Formed in 1999, the Domestic Violence Clinic provides comprehensive civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual assault while preparing University of Oregon law students for law practice.

The University of Oregon School of Law partners with Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center, Womenspace, and Sexual Assault Support Services in administering the Stop Violence Against Women Project, of which the Domestic Violence Clinic is an integral part.

Since its inception, the Stop Violence Against Women Project has helped represent thousands of victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking.

About Us

During its last session, the Oregon Legislature passed several bills and the Governor signed an executive order extending additional protections for victims. A few of those measures are summarized here.

**SB 561** enhances Oregon’s landlord/tenant laws by providing housing protection for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and dating violence.

The new law explicitly prohibits discrimination against survivors and permits landlords to bifurcate a lease in order to evict a perpetrator without evicting the victim. It also expands the range of sources by which a survivor may verify her victim status.

**SB 946** provides workplace leave for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Employers with six or more employees are required to provide reasonable unpaid leave in order for victims to seek legal or law enforcement assistance, medical treatment, counseling from a licensed mental health professional, support from a victim services provider, or to relocate or secure a current home.

**EO 07-17** requires that the Department of Administrative Services adopt a statewide policy for Oregon agencies regarding issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking involving agency employees. Among other provisions, the new policy must prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of their victimization, prohibit abusive activities at work or work events, and provide guidance to management and employees regarding available support and assistance for victims.

Professor Merle Weiner was involved with proposing and drafting the order.

To learn more about these new laws, visit the Oregon State Legislature website at [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us), or the Governor’s website at [http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/pdf/eo0717.pdf](http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/pdf/eo0717.pdf)
On a warm June evening in 1999, Jessica Gonzales waited at home for her ex-husband to return her three daughters, ages seven, nine, and ten, after his visitation.

After enduring an abusive marriage, Gonzales had divorced her husband and obtained a protective order. When her ex-husband failed to return her children, Gonzales called the police, who told her to call back if the children had not arrived by 10 p.m.

Although Gonzales called the police five more times, expressing her fear for her daughters’ safety, her pleas were ignored. At 3:20 a.m., Gonzales’ ex-husband appeared at the police station and opened fire on the building.

After fatally shooting the man, police found Gonzales’ three young daughters murdered in the back of their father’s pickup truck.

Gonzales filed a petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, asserting that police nonintervention and the ensuing Supreme Court decision violated her human rights.

In October 2007, the Commission ruled that Gonzales had exhausted all domestic remedies and that she had stated a colorable claim that her rights were violated. Therefore, her case was admissible before the Commission.

This decision was the first time the Commission held that countries in the Americas, including the United States, are responsible for protecting victims of domestic violence from private acts of violence under the American Declaration on Human Rights.

Following this admissibility decision, the Commission will now consider the case on its merits to determine whether the United States and the Castle Rock Police Department in fact violated Gonzales’ human rights.

The Supreme Court held that Gonzales did not have a due process right to police enforcement of her restraining order. The decision was widely viewed as a blow to the effectiveness of protective orders against domestic violence.

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Jessica Gonzales with a portrait of her three daughters, Kathryn, Rebecca, and Leslie.

Photograph by Craig Walker. Used with permission from the Denver Post.
The Domestic Violence Clinic recently received funding from Klamath Medical Service Board Foundation to extend clinic services to Klamath and Lake Counties.

The grant will fund a law student externship at Legal Aid Services of Oregon in Klamath Falls.

Student externships allow law students to gain practical legal experience while increasing the productivity of legal services offered to clients.

The new program will also enable the Domestic Violence Clinic staff to train and support Klamath Falls attorneys in serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Many lawyers do not take on such cases due to a lack of experience in such matters; attorneys at the Domestic Violence Clinic will lend these attorneys almost forty years of cumulative legal experience.

In addition to training community attorneys, Clinic staff will be available to provide continuing technical support to attorneys representing low-income clients on a pro bono basis.

Generally, victims in rural areas face heightened challenges to securing legal assistance. In Klamath County the need for legal services for victims of domestic violence is even greater because until this year, the county had operated without a legal aid office for more than ten years.

The funds will help the Clinic to continue its work educating law students and lawyers while providing an essential service to the community.

**Fundraising Efforts**

Despite the generosity of various revenue sources, the Domestic Violence Clinic’s budget is still in need of funds. The DV Clinic undertook several fundraising endeavors this last year to augment the budget and involve the local community.

During the holiday season, the Clinic sold holiday gift cards, which allowed the purchaser to donate money to the Clinic in the name of a loved one. All proceeds benefited the Domestic Violence Clinic; because the card artwork, supplies, and printing were donated.

Although the holiday card drive was not a substantial income generator, it was a positive reminder to the Oregon Bar of the important work carried out by the Domestic Violence Clinic.

This year, the Domestic Violence Clinic will also be bringing back the “1,000 Friends” campaign. This effort allows members of the community to become a “friend” of the Clinic by making a small donation; each “friend” is listed in a Register-Guard ad published on Mother’s Day.

Another meaningful source of funds comes to the Domestic Violence Clinic from unsolicited “angels.” Without ever being asked, these donors support the Clinic with their generous periodic donations. Because these donors recognize the valuable services provided by the Clinic, as well as the Clinic’s continuous need for funding, the Clinic staff refers to these donors as the Clinic “angels.”

Whether selling holiday gift cards, gathering “friends” in the community, or encouraging others to become “angels,” the Clinic continues to look for ways to fund its services and involve the community.

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The DV Clinic will extend both its education and service functions into Klamath County.
You can help!

☐ YES! I want to support the Domestic Violence Clinic!

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ Other ______

☐ YES! I want to be a Domestic Violence Clinic “angel.” Please contact me for recurring gifts:

☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually

Please make checks payable to “UO Foundation” and put “Domestic Violence Clinic” on the memo line.

University of Oregon Foundation
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The UO Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
All donations are tax-deductible!

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