and rates of fear expressed by female victims may be in part due to greater ease in and encouragement to disclose feelings as well as a fear generated by a greater risk of suffering serious physical injuries that may be inflicted by a larger partner.

Per Straus & Gelles³, 1990; Vivian & Langhinrichsen-Rohling, 1994⁴; Williams & Frieze, 2005⁵, when compared to men, women evidence higher levels of

¹Hines, D., & Malley-Morrison, K. (2001). Psychological effects of partner abuse against men: A neglected research area. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 2 (2), 75-85.

² Migliaccio, T. A. (2002). Abused husbands: A Narrative analysis. *Journal of Family Issues*, 23, 26-52.

³ Straus, M. & Gelles, R. (1990). *Physical violence in American families*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers.

⁴ Vivian, D., & Langhinrichsen-Rohling (1994). Are bi-directionally violent couples mutually victimized? A gender-sensitive comparison. *Violence and Victims*, 9 (2), 107-124.

⁵ Williams & Frieze, I. (2005). *Hurting the one you love: Violence in relationships*. Belmont, CA: Thompson/Wadsworth.

psychological symptoms and stress-related issues as a result of being physically assaulted. However, based on clinical samples and findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, there is evidence that the impact of *emotional* abuse and control may be more comparable between the genders (Pimlott-Kubiak & Cortina, 2003¹; Vivian & Langhinrichsen-Rohling, 1994²). Community and evidence based data and research continues to grow, as with, Arehart-Treichel, A. (2007), *Men shouldn't be overlooked as victims of partner violence*, *Psychiatric News*, 42(15); Laroche, D. (2005), *Aspects of the context and consequences of domestic violence –situational couple violence and intimate terrorism in Canada in 1999*³; and the recent Harvard Medicine School publication, Whitaker DJ, et al. "Differences in Frequency of Violence and Reported Injury between Relationships with Reciprocal and Nonreciprocal Intimate Partner Violence," *American Journal of Public Health* (May 2007): Vol. 97, No. 5, pp. 941–47.

¹ Pimlott-Kubiak, S., & Cortina, M. (2003). Gender, victimization and outcomes: Reconceptualizing risk. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71 (3), 528-539.

² Vivian, D., & Langhinrichsen-Rohling (1994). Are bi-directionally violent couples mutually victimized? A gender-sensitive comparison. *Violence and Victims*, 9 (2), 107-124.

³ Laroche, D. (2005). Aspects of the context and consequences of domestic violence: Situational couple violence and intimate terrorism in Canada in 1999. Institut de la statistique du Quebec. Available at: www.stat.gouv.qc.ca

Children Are Being Denied Services

When men are denied services, their children are denied services as well.

Currently, only few shelters out of nearly 2,000 in the United States offer beds to male victims and their children. Outreach efforts from established domestic violence organizations target females exclusively, as evidenced by the almost total absence of male victims in video, film, radio and print media. Thus, under current policy abused men are both denied services and told, essentially, that they don't even exist.

Background Victims Services

Established organizations, such as the National Coalition against Domestic Violence and its state chapters, are so geared towards helping women and their children that the needs of victimized men and, therefore, their children are largely disregarded. Priority should be given to providing services to the most traumatically affected victims regardless of gender. Although battered women's advocates have expressed concerns about placing male and female victims together in one facility, a co-ed environment can in fact be effective and safe, as evidenced by the Antelope Valley Oasis shelter in Southern California (Ensign & Jones, 2006)¹. Still--out of nearly 2,000 domestic violence shelters in the United

¹ Ensign, C., & Jones, P. (2006). Gender-inclusive work with victims and their children in a coed-shelter. In J. Hamel & T. Nicholls (Eds.), *Family interventions in domestic violence: A handbook of gender-inclusive theory and treatment* (pp. 561-578). New York: Springer.

States, only a few accept male residents (Brown, 2006)¹. Some shelters will assist the male victims who contact them, but any provided assistance is typically by accident rather than design.

Many states, including California, provide funding under their health and welfare statutes for programs to help female IPV victims, but specifically exclude men (California, 2006). **California's Health & Safety Code 124250 in section (3) (e)**, which provides clear language that established a domestic violence advisory council, which mandated the appointment of representatives for battered women and domestic violence victims from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

The advisory council is responsible for reporting its findings to the legislature, yet it fails to even consider the impact of domestic violence committed against heterosexual male victims and their children at all and reads in part: “...*The membership of the council shall consist of domestic violence advocates, battered women service providers, and representatives of women's organizations, law enforcement, and other groups involved with domestic violence, and at least one representative of service providers serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community for purposes of domestic violence. At least one-half of the council membership shall consist of domestic violence advocates or battered*

¹ Brown J. (2006), "National Survey by Domestic Abuse Hotline for Men & Women, <http://www.dahmw.org/>, Phone: 207-683-5758

women service providers from organizations such as the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence.”

“It is the intent of the Legislature that the council membership reflect the ethnic, racial, cultural, and geographic diversity of the state.”

The above language completely ignores the appointment of an expert or advocate for heterosexual male victims to the advisory counsel. Section (3) (h) continues to ignore the needs of male victims and their children with language excluding them from receiving funds for services, and reads: *“(h) It is the intent of the Legislature that services funded by this program include services for battered women in underserved communities, including the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and ethnic and racial communities. Therefore, the Maternal and Child Health Branch of the State Department of Health Services shall do all of the following: California will continue to struggle with truly reducing domestic violence and the effects that it has on children and future generations as long as its policies ignore the evidenced based data and research that convincingly shows a high rate of male victims and fails to acknowledge them and provide services to all victims regardless of gender or sexual orientation.”*

Prior to its reauthorization in December, 2005, the **National Violence Against Women Act** did not provide for services for male victims. Even with its newly

acquired gender inclusive language, the law's primary focus is still evident in its title, the **Violence Against Women Act**.

Minimization of Female-Perpetrated Violence

Many researchers persist in minimizing abuse against men as though males, in general, could somehow lose power by admitting that a female could actually pose a physical threat. An example is Das Dasgupta (2001)¹, who after citing several studies on domestic violence assault rates and contextual factors confidently declares: "These studies find that self-defense is the most common reason for women's use of violence towards their intimate male partners." However, at least two of the studies he cites - one by Vivian and Langhinrichsen-Rohling (1994)² of couples seeking counseling in a New York clinic, and the other by Straus (1999)³ - drew no such conclusions: The first study suggested that most partner violence is mutual, but that women experience more physical, and somewhat more psychological, injury than men. With respect to the second study, Das Dasgupta appears to have crossed that fine line of research ethics, between taking data out of context and manipulating it. Citing a number of self defense studies, including the

¹ Das Dasgupta, S. (2001). Towards an understanding of women's use of non-lethal violence in intimate heterosexual relationships.

www.vaw.umn.edu/finaldocuments/towards.asp

² Vivian, D., & Langhinrichsen-Rohling (1994). Are bi-directionally violent couples mutually victimized? A gender-sensitive comparison. *Violence and Victims*, 9 (2), 107-124.

³ Straus, M. (1999). The controversy over domestic violence by women. In X. Arriaga & S. Oskamp (Eds.), *Violence in intimate relationships* (pp. 17-44).

British study by Carrado and colleagues (Carrado, George, Loxam, Jones & Templar, 1996)¹, **Straus stated the very *opposite* of what Das Dasgupta reported:** “...*In my early research on domestic assaults, it seemed so obvious that women were injured more than men, and that domestic assaults by women were primarily in self defense, that I did not collect data on injury and self defense. I simply asserted it as a self-evident fact...So, when, in the 1985 National Family Violence Survey, I did ask who was the first to hit, I was surprised to find that half of the women respondents reported they had hit first...*” Several other studies also found about equal rates of initiation by men and women (p.28) and still other studies draw conclusions that seem unrelated to their own data.

The women in Henning et al.’s (2003)² study of BIP participants scored higher than the men on 8 of 14 Axis II personality disorders, many of them associated with IPV perpetration. The researchers did not ask the clients, or their partners, about assault rates or their motives for violence. They did ask about relationship satisfaction, which emerged as a factor for both the male and the female offenders. Based on this finding, and the male and female partners’ similar histories of childhood-of-origin abuse, the researchers came to this rather curious conclusion:

¹ Carrado, M., George, M., Loxam, F., Jones, L., & Templar, D. (1996). Aggression in British heterosexual relationships: A descriptive analysis. *Aggressive Behavior*, 22, 401-415.

² Henning, K., Jones, A. & Holdford, R. (2003). Treatment needs of women arrested for domestic violence: A comparison with male offenders. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18 (8), 839-856.

“Although the rate of dissatisfaction was similar between the men and the women, it is possible that the reasons for their low relationship satisfaction are different. Female offenders are more likely to have been dually arrested than males (Henning & Feder, in press), and many of the women in reality may be victims rather than primary aggressors in their relationships” (p. 851).

In a study of 108 partner violent women by Swan and Snow (2002)¹, the subjects **admitted to having been more physically and emotionally assaultive than their partners**, yet the authors determined that only 12% of these women were the aggressors. This dubious conclusion was reached because the authors accorded equal weight to isolation-type control tactics as acts of physical violence. As reported by the women, the men used such tactics 75% more often. The women’s use of violence and emotional abuse was not regarded as “coercive.” The authors admit that the instrument used to gauge coercive control, the Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory, was designed to measure men’s behaviors (e.g., “get upset if housework was not done when you wanted,” and “demand partner stay home and take care of the children”), and recommend that “a new scale particular to women’s violence is needed” (p. 312). Despite this caution, they determined that the women were victims of abuse at a rate three times that of men. Women who assaulted and emotionally abused their mates were deemed “*violent resisters*” to male abuse. Self-defense is assumed, even though the

¹ Swan, S., & Snow (2002). A typology of women’s use of violence in intimate relationships. *Violence Against Women*, 8 (3), 286-319.

women were never asked about it. “Women’s violent behavior,” the authors concluded, “can only be understood when placed in the context of their male partner’s violence against them” (p.310). In the broader sense, they are correct. Consider the study by Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Neidig and Thorn (1995)¹, which found that 83% of men arrested for battering had been involved in **mutually** violent relationships; or the high rates of physical and psychological abuse by the female partners in the research by Stacey, Hazlewood and Shupe (1994)² on male batterers. With their study, Swan and Snow merely confirm the fact that most partner violence is mutual.

In the April, 2005 special issue of the journal *Violence and Victims*, Feder and Henning (2005)³ report on a study of 317 couples dually arrested for IPV, most of them African-American. Criminal justice data revealed no differences between the partners in injuries inflicted or weapons use. Interview data revealed no differences in physical assault; women were more likely to use a weapon, but to suffer slightly higher rates of injuries (19.6% vs. 15.0%). There were no gender differences in overall psychological abuse or coercive control tactics. However, because the men had more serious arrest records and history of substance abuse,

¹ Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J., Neidig, P., & Thorn, G. (1995). Violent marriages: Gender differences in levels of current violence and past abuse. *Journal of Family Violence, 10* (2), 159-175.

² Stacey, W., Hazelwood, L., & Shupe, A. (1994). *The violent couple*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

³ Feder, L., & Henning, K. (2005). A comparison of male and female dually arrested domestic violence offenders. *Violence and Victims, 20* (2), 153-171

and to have engaged in higher rates of sexual coercion, the authors concluded: “*The above findings could be used to argue that many of these dually arrested women might have been engaged in mutual combat but were instead defending themselves. While the design of the present study cannot ultimately answer whether the women were acting in self-defense, our findings are consistent with past research indicating greater defensive aggression on the part of females*” (p. 167). Some of the women undoubtedly were acting in self-defense, but this study is more in line with past research, reviewed earlier in this paper, that found self defense to **not** be a primary motive. The reader will note that the authors did not speculate as to whether many of the *men* may have been acting in self defense. A second article from that special issue, by Kernsmith (2005)¹, reported on a study which compared male and female participants in batterer treatment. Unlike the studies discussed above, this one specifically asked the subjects about self defense. No significant differences were found between the genders in the frequency that each reported self defense as a motive for their violence. The women were more likely than the men to aggress for reasons of retaliation, to “discipline” their partner (“get your partner to do what you wanted,” “to punish your partner,” “felt jealous”), and to exert power and control. Retaliation, however, was a more common motive for women than a desire to exert power and control. “*These findings,*” the authors concluded, “*may indicate that females are not generally the*

¹ Kernsmith, P. (2005). Exerting power or striking back: A gendered comparison of motivations for domestic violence perpetration. *Violence and Victims*, 20 (2), 173-185.

primary aggressor in the abusive incidents and may, instead, be responding to a partner's aggression" (p. 179). They don't mention that the men, too, were more likely to endorse retaliation over coercion.

Mutuality and Violence Initiation Rates

A National Family Violence Survey was conducted in 1985, with a sample exceeding 6,000 respondents. To eliminate the problem of male underreporting, Straus (1993)¹ examined the data provided by the wives and found that in 48.6% of assaults, both partners were violent. The husband was the sole perpetrator in 25.9% of the cases, and the wife 25.5% of the time. A survey of 200 military couples in which the police had responded to a domestic violence call (Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Neidig and Thorn, 1995)² reported an 83% rate of mutual assaults; and in a longitudinal study of 1,037 New Zealanders (Moffitt & Caspi, 1999)³ most cases of partner violence among young adults were deemed to have been mutual.

¹ Straus, M. (1993). Physical assaults by wives: A major social problem. In R. Gelles & D. Loseky (Eds.), *Current controversies on family violence* (pp. 67-87). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

² Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J., Neidig, P., & Thorn, G. (1995). Violent marriages: Gender differences in levels of current violence and past abuse. *Journal of Family Violence*, 10 (2), 159-175.

³ Moffitt, T., & Caspi, A. (1999, July). *Findings about partner violence from the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study*. National Institute of Justice, NCJ 170018.

Rates of mutuality only tell us that both partners were violent; they do not indicate which partner initiated the assaults, or what percentage were in self defense. In the second National Family Violence Survey (Straus, 1993)¹, *the wives reported that they initiated the violence 53.1% of the time, and their husbands 42.3% of the time. They could not remember who started the violence in the remaining 3.1% of cases.* The National Youth Survey (Morse, 1995)², drawing on data from 1,725 respondents in the Eastern United States, yielded similar results, *with 61.3% of the men and 54.2% of the women reporting that the female partner had initiated the violence in their last serious argument;* as did a dating population study of 865 students at four universities in the South by DeMaris (1992)³, which determined that *it was the female partner more often than not that initiated the physical violence.* Of the women reporting violence in a representative sample of 707 adult respondents in Alberta, Canada, *67% identified themselves as the initiator* (Dutton, Kwong, Bartholomew & Kim, 1999)⁴. High

¹ Straus, M. (1993). Physical assaults by wives: A major social problem. In R. Gelles & D. Loseky (Eds.), *Current controversies on family violence* (pp. 67-87). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

² Morse, B. (1995). Beyond the Conflict Tactics Scale: Assessing gender differences in partner violence. *Violence and Victims*, 10 (4), 251-269.

³ DeMaris, A. (1992). Male versus female initiation of aggression: The case of courtship violence. In E. Viano (Ed.), *Intimate violence: Interdisciplinary perspectives* (pp. 111-120). Washington, DC: Taylor & Francis.

⁴ Dutton, D., Kwong, M., & Bartholomew, K. (1999). Gender differences in patterns of relationship violence in Alberta. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, 31, 150-160

rates of female-initiated violence have also been found among couples in which the man had been court-mandated to a batterer intervention program. Shupe, Stacey and Hazlewood (1987)¹ found that the woman initiated the assaults one-third of the time; and in Gondolf's (1996)² multi-site study of men's BIP's the female victims reported to have initiated the violence in 40% of the cases during a treatment follow-up period.

Domestic Violence and Children

“Partner-assaultive mothers and fathers are equally likely to hit their children,” (Margolin & Gordis, 2003³; Straus & Smith, 1990)⁴. In the Slep and O’Leary’s (2005)⁵ representative sample study of 453 couples with young children in New York found that *bi-directional partner aggression occurred in 65% of the families*, and that 51% of couples engaged in both partner and child abuse. The “battering

¹ Stacey, W., Hazelwood, L., & Shupe, A. (1994). *The violent couple*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

² Gondolf, E. (1996). Characteristics of batterers in a multi-site evaluation of batterer intervention systems. Retrieved March, 4, 2004 from www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/gondolf/batchar.html

³ Margolin, G., & Gordis, E. (2003). Co-occurrence between marital aggression and parents' child abuse potential: The impact of cumulative stress. *Violence and Victims, 18* (3), 243-258.

⁴ Straus, M., & Smith, C. (1990). Family patterns and child abuse. In M. Straus & R. Gelles (Eds.), *Physical violence in American families* (pp. 245-262). New Brunswick, N.J.:

⁵ Slep, A., & O’Leary, S.G. (2005). Parent and partner violence in families with young children: rates, patterns, and connections. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 73* (3), 435-444.

dad” pattern in which the father assaults the mother, and one or both parent physically abuses the child, accounted for only 2% of families with severe violence.

Which type of abuse is most traumatic on children? The domestic violence literature generally finds greater effects for **witnessed** IPV (Kitzmann, Gaylord, Holt & Kenny, 2003)¹. Some Child Protective Services (CPS) studies have found the opposite (e.g., Salzinger, Feldman, Ng-Mak, Mojica, Stockhammer & Rosario, 2002)². English, Marshall and Stewart (2003)³ reported on a cohort of 261 children and their mothers, referred to CPS for parental abuse and neglect. The mothers were asked about IPV, perpetrated and received, as well as the extent to which they physically abused their children, to determine their effects on the children’s adjustment as measured by the Child Behavior Checklist. Neither mother’s depression nor levels of perpetrated/received IPV were significantly correlated with child symptomology. But echoing similar findings from Moore

¹ Kitzmann, K., Gaylord, N., Holt, A., & Kenny, E. (2003). Child witnesses to domestic violence: A meta-analytic review. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 71* (2), 339-352.

² Salzinger, S., Feldman, R., Ing-mak, D., Mojica, E., Stockhammer, T., & Rosario, M. (2002). Effects of partner violence and physical child abused on child behavior: A study of abused and comparison children. *Journal of Family Violence, 17* (1), 23-52.

³ English, D., Marshall, D., & Stewart, A. (2003). Effects of family violence on child behavior and health during early childhood. *Journal of Family Violence, 18* (1), 43-57.

and Pepler (1998)¹, a significant effect *was* found for mother's verbal abuse of the child.

Impact of Abuse on Children

The effects of having grown up in a violent home, in which *either* of the parents is abusive, have a lasting impact on an individual, increasing the likelihood that he/she will perpetrate IPV in adulthood. Both the partner-abusive men and partner-abusive women interviewed in Kaura and Allen's (2004)² study of dating students that had grown up in a violent home. The women were more likely to have lived with a violent father, and the men with a violent mother. Sommer's (1994)³ Winnipeg survey also found correlations between witnessing interparental abuse and adult intimate partner violence, as did Jankowski, Leitenberg, Henning and Coffey's (1999)⁴ study with 1,576 dating college students. The military study

¹ Moore, T., & Pepler, D. (1998). Correlates of adjustment in children at risk. In G. Holden, R. Geffner, & E. Jouriles (Eds.), *Children exposed to domestic violence* (pp. 157-184). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

² Kaura, S., & Allen, C. (2004). Dissatisfaction with relationship power and dating violence perpetration by men and women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 19* (5), 576-588.

³ Sommer, R. (1994). *Male and female perpetrated partner abuse*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Manitoba. University Microfilms International, ISBN-0-315-99064-3.

⁴ Jankowski, M., Leitenberg, H., Henning, K., & Coffey, P. (1999). Intergenerational transmission of dating aggression as a function of witnessing only same sex parents vs. opposite sex parents vs. both parents as perpetrators of domestic violence. *Journal of Family Violence, 14*, 267-279.

by Langhinrichsen-Rohling et al. 1995)¹, as well as research by Straus (1992)², actually found higher IPV rates among adults who had witnessed mother-perpetrated violence, compared to violence perpetrated by fathers.

A number of researchers have investigated the effects that witnessing IPV has on children’s emotional development. Child witnesses have been found to be five to seven times at greater risk to develop internalizing symptoms (e.g., depression, anxiety, PTSD) and externalizing symptoms (e.g., conduct and academic problems) than other children (Cummings & Davies, 1994)³. Until very recently, this research has examined only the impact of father’s violence. Easy access to shelters, which serve exclusively female residents and their children, in combination with the stifling effects of the dominant patriarchal paradigm, no doubt accounted for this selective sampling. Fathers who hit their spouses were also found to be at greater risk for abusing their children; and their violence was found to have a “spillover” effect on the family system, **as the mother, stressed**

¹ Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J., Neidig, P., & Thorn, G. (1995). Violent marriages: Gender differences in levels of current violence and past abuse. *Journal of Family Violence, 10* (2), 159-175.

² Straus, M. (1992, September). *Children as witnesses to marital violence: A risk factor for lifelong problems among a nationally representative sample of American men and women*. Report of the twenty-third Ross Roundtable on Critical Approaches to Common Pediatric Problems, M5796.

³ Cummings, E. M., & Davies, P. T. (1994). Maternal depression and child development. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 35*, 73-112.

and depressed as a result of the beatings, sometimes neglected or abused the children herself (Wolak & Finkelhor, 1998)¹.

Recently, a handful of studies have examined the role of **both** parents as perpetrators of IPV and child abuse. Witnessing IPV by either parent predicted dating violence in a study of 1,965 middle and high school students in rural North Carolina (Foshee, Bauman & Linder, 1999)². A sample of 232 families with an adolescent referred to a mental health clinic (Mahoney, Donnelly, Boxer and Lewis, 2003)³ yielded significant correlations based on mothers' reports between both father-to-mother and mother-to-father IPV and defiant, antisocial behavior by the adolescent. Based on adolescent reports, significant correlations were also found between parental IPV and adolescent internal distress. The Moretti, Obsuth, Odgers and Reebye's (in press) study with 112 delinquent juveniles found correlations between previous exposure to interparental aggression by the mother and perpetration of dating violence, by both boys and girls. There were no such effects for father-perpetrated IPV. An analysis of the first NFVS found that child

¹ Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (1998). Children exposed to partner violence. In J. Jasinski & L. Williams (Eds.), *Partner violence: A comprehensive review of 20 years of research* (pp. 184-209). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

² Foshee, V., Bauman, K., & Linder, F. (1999). Family violence and the preparation of adolescent dating violence: Examining social learning and social control processes. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 61 (2), 331-342.

³ Mahoney, A., Donnelly, W., Boxer, P., & Lewis, T. (2003). Marital and severe parent-to- adolescent physical aggression in clinic-referred families: Mother and adolescent reports on co-occurrence and links to child behavior problems. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 17 (1), 3-19.

witnesses to parental IPV also are at risk for assaulting their parents, especially the mothers - but **only** in families in which the IPV is either bidirectional or unilaterally perpetrated by the mother (Ullman & Straus, 2003)¹. Research with adults disputing child custody (Johnston and Roseby, 1997)² found other negative consequences of father or mother-perpetrated IPV on the family, such as the blurring of boundaries between the parental and child subsystems.

CONCLUSION

The state has a duty to protect all domestic violence victims and their children so the society they people, as adults, will flourish. Ignoring male victims is not only a human rights issue, but also a public health issue. Until all perpetrators of family violence are held accountable for their actions, regardless of gender, our efforts will be limited, with serious implications for future generations.

Damaged children are apt to become damaged adults, weakening rather than strengthening their communities. Many children whose best interests are ignored by current policies will next be the subjects of Juvenile or Criminal proceedings.

Doctrines implementing the best interest mandate must reflect society's best knowledge of children's needs and the real life circumstances of 21st Century children.

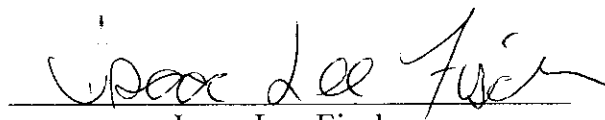
¹ Ullman, A., & Straus, M. (2003). Violence by children against mothers in relation to violence between parents and corporal punishment by parents. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 34, 41-60.

² Johnston, J., & Roseby, V. (1997). *In the name of the child*. New York: The Free Press.

Amici hopes the Court finds this brief helpful in the development of doctrines that respect the complexities of domestic violence and its impact on children's lives and needs, and that each victim is treated as an individual regardless of their gender.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Date: 1-15-08

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Isaac Lee Fischer", written over a horizontal line.

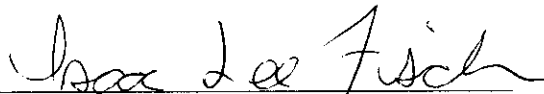
Isaac Lee Fischer,
Attorney for Amici Curiae
SB #220806

WORD COUNT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the application contains 947 words, and that this Brief, Tables and Appendix A contain another 10,034 words. Word count was calculated using Microsoft™ Word™ ver. 2003. The issues in this case are complex, as is the research literature and history. My signature on the brief incorporates the brief, this application, and this word count certification.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Date: 1-15-08



Isaac Lee Fischer,
Attorney for Amici Curiae
SB #220806

APPENDIX A: Names and Biographical Sketches of *Amici Curiae*

John Archer

John Archer is Professor of Psychology at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom. His academic areas of interest are the study of human aggression, and bereavement and loss. He is the former President of the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA), and is on the editorial board of the journal *Aggressive Behavior*. He is the author of several books including *The behavioral biology of aggression* (1988), *The nature of grief* (1999), and *Sex and gender* (2nd ed. 2002). He co-edited *Developmental origins of aggression* (2005: Guilford) with Richard Tremblay and Willard Hartup. He has published over 100 articles, in a wide range of journals including *Psychological Bulletin*, *American Psychologist*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. These articles have a total citation count of over 3,500. He has published a number of recent journal articles on partner violence, from the perspective of a researcher on human aggression. In addition to the much-cited review Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review (*Psychological Bulletin* 2001), he has related articles in *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (1999), *Aggression & Violent Behaviour* (2002), and *Personality & Social Psychology Review* (2006). John Archer collaborates with his colleague Nicola Graham-Kevan in research on issues such as controlling behavior in relation to partner violence by both women and men, the causes of post-break up stalking, and a cost-benefit analysis of partner violence.

Michelle Mohr Carney

Michelle Mohr Carney, associate professor and associate dean at the University of Georgia School of Social Work, teaches courses in nonprofit management, foundation and advanced community practice, and program evaluation and is a member of the Graduate Faculty. Dr. Carney won the award for outstanding educator of the year four times from the University of South Carolina and is committed to exposing students to a curriculum area that focuses on formal organizations and communities and is directed towards helping these larger systems function effectively and efficiently to advance the well being of those they serve. Her publications address the need to empower communities through social work research including the importance of reducing family violence and developing researcher-agency partnerships.

Philip Cook

Philip Cook is a noted journalist who has received awards for his reporting from the Associated Press and the Professional Journalism Society among others. His work objectively examines and explains relevant research results, the feelings and problems of interviewed victims, and provider and media response to the issue. He has examined scores of national and international domestic violence and family programs and evaluated their potential for helpful replication. His presentations on the subject of male abuse victims have received high praise from a diverse spectrum of society such as "Dear Abby", leading domestic violence experts, attorneys, physicians, law enforcement, and numerous mental health professionals. He has served as a founding board member of Stop Abuse for Everyone, an organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Mr. Cook has appeared on numerous national radio and television shows such as MSNBC, Fox TV's "The Crier Report", "The O'Reilly Factor," "The Sally Jesse Raphael Show", "The Montel Williams Show", "The Home and Family Show", and numerous talk radio programs. He is the author of the pioneering book, *Abused Men: The Hidden Side of Domestic Violence* (Praeger, 1997). His articles on domestic violence have been published in several publications, including the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* and the book, *Family Interventions in Domestic Violence: A Handbook of Gender-Inclusive Theory and Treatment* (Hamel & Nicholls, 2006).

Carol Crabsen

Carol Crabsen, LCSW, has worked with victims of crime for more than 21 years. Ms. Crabsen has been the executive director of the Antelope Valley Domestic Violence Council for nine years. She is a strong advocate for male victims of domestic violence and has appeared on "The Montel Williams Show," was in a documentary *Hidden Victims: Children of Domestic Violence*, has been interviewed on CNN, NBC, and many other television shows, as well as addressed many groups and organizations on the subject of domestic violence. She was Woman of the year in 2000 in L.A. County and Citizen of the year in 2004 in the Antelope Valley.

Patrick T. Davies

Patrick T. Davies, Ph.D. is a professor of psychology at the University of Rochester. His area of expertise lies in the impact of interparental violence and discord on children. Recipient of the APA Boyd McCandless Early Career Award for Significant Contributions to Developmental Psychology, he publishes in journals such as *Child Development*, *Development and Psychopathology*, and *Journal of Family Psychology*. Dr. Davies is an author of three books and monographs, including *Children and Marital Conflict: The*

Impact of Family Dispute and Resolution, Developmental Psychopathology and Family Process, Children's Emotional Security and Interparental Conflict.

Richard L. Davis

Lt. Richard L. Davis served in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1964, and a retired lieutenant from the Brockton, Massachusetts police department. He has a graduate degree in criminal justice from Anna Maria College, another in liberal arts from Harvard University and a BA from Bridgewater State College in History. He is a member of the International Honor Society of Historians and an instructor of Criminology, Group Violence and Terrorism, Criminal Justice and Domestic Violence at Quincy College in Plymouth, MA. Lt. Davis is a past president of the Community Center for Non-Violence in New Bedford, Massachusetts and vice president for Family Nonviolence, Inc. in Fairhaven, MA. In addition, he serves as an independent consultant for criminal justice agencies on policies, procedures, and programs concerning domestic violence, and a distance learner instructor in Introduction to Criminal Justice and Domestic Violence for the Online Police Academy. He has written numerous articles on domestic violence for newspapers, journals, and magazines, and is the author of *Domestic Violence: Facts and Fallacies* (Praeger, 1998). Lt. Davis lives in Plymouth, Massachusetts with his wife and the two youngest of five children. He experienced domestic violence professionally for 21 years as a police officer and personally as a child and as an adult. In his retirement he continues to speak on the subject, using his education, experience, and training to help children, women, and men who have had to endure violence from those who profess to love them.

Donald Dutton

Donald Dutton received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Toronto in 1970. After receiving training as a group therapist at Cold Mountain Institute, he co-founded the Assaultive Husbands Project in 1979, a court mandated treatment program for men convicted of wife assault. He has published more than 100 papers and 3 books, including the *Domestic Assault of Women* (UBC Press, 1995), *The Batterer: A Psychological Profile* (Basic Books, 1995), and *The Abusive Personality* (Guilford Press, 2002). *The Batterer* has been translated into French, Spanish, Dutch, Japanese, and Polish and Dutton has frequently served as an expert witness in civil trials involving domestic abuse and in criminal trials involving family violence. He is currently professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia. His latest work, *Rethinking Domestic Violence* (UBC Press, 2005), includes an examination of how the gender paradigm developed in domestic violence research and policy. His other recent books include a review of recent

research on personality disorder, developmental neuroscience and intimate abusiveness (*The Abusive Personality*, 3rd ed., 2006), and an explanation and the psychology of genocide and military massacres (*Transformations to Evil: State Initiated Violence*, Praeger, 2007).

Miriam Ehrensaft

Miriam Ehrensaft Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, at Columbia University; received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1996. She joined the CIC study in 1999. Her research interests include the relationship between developmental psychopathology and violence in romantic relationships; sex differences in the development of conduct disorder; child maltreatment and parenting behaviors. Dr. Ehrensaft is a former research fellow in the Research Training Program, and the recipient of a Career Development Award (K-Award). Her research program focuses on two areas: developmental psychopathology (conduct disorder, depression) and partner violence. To bridge these areas, she investigates mechanisms that mediate the association between developmental psychopathology and the risk for violence in romantic relationships. The overarching goal is to inform the prevention of conflict and violence in romantic relationships, as well the worsening course of psychopathology. Dr. Ehrensaft has previously conducted a pilot clinical trial investigating whether a multistage approach, combining the treatment of conduct problems and the provision of psychoeducation regarding dating violence, might result in a decreased risk of perpetrating dating violence. Other studies involve: 1) co-investigator to analyze data from a large, controlled, epidemiological study of psychiatric disorders in children in New York, investigating mechanisms that might mediate the association between childhood conduct disorder, depression, and partner violence in early adulthood; and 2) Collaboration with Drs. Terrie Moffitt and Avshalom Caspi on partner violence data from the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health Study

Richard Felson

Richard B. Felson, Ph.D., is Professor of Crime, Law, and Justice and Sociology at The Pennsylvania State University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Indiana University in 1977. He has published more than 80 papers and 4 books. His articles have appeared in such journals as *Criminology*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Social Psychology Quarterly*. His books include *Violence, Aggression, and Coercive Actions* (with James Tedeschi) and *Violence and Gender Reexamined*, both published by the American Psychological Association. He argues that domestic violence is better understood if studied in comparison to other types of violence and crime.

Nicola Graham-Kevan

Nicola Graham-Kevan, BSc, PhD, is a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom. Her area of expertise is relationship aggression. She has coauthored several articles on aggression including: “Physical Aggression and Control in Heterosexual Relationships: The Effect of Sampling” (*Violence and Victims*, 2003, 181–198); “Patriarchal Terrorism and Common Couple Violence: A Test of Johnson's Predictions in Four British Samples” (*Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2003, 1247–1270); and “Investigating Three Explanations of Women's Relationship Aggression” (*Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 2005, 270–277). She regularly presents her work at European and U.S. conferences and to clinicians in the United Kingdom. Nicola is a fellow of the International Society for Research on Aggression and The British Psychological Society with chartered psychology status. Additionally Nicola is acting editor for a special issue of men's domestic violence and victimization for the *International Journal of Men's Health* and has engaged in national government-led consultations on violence and human trafficking.

John Hamel

John Hamel, LCSW, a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, has been a court-certified Batterer Intervention Provider since 1992, headquartered in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. His clinical services include family violence assessments and treatment programs for abusive men, women and families. Mr. Hamel has provided consultation and training to mental health professionals, batterer intervention providers, victim advocates, attorneys and law enforcement, and serves as an expert court witness in criminal and family law courts. His articles on partner violence have appeared in the *Family Violence & Sexual Assault Bulletin* and *International Journal of Men's Health*. Mr. Hamel the author of *Gender-Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse: A Comprehensive Approach* (Springer, 2005), and co-editor, with Tonia L. Nicholls, of *Family Interventions in Domestic Violence: A Handbook of Gender-Inclusive Theory and Treatment* (Springer, 2006).

Lonnie Hazlewood

Lonnie Hazlewood, M.S.H.P., L.C.D.C., C.C.C.J.S. is a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor in the state of Texas and a Certified Clinical Criminal Justice Specialist. He has thirty years experience in the substance abuse field and for the past twenty-five years has specialized in the risk assessment and treatment of domestic violence. He has worked on community task forces on domestic violence, helped to developed criminal justice interventions and

policies in Austin, Texas, and directed the Family Violence Diversion Network (1982-87) and the Austin Stress Clinic (1989-2003). Currently in private practice, he is the director of the Domestic Violence Threat Containment Intensive Treatment Program and developing a couples program for cases in which domestic violence is a concern in child custody and family reintegration. Lonnie has written several articles on domestic violence, and co-wrote two books on the subject, *Violent Men, Violent Couples* (Lexington Books, 1986) and *The Violent Couple* (Praeger, 1994).

Denise A. Hines

Denise A. Hines is a research/visiting assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Clark University and a research associate at the Family Research Laboratory and Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. Trained as a developmental psychologist, her interests lie mainly in issues of family violence. She has earned grants from the NIMH to study genetic and environmental influences on family violence and men who sustain partner violence. She also has a strong interest in cultural influences on family violence. She has coauthored two books on issues of family violence: *Family Violence in the United States* (2005) and *Family Violence in a Cultural Perspective* (2004), both with Kathleen Malley-Morrison. In addition, she has published numerous journal articles and book chapters on issues related to family violence.

Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling

Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and psychology professor at the University of South Alabama. Langhinrichsen-Rohling received her undergraduate degree in psychology from Brown University, her PhD in psychology from the University of Oregon, and was a National Institute of Mental Health postdoctoral fellow studying marital violence at SUNY, Stony Brook. Langhinrichsen-Rohling's clinical work includes both battered women and abusive couples. She has published more than 70 articles and book chapters on topics related to intimate partner violence, the intergenerational transmission of abuse, or at-risk adolescent behavior. Her scholarship and teaching have garnered awards; she has received more than a million dollars in grant funding; and she sits on the editorial advisory boards of three journals. She currently serves as Youth Violence Research Scholar for the University of South Alabama.

Kathleen Malley-Morrison

Kathleen Malley-Morrison, Ed.D, is professor of psychology in the Program in Human Development, Boston University. Since completing a postdoctoral fellowship in family violence at Children's Hospital in Boston, she has focused primarily on issues in family violence, particularly in cross-cultural

and international contexts. She is coauthor (with Anne P. Copeland) of *Studying families* (Sage, 1991), coauthor (with Denise A. Hines) of *Family Violence in a Cultural Perspective* (Sage, 2004), and coauthor (with Denise A. Hines) of *Family Violence in the United States: Defining, Understanding, and Combating Abuse* (Sage, 2004). She also edited *International Perspectives on Family Violence and Abuse* (Erlbaum, 2004). She has authored or coauthored many journal articles and conference papers related to family violence. She is increasingly focusing on issues of war and peace.

R.L. McNeely

R.L. McNeely, PhD, JD, is a professor of social welfare, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and a practicing attorney. He has published books as well as articles appearing in professional journals focusing upon work and family issues, aging issues, racial issues, and on numerous aspects of domestic violence. His work in the field of domestic violence inspired a NBC documentary, "Of Macho and Men," and he has appeared on CBS Morning News discussing domestic violence as a human issue, rather than a women's issue. He also is a Research Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, he has testified before Congress on the issue of domestic violence, he serves as a domestic violence consultant for the U.S. Army and, as an attorney, he has successfully represented individuals falsely accused of domestic violence.

Marlene Moretti

Marlene Moretti, PhD, has focused her research on the importance of parent-child attachment as a determinant of health development. She is particularly interested in the transition to adolescence and the development of self-regulatory competence. Her work spans from identification of risk and protective factors to the development and evaluation of innovative programs to promote well-being in youth at high-risk. Moretti is a full professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University and past director of the Clinical Psychology Program and the Clinical Psychology Centre. She currently leads a multisite Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Emerging Team Grant on gender and aggression and has published extensively in the fields of developmental psychopathology, social-clinical psychology, and intervention. Moretti has served as a member on several government committees working to promote the use of evidence based intervention. She is a coauthor of the book, *Girls and Aggression: Contributing Factors and Intervention Principles* (Kluwer-Plenum, 2004), and co-wrote the chapter, "Parental Attachment and the Self from a Systemic Perspective," included in *Clinical Applications of Attachment Theory* (Guildford, 2003). She also co-wrote "Family Lessons in Attachment and Aggression," a chapter included in *Family Interventions in Domestic Violence* (Springer, 2006).

Tonia Nicholls

Tonia Nicholls obtained a Ph.D. with a specialization in Law and Forensic Psychology from Simon Fraser University in 2002. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research funded her three-year postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia and the BC Institute Against Family Violence. Currently, she is Senior Research Fellow at the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission, BC Mental Health & Addiction Services and Adjunct Professor of Psychology, Simon Fraser University. Tonia's primary affiliate is BC Mental Health and Addiction Services. Her scholarly work has earned her "Brain Star" awards from the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health, and Addictions (Canadian Institutes of Health Research), the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Professional Contribution by a Graduate Student, and the Canadian Psychological Association President's New Researcher Award. Nicholls has published two books, including co-editing *Family Interventions in Domestic Violence* with John Hamel. She has co-authored several articles including a recent review of the gender paradigm in the journal *Aggression & Violent Behavior* (Dutton & Nicholls, 2006).

Patricia Overberg

Patricia Overberg began working with victims in the early 1960's through a program of the Providence, RI School System. She found that many of the children who had emotional, academic and acting out problems came from violent homes, and she worked primarily with their mothers. During that time, Ms. Overberg went back to school and got her bachelors degree. From there she went to Miami, attended Barry University and worked with the elderly, many of whom were being battered by their children. After graduating with an MSW, she drove to California with the goal of living and working in different parts of the state, which she says she has "pretty well accomplished." After working with the mentally ill at a YWCA, she then spent the remainder of her career working with family violence, sexual assault, rape and stalking victims. From 1984 to presently, she has had positions as the CEO of various organizations, including the Valley Oasis in Lancaster where she opened the first and only shelter for battered men in the country. She is now working with an agency in Salinas which was first called the Women's Crisis Center and is now known as the Central Coast Crisis Center, and advertises that it serves all ages, genders and families in need.