



# HER JUSTICE AT WORK

SEPTEMBER 2020

## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past week has tested our resolve. We went from losing Justice Ginsburg, who for many of us represented our best aspirations as champions of the law's ability to create a fairer world, to the profoundly disappointing inability of the legal system to deliver justice for Breonna Taylor. Breonna Taylor deserved to benefit from the system towards which Justice Ginsburg was trailblazing.

Justice Ginsburg was an inspiration to so many lawyers, myself included, in her considered, strategic, and effective dedication to institutionalizing gender equity in law. Even though she herself was denied equal treatment because she was a woman, she persevered in her belief that the law could be used as a tool to rectify injustice.

Wholly dedicated to full autonomy and equality for women and men, Justice Ginsburg built the scaffolding upon which we all stand. Such small shoulders to bear such weight.

Here at Her Justice, we continue to be inspired by her courage, tenacity, brilliance and leadership as we stand with women living in poverty to ensure they have equal access to justice.

We will keep saying Breonna Taylor's name as we persist until justice is equitably served. Our staff works hard to translate the lived experiences of our clients into suggestions for change to the legal system as a whole. We have worked with thousands of clients, and they have been supported by tens of thousands of volunteer lawyers.

Standing shoulder to shoulder, we use the law to ensure that our clients, women living in poverty, have equal access to legal support they need to get the justice they deserve.

- Amy Barasch, Esq.

## Welcome New Board Members!

**Brian Fox**  
Alvarez & Marsal

"I am thrilled to support the important work of the board and leadership team in providing best in class legal services which give women living in poverty the chance for the fresh start they so desperately need and deserve."

**Elena Millerman**  
White & Case LLP

"I am honored to be part of such a leading organization in support of women in poverty. Her Justice produces life-changing outcomes for women in New York City by providing them access to justice through essential, legal services, and I greatly look forward to contributing to this critical work."

**Joff Mitchell**  
AlixPartners

"I look forward to supporting the vitally important work of this remarkable organization. I believe Her Justice plays a critical role in our society, helping impoverished women living in New York City get a new start in life, and I'm very proud to be a part of an organization that has such a profound impact on the lives of its clients."

This summer, we celebrated the remarkable contributions of our outgoing Board members Jeffrey A. Brodsky, David N. Koschik and Eric M. Rosof. With support of our committed [Board of Directors](#), Her Justice is addressing the high stakes legal needs of our clients and working to ensure that everyone can use the law to access the safety and stability they need to thrive.

## Steering Systems Change

### A Win for Immigration Rights: The Protect Our Courts Act (POCA) has Passed!

Earlier this year, Her Justice joined together with other New York legal service organizations to express the growing concern that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) interferes with justice by conducting civil immigration arrests in and around courthouses, increasing fear for our clients attending court.

On July 22nd, New York State passed the Protect Our Courts Act (POCA), making it unlawful for any law enforcement officer, including ICE, to make an arrest in or near state courthouses. Once signed into law, POCA will help ensure equal access to courts for ALL New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, and mark significant progress towards the decriminalization of our communities.

[Learn more on how to urge Governor Cuomo to sign the bill into law.](#)

## Shifting the Power Together



## Naomi Young, Esq., Equal Justice Works Fellow Sponsored by Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, LLP joins Her Justice as Staff Attorney!

**99% of domestic violence survivors have experienced financial abuse.**

The Her Justice [Marital Debt Project](#) helps women walk away from a divorce with economic security. As an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by [Kramer Levin Natfalis & Frankel, LLP](#), Naomi Young, Esq. worked on the Marital Debt Project by representing clients through divorce, serving those effected by financial abuse with expert support on tackling consumer debt. Her Justice is

thrilled to welcome Naomi as a Staff Attorney this Fall.

Thank you, [Kramer Levin](#), for your partnership on this project.

Join us in shifting the power! [Click here to learn about the many ways to partner with Her Justice.](#)

## Our Supporters

We are incredibly grateful for the generous, uplifting support our partners and donors continue to [give to Her Justice](#) and our clients during these difficult times.

### Recent grants include:

#### The New York Bar Foundation

The New York Bar Foundation awarded Her Justice with a grant of \$5,000 in support of our Marital Debt Project which supports survivors of financial abuse and enables them to walk away from a divorce with economic security. Thank you, New York Bar Foundation, for your continued support!



#### The Brooklyn Community Foundation

Her Justice was granted \$10,000 from the Brooklyn Community Foundation as part of their Immediate Response Grants; this grant supports Her Justice in providing essential legal services for our clients located in Brooklyn who have been impacted by COVID-19. Her Justice is grateful for this new partnership during this challenging time.



#### Uber

Her Justice is a recipient of Uber's Community Impact Initiative Grants which provided \$20,000 in ride credit to be used by our clients. Thank you, Uber, for helping women living in poverty gain access to justice!



Join us in shifting the power! [Click here to learn about the many ways to support Her Justice.](#)

## Her Justice in the News

### **Police Should Apply Domestic Violence Advocates' Lessons on Strangulation to Chokeholds** *New York Law Journal*

"Given their duty to prevent and punish crime, domestic violence advocates were encouraged when so many police departments agreed that stopping abusive individuals from terrifying people with near death experiences should be a core practice for them. The NYPD has officially banned this technique in their police manual, and yet. Police should understand why a chokehold, like strangulation, should be illegal no matter who does it." – Amy Barasch, Executive Director, Her Justice

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### **How COVID-19 Amplifies the Failures of Family Court** *NYR Daily*

"Abusers can exploit the system's flaws and delayed action, especially during the pandemic, because there's a sense that courts can do very little, if anything, to hold them accountable..." – Anna Maria Diamanti, Director Family and Matrimonial Practice, Her Justice

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### **Poor Legal Clients Are Finally Getting a Break in New York** *Talk Poverty*

"If you can't come to court because you don't have enough money to pay for child care while you are coming to court, that's going to be an access issue – Amy Barasch, Executive Director, Her Justice

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### **Domestic violence groups, survivors say New York's pandemic exacerbated abuse** *Politico*

"This case is probably the most egregious one that I've heard of, but we've definitely heard of cases where police responses are slow or questionable. Unfortunately though, I can't say it's because of the pandemic." – Anna Maria Diamanti, Director Family and Matrimonial Practice, Her Justice

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