Dear Friends,

The Domestic Violence Clinic turns 15 this year!

This academic year marks the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Domestic Violence Clinic. Formed in 1999, the Domestic Violence Clinic provides civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual assault, while preparing University of Oregon law students for work in the law.

Over the years, the Domestic Violence Clinic has increased its capacity to help survivors, educated hundreds of dedicated students, and employed talented staff. On behalf of everyone here at the Domestic Violence Clinic, we wish you a wonderful 2015 and thank you for your continued support.

Domestic Violence Clinic Staff Triples in Size

DV Clinic Waiting Room

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The Domestic Violence Clinic was recently awarded two competitive grants that will allow it to serve more clients and educate more students. The grants include awards from the State of Oregon's Department of Justice and the federal Violence Against Women office. Read More

**Domestic Violence Clinic Hires Staff Attorney Kasia Mlynski**

![Kasia Mlynski](image)

Kasia Mlynski  
New DV Staff Attorney

After a lengthy review of the Oregon Student Conduct Code, led by law professors John Bonine and Caroline Forell, the UO Senate adopted final revisions in December 2014. These revisions are currently awaiting the President's signature. The Domestic Violence Clinic will play a key role in providing counsel to student survivors, and Kasia Mlynski will play an important role in providing these services. Read More

**Our 15th Anniversary Event with Sarah Deer**

![Sarah Deer](image)
On Monday, February 23, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., Sarah Deer, recipient of a prestigious 2014 MacArthur Fellowship, will speak as a part of the events recognizing the Domestic Violence Clinic's 15-year anniversary. Professor Deer is a legal scholar who has leveraged her deep understanding of tribal and federal law to develop policies and legislation that empower tribal nations to protect Native American women from perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence. She has been credited for her instrumental role in the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and passage of the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act. For more information about Sarah Deer, watch this video. The event will be held in Room 175 at the Knight Law Center. A reception will follow.

Affirmative Consent Should be the Standard

In December 2014, Professor Merle Weiner published an op-ed on campus sexual assault in the Baltimore Sun.

"Some defense-minded law professors and others have criticized revised college sexual misconduct policies that shift the definition of sexual assault from involuntary sexual relations to a lack of affirmative consent. But affirmative consent is the right standard. It best protects an individual's autonomy and is the best way for someone to know if a partner is engaging in sex voluntarily. Ambiguity should be seen as sexual assault. Ambiguity is not permissible in other contexts: When I don't respond to the panhandler, I certainly am not consenting to the removal of my wallet. It is also the proper standard because two people shouldn't be engaging in activity that risks having a child if they can't even communicate the word "yes" to each other."

The complete article may be accessed here.

Last Spring's Events: Raising Awareness & Furthering Conversations

During the Spring of 2014, the DV Clinic hosted three programs to raise awareness and further conversations. The three programs are briefly described below.
Joshua Safran: 
*Crime After Crime*

Joshua Safran's presentation at the law school evoked anger, compassion, tears, and frustration but also a feeling of hope. His March talk followed the showing of a film that portrayed a criminal justice system that made no concessions for a defendant with a history of domestic violence victimization.

The film *Crime After Crime* is well worth watching on your own time if you missed the March event. Read More

**Harvesting Stones: An American Woman's International Journey of Survival**

Paula Lucas and her three sons.

In 1999, Paula Lucas took her three children and fled the Middle East. Her personal story is truly amazing. Equally notable is what she has done since returning to the U.S. Lucas has chosen to devote herself to helping domestic violence victims living abroad. Read More
Learning From Each Other: Various Systems' Responses

There is hope that the rate of domestic violence may decrease further as domestic violence gets more attention and important initiatives get funding. That was one underlying message of the event Learning From Each Other: Various Systems' Responses to Battered Mothers. Read More

You Can Help

The Domestic Violence Clinic depends on generous contributions from people like you. Please consider making a tax deductible donation either online or via mail. Recent gifts helped finance the important structural changes to the clinic's physical space so that we could serve clients.

Via Internet:

DONATE TODAY

Via Mail:
Make checks payable to "UO Foundation" and write "Domestic Violence Clinic" on the memo line.

University of Oregon Foundation
1720 E. 13th Ave.
Suite 410
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Contributions are tax deductible.
Thanks in advance for your support!

Alums Check-in

See what our alums are saying about how the Clinic impacted their lives

"The Clinic not only prepared me to help survivors, but also to practice law in general. Because of the Clinic, I felt prepared enough to start my own law firm right out of law school; without the Clinic, I would have felt unprepared to even find a job in law. Participating in the Clinic was invaluable to my success as a lawyer."
Amy Hicksted
"At the Clinic I got the ONLY law school related practical experience in being a lawyer. I had great training and mentors and had the opportunity to actually interview clients and prepare cases and then give sound legal advice based on the facts. I also had solid court experience in representing survivors."
Sharon Griffin

"Working in the DV Clinic helped me understand strategies for helping victims - not only in terms of understanding legal strategies, but also in terms of understanding the cycle of abuse and some of the emotional needs of survivors. It is easy to get exhausted watching people return to abusive partners or feel helpless in their own lives, and being in the DV Clinic helped me understand strategies for talking to survivors about those cycles and how to step out of them. It helped me see the power in victims standing up for themselves to abusers, as well, and gave me strategies for talking to clients about how acknowledging victimization does not mean they are permanently stuck in the role of victim."
Meredith Holley

Domestic Violence Clinic Alums

If you would like to submit information for the newsletter about what has been happening in your life, professionally or otherwise, please do!

We would love to hear from you!
Contact Merle Weiner at mweiner@uoregon.edu

If You're Being Stalked
What to do to ensure your safety
By domesticshelters.org
Stalking can be a component of domestic violence. It most often occurs after a survivor leaves an abusive partner. It's another form of control by an abuser and is used to intimidate a partner. However, anyone can be stalked. Read more about safety tips if you think you are being stalked.

If you are a member of the UO community or live in Lane County and have limited financial resources, the Domestic Violence Clinic can help you obtain a stalking protection order.

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