

The Voice Of Washington Women Lawyers

Dates to Remember:

- Oct 2- KCWWL Women & the War in Iraq: CLE, Film Premiere, & Public Forum, 3pm—9 pm, Seattle Art Museum
- Oct 11—2nd Annual QLaw FallTacular, 5:30-8pm, Greg Kucera Gallery (Pioneer Square)
- Oct 12- South Asian Bar Ass'n of WA (SABAW) *Mela* Dinner, 5:30- 9pm, Great Room, W Hotel
- Oct 18- PCMBA Scholarship Dinner, 6:30pm, La Quinta Inn, Tacoma
- Oct 25- Asian Bar Ass'n of WA (ABAW) 19th Annual Banquet, 5:30pm, Grand Hyatt Seattle
- Oct 26- Immigration Options for Immigrant Domestic Violence Survivors CLE, 12-6pm, Perkins Coie (3rd Ave)
- Nov 6- KCWWL Annual Holiday Gathering, 6—8pm, FareStart Restaurant (7th & Virginia)

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Sept / Oct 2007

King County Washington Women Lawyers

Washington Women: Their Quiet Sacrifice

They wake up. They prepare for the day. They pack a lunch and leave for work. They think of evening plans, of family and friends waiting at home after the job is done. They arrive home, relax for a couple hours, then prepare to do it all over again.

All in all, a typical day for the working women we know. However, for some of us here in Washington, our spouse, daughter, sister, mother, or friend never came home. And for some of us, their stories have never been heard.

To date, Washington has lost three military servicewomen while on duty in Iraq: USMC MAJ Megan M. McClung, 34, of Coupeville, WA, USARAKNG ILT Jaime Lynn Campbell, 25, originally from Ephrata, WA, and USNR POI Regina R. Clark, 43, of Centralia, WA.

McClung, a Public Affairs Officer for the First Ready Combat Team assigned to I

Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, died in Ramadi, Al Anbar province, while escorting media personnel. Megan is the only woman graduate of the US Naval Academy to die in Iraq as a result of hostile action. When killed, she was in the final month of a year-long deployment to Iraq, and had planned the Marine Corps Marathon Forward race, having been a runner and gymnast for much of her life. She is survived by her parents.

Campbell, one of two female helicopter pilots assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Anchorage, AK, died while co-piloting a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed near Tal Afar, Iraq. Campbell received her interior design degree from Washington State University but decided to pursue an aviation career after joining the ROTC program to pay for her college education. She is survived by her husband,



USARAKNG ILT Jaime Lynn Campbell

an active duty Army captain also serving in Iraq, her parents, and her sisters.

Clark, a single mom and Navy Desert Storm veteran on her third tour of duty, had received her retirement papers in May 2005, anxious to return home to her 18 year-old son. However, she was killed in June 2005 by a suicide bomber after leaving checkpoint duty at Camp Fallujah. According to the *Seattle Times*, she was the first Washington woman to be killed in the Iraq war. She is survived by her mother and son.

Iraqi Women: A Brave New World

Things have gone from bad to worse for women in Iraq.

Historically, Iraqi women enjoyed relatively more rights than others in the region, according to Human Rights Watch. The 1970 Iraqi Provisional Constitution guaranteed equal rights to women; other laws protected women's right to vote, attend school, run for political office, and own property. By 1993, men and women

in Iraq received equal pay for equal work. Iraqi women were doctors, engineers, lawyers. Labor laws ensured women equal opportunities, maternity benefits, and freedom from workplace harassment.

Though women's rights were curtailed in the 1990s by effects of UN sanctions and by former leader Saddam Hussein's acts to consolidate power, women could still attend school and

hold jobs. Now many Iraqi women no longer feel safe leaving the house. "You don't know who is your enemy," explained Nada* (identity omitted), an Iraqi refugee recently arrived from Jordan. The conflict since Hussein's fall has ushered violence into homes, streets, and marketplaces. The conflict has created a world devoid of rights and opportunities Iraqi women once knew. -cont'd, p.5



Considering Women & the War in Iraq

Message from the KCWWL President

We dedicate this edition to those who have been impacted by the war in Iraq. Women play an unheralded role in this conflict. It is with great pride that the KCWWL presents information on the impacts of this conflict on women through our October 2 CLE, *Representing Military Personnel: Hot Topics in Employment Law, Family Law, and Benefits*, through our October 2 public forum at the Seattle Art Museum, and through

this edition of The VOICE. By doing this we further our mission to inform our community about issues of social and legal concern to women.

We are exceptionally proud of our members who worked tirelessly to bring this effort to fruition. We wish to recognize Moni Law for her passion and vision. We also wish to thank Kristen Larson, Newsletter Co-Editor, Chrishendra Tucker-Scruggs (newsletter),

D. Jill Pugh (CLE), Beth Terrell, Tracy Sarich, and Tahmina Watson (public relations) for their inspired and dedicated work. When we collaborate to highlight issues of social significance, we contribute to our entire community. We hope you will share in our pride, attend our planned events, and together with us, strive to make our community more responsive to issues affecting women, wherever they live.

Letter from the Co - Editors: Our Invisible War

KCWWL Editorial Board

- **Kristen J. Larson, Co-Editor**
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“Besheret” is a Hebrew term translating to “destiny,” “soul mate,” or more loosely, “meant to be.”

Our work on this project—newsletter, public forum, and CLE— has been one continuous Besheret moment, from partnering with Kiya Boddling, director of the short documentary, *Female Faces of War*, to visiting with film participants and forum panelists. We have been honored to meet veterans, advocates, mothers, wives, therapists, veterans, Iraqis, and government officials.

Through our work, we would create more Besheret moments, connecting activist with government official, soldier with therapist, and Iraqi with American, to discuss the impact of the Iraq conflict on women. The media has neglected this discussion, rendering the conflict “our invisible war.” Yet this discussion is meant to be, and should be.

Education can enlighten to action, or at least can illuminate space to consider changes in policy or direction. Lately we have been asked to consider the success of the ‘surge’ and the promise of a troop ‘draw down’ as we weigh committing U.S. men and women to an-

other 3-5 years (estimated) of service in Iraq. Should we not also consider families long-separated by closed borders as food, health care, money, and safe travel opportunities become scarcer? Should we not consider families long-fragmented by extended, multiple tours of duty while service-members suffer from colleagues’ and commanders’ sexual harassment and abuse? Should we not consider how we will reach out to those returning from conflict zones who are afflicted with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or Military Sexual Trauma (MST)? Should we not consider families forever altered by death?

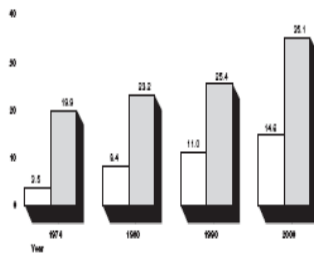
Such questions are relevant regardless of political persuasion or the place one calls home. Within these pages and within our meeting halls, we wish to create a space for this dialogue. Read this newsletter. Attend the public forum. Watch the film, *Female Faces of War*. Join a discussion unlike any you’ve attended. You will learn things you never heard or knew.

To that end, this edition of our newsletter gives voice to

women who have ‘been there,’ in words delivered from the heart. Women serve in combat situations in Iraq and now comprise 1 in 7 of U.S. troops stationed there, the largest proportion ever to serve in a combat theater. Iraqi women directly experience war in their very neighborhoods, in their homes, schools, and workplaces.

The words of these women have taught us much about military life, including the positive opportunity some women have found to gain education, develop careers, and support their family. Their words have taught us much about resilience, when each day brings uncertainty whether one will live to see the next. Their words have also taught us much about hope, as those with negative experiences seek to improve the experience of others.

Whatever your belief on the merits of the Iraq conflict, we should not turn a blind eye to its effect, positive and negative. While we cannot hope to provide a complete discussion of its effect within these pages, we hope to lend some small VOICE for women. Let the conversation begin.



Percent Minority (shaded) and Female (unshaded) in Active Duty Forces, 1974—2000. Females now comprise at least 1 in 7 active duty members.
-Source: GAO, Sept 2002

Story from the Front Lines

Note: The following are excerpts of diary entries made by a female soldier while in Iraq and after returning home to the U.S. Her name, rank, names of others and rank of others have been omitted at her request.

Oct 17, 2004: “[My superior] told me he wanted to have an affair with me. He says that he is capable of stopping, but I know he isn’t. He is a nice person... but I would never have an affair with him. I need to think about what to say to him and follow the rules... perception is reality.”

October 18, 2004: “Am I in this leadership position because I am good or because he is attracted to me?”

Oct 19, 2004: “Today I told him that he needed to maintain only a professional relationship with me. He jokingly said he was disappointed but that he understood.”

Oct 23, 2004: “[My superior] returned. He explained [how one superior had called another superior] ‘eye-candy’. He said to me, ‘That is what you are, eye-candy.’”

Nov 5, 2004: “I probably won’t be able to avoid [improvised explosive devices, sometimes referred to as ‘roadside bombs’] and firefights for that long. I am scared of screwing up. When I stopped in [my superior]’s office to discuss what he needed completed he once again called me eye candy’. I responded, ‘I can’t believe you are saying this.’ Later he indicated his interest in a relationship with me. I reiterated that was not a good idea and that it was really taking away from us getting real work done. He reassured me once again that he would treat me professionally. I asked him, ‘How many more times will we

have to have this conversation?’ He responded, ‘I don’t know.’”

Nov 8, 2004: “[My superior] was somewhat standoffish. He explained I would need to ‘just accept’ the tone of the superior’s conversation. I realized today how terribly this situation has impacted me. I want to move on and focus on what is going on here— doing well at my job. I don’t want to spend this year fighting back and forth with people I work with. I wish people knew crying is not a sign of weakness—it is a source of strength.”

Mar 13, 2005: “I know these conversations must be very frustrating for you. Remember that this person is really screwed up right now and wondering if dying is a better option—it makes me think there might be something seriously wrong with me. Now my world is pretty small. I have a room with two other people. I live surrounded by a high wall on three sides and a river on the other. I leave only in an unarmoured [sic] convoy, combat patrol or helicopter. I am never alone. I am watched.”

Apr 2, 2005: “I have now passed my seventh month in Iraq. Over nine months of practicing battle and learning survival skills trying to negotiate minefields. I sat tonight war gaming what-ifs... the what-ifs that we don’t want [to] tell others of killing ourselves and killing others. This month marks a time when I see the worst in myself and others. No one is sleeping well or they are sleeping too much...people are eating horribly and the work is arduous. I have risked my marriage, family, and life...”

May 15, 2005: “There is no rotation to Montana or ability to go home at night to a clean



Co-Editor Moni Law joins servicemen and servicewomen awaiting their journey to Iraq. - Photo courtesy of Moni Law.

hot shower or place to drive or place to cry where I am not seen. The [Vehicle Bourne Improvised Explosive Devices, or ‘car bombs’] are closer and closer. The gunfire from our towers is more common. I am not the same person you married. You will see someone broken and empty. I am tired.”

June 22, 2006: “It has been one month since I left the VA Medical Center. I was hospitalized for [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder] as a result of combat and sexual trauma I experienced while serving. I have been home for a month and have not returned to the hospital. However, today the challenge was seeing someone in [uniform]. I became so anxious I went to the bathroom to puke. The men who sexually abused me in Iraq wore the same uniform. Women wearing flowered shirts in [the] grocery store turn into soldiers in desert uniform. I swipe and glare at men that stand too close to me in the check-out line. I thought the car next to us was playing Arabic radio— I thought it was a VBIED— I thought shrapnel was going to fly in the window. Although I attend extensive therapy and take medication my PTSD

continues to worsen. I have not been able to return to work, school, nor do I function as a full participant in my own home. Many days are spent feeling like a captive in my home.”

Mar 10, 2007: “What horridness has overcome me which keeps sleep from me at night. It came to me in the garage last night. It jumped out and grabbed me when I found the sunglasses that ‘covered my pretty face.’” *‘We could not stand the thought of a woman being our equal, being a soldier, that is only for a man. So stay pretty, so that we can keep you at a distance, so you aren’t like us.’* It grabbed me in the garage and I couldn’t control it. I cried; sharing my pain does not relieve my pain. So I went into the kitchen to make tea to calm myself but found a better tool— I found a knife— and began making neat little cuts in my arm. My arm feels warm and I start to feel in control again. I go upstairs with my tea. He holds my jacket to try on. I hide my arm— it’s not bleeding— starting to feel calmer... .”

Treating the Battle-Scarred: A PTSD Primer

For some who have served in our armed forces, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is the nightmare from which they may never wake up.

PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can be associated with the experience of traumatic stress related to military service. Traumatic military stressors can include combat exposure, sexual assault and rape, sexual harassment, and providing care to victims.

PTSD is unique among most mental health diagnoses because it is tied to a particular life experience. Evidence points to four major types of symptoms: re-experiencing (mental re-play), avoidance (evading trauma reminders), numbing (loss of emotions), and arousal (excess physiological activation, heightened sense of being on guard) symptoms. Symptoms can affect an individual's ability to function in many facets of life, and may contribute to thoughts of suicide. The Associated Press reported that Army soldiers committed suicide in 2006 at the highest rate in 26 years, and more than a quarter did so while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) estimates that 17 percent of returning veterans have PTSD, severe anxiety or depression. Of the approximately 1.5 million troops that have served in Iraq, nearly 64,000 Iraq veterans have sought treatment for post-combat mental health problems. If VA estimates are correct, only a quarter of those afflicted seek treatment for symptoms.

According to Dr. Tracy Simpson, clinical psychologist and Co-Director of the Women's Trauma and Recovery

Center at the VA Puget Sound in Seattle, there is a widespread culture of non-reporting for mental health issues present among active service members and veterans.

To break the cycle and care for the afflicted, Simpson and Co-Director Dr. Tania Davis Correale helped create the Women's Trauma and Recovery Center at the VA Puget Sound. The Center protects the privacy of those in treatment by sharing care only with necessary providers and caters to women who seek a safe atmosphere designed specifically for female veterans. The program consists of the Women's Trauma track, which specializes in treating women who have experienced traumatic stress related to military service, and the Women's Addiction track, an outpatient program that specializes in treating substance use disorders together with overlapping mental health issues and social barriers to treatment. Program staff work collaboratively with staff in other departments to support women in learning new ways to recover from trauma and substance use-related problems.

Veterans may access the Women's Trauma Track by calling (206)277-6303, and may access the Addictions Track by calling the Seattle Addiction Treatment Center at (206)764-2801 to schedule an appointment in the Center's Assessment and Evaluation Clinic.

Though many of the 126,000 contractors working for the US government in Iraq return home with similar mental problems, in general only those who have active military service or qualified reservists and National Guard members may be eligible for VA health care

benefits. Qualifying reservists and Guard members who served on active duty in a combat operations theater have special eligibility for only two years following discharge from active duty, favoring early diagnosis and treatment.

Note: The VA Puget Sound is a US Veterans Affairs facility. The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs operates a PTSD Program, offering a wide range of specialized treatment. For details, see http://www.dva.wa.gov/ptsd_counseling.html.

In Depth: Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

"They say that rape is the worst crime you can survive. It is the murder of one's soul, and an extremely difficult reality to deal with...to be raped by someone you have been told you must trust and then scorned by your unit. So you try to do what is right. You go to the Army Criminal Investigation Command for help. They tell you that you are lying and they are going to press charges. No one in your unit will talk with you, fearing guilt by association. That is just the beginning of Military Sexual Trauma (MST)." -Susan Avila Smith, founder, Women Organizing Women.

MST is one type of trauma experienced by men and women through sexual assault or rape during military service. Through Women Organizing Women, Smith, who served for four years on active duty in the US Army, serves as advocate, counselor, support system, and information provider for women affected by MST. Smith is one who serves those who "fall through the cracks" of the VA care system.

According to Smith, those affected by MST fall through the cracks when they do not meet VA eligibility criteria, when they are not able to hold a job post-military service, when their PTSD is initially misdiagnosed, or when

the lack of staff training or funding results in failure to provide necessary care or care when most needed. In work with her clients, Smith stresses that her clients are not responsible for the trauma, and helps to set up a safe place for clients to stay while they grieve and get the key support they need.

Smith feels she cannot stop until kind, understanding, and educated assistance is available to all who may need it.

However, other disincentives beside gaps in VA care limit MST victims' ability to make themselves whole after the harm of the assault or rape. The military does not always ensure confidentiality. Military personnel still use the "McDowell Checklist" in questioning the alleged victim, which many have argued encourages charges of false filing and conduct unbecoming against the victim who reports the incident. The victim may face adultery charges if married at the time of the rape. The *Feres* doctrine (see *Feres v. United States*, 340 U.S. 135(1950)), which absolves the federal government of liability under the Federal Tort Claims Act for injuries to active duty members of the armed forces caused by negligence of others in the military, may be applied to keep compensation claims out of the courts.

Cont'd from p.1: A Brave New World

With the rise of conservative religious groups, women suffer from increasing restrictions on dress and mobility. Women have been negatively impacted by changes in the labor code, criminal justice system, and personal status laws. Women are regularly searched at checkpoints. Honor killings of women have increased; breach of family honor is an accepted assault and murder defense.

Economic instability has led to high unemployment and more women in traditional roles. Women serving as pri-

mary caretakers for their families face electricity shortages, lack of access to potable water, malfunctioning sanitation systems and a deteriorating health system. According to Yahya Al-Garib, Immigrant and Refugee Advocate at Seattle's Iraqi Community Center, families go one or two days without food.

Some Iraqi families have joined our Seattle-area community. Muhamed Qatrani, Iraqi Family Advocate with the Iraqi Community Center, explained that most came to the area in the early 1990s. Though the

U.S. has indicated a willingness to accept refugees from the current conflict, less than 100 have been allowed from Iraq and from refugee enclaves in Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. Families in the US are subject to FBI visits, travel prohibitions, money transfer restrictions, and endless immigration delays. Torn apart for years, their lives are indefinitely on hold as they are unable to visit, provide food or provide decent health care for family still in Iraq.

-The Iraqi Community Center is part of the Southwest Youth and Family Services Center (SWYFS), 4555 Delridge Way SW, Seattle.

Lietta Ruger: A Mother Knows

Lietta Ruger: wife, mother, grandmother, and founder of the WA Chapter of Military Families Speak Out (MFSO). Why does she do it all? For Lietta, the math is simple: military families deserve just as much support as the troops.

Ruger, wife of a Vietnam veteran, explained that her generation of military spouses "were taught to suck it up and not express their concerns about the war publicly." According to Ruger, their concern

was to show honor and respect to the armed forces and suffer disappointments in stoic silence. Ruger founded the MFSO WA state chapter, determined that things would be different for today's families.

Through her work with MFSO, Ruger counsels military spouses that raising their concerns and expressing their feelings shows support for our armed forces, though spouses are "younger and seem to carry the war on their backs." Ac-

ording to Department of Defense statistics, over half of military personnel are married, the majority aged 22-29, and 63% are employed while caring for their families and dealing with multiple deployments.

MFSO is an organization of those opposed to the Iraq war with family or loved ones in the military. Ruger's son-in-law and nephew have been deployed to Iraq for multiple extended 'stop loss' tours with the U.S. Army.

A Moment of Hope
 A moment of hope fills me up
 A moment of hope takes me away
 A moment of hope orders me
 Orders me to forget the past
 Orders me to start the present
 Orders me not to be hopeless
 Hopelessness that polarized me
 Hope, hope, hope
 Helps to survive
 Helps me to love
 Love that makes hearts beat again and say, "Goodbye to death!"
 How can I cry when there is always hope
 How can I not laugh when there is always Hope!
-Excerpt courtesy of Fanan Alshalabi, Iraqi refugee, Age 16.

U.S. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Update

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) has long been an active member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and is the first woman to serve on that committee.

On July 25, 2007, Senator Murray helped pass landmark legislation to help improve care for wounded troops and veterans when they return home from battle. The Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act passed the Senate by

unanimous consent.

The Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act:

- Requires the Department of Defense and VA to work together to develop a comprehensive plan to prevent, treat, and diagnose TBI and PTSD;
- Directs the two agencies to develop and implement a joint electronic health record so critical medical re-

ords are not lost;

- Requires the military to use VA standards for rating disabilities, allowing deviation only when the result is a higher disability rating; and
- Requires the military to adopt the VA presumption that a disease or injury is service-connected when troops who are healthy prior to service have 6 or more months of active duty.



Contact U.S. Senator
Murray
 (866)481-9186
 (toll free), or
murray.senate.gov/
emailindex.cfm



Stacy Bannerman is the author of *When the War Came Home: The Inside Story of Reservists and the Families They Leave Behind* (Continuum Publishing, 2006). She is the wife of an Iraq war veteran and is currently working to establish The Sanctuary for Veterans and Families (501.c.3) in western Washington. She can be contacted at stacy@stacybannerman.com.



The Sanctuary for Veterans and Families will create a rural retreat in western Washington providing direct support and services to veterans and military families dealing with the trauma of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Sanctuary buildings will be completed in 2008/9.

America's Military Kids are Latest Collateral Damage

-By Stacy Bannerman, Women's Media Center (Aug 6, 2007)

The children of the troops serving in Iraq are experiencing significant collateral damage at home, according to two staggering new reports on the occurrence of child maltreatment, neglect, and abuse during combat-related deployments.

The results of a three-year study recently published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* stated: "War has a profound emotional impact on military personnel and their families. The rate of occurrence of substantiated maltreatment in military families was twice as high [during] deployment." Most victims were four years old or younger and the perpetrator was usually the civilian parent who remained at home while a spouse was deployed.

An even greater finding of abuse was uncovered in a similar study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). Looking at families of enlisted Army troops with verified reports of child maltreatment, the study found: "Among female civilian spouses, the rate of maltreatment during deployment was more than three times greater; the rate of child neglect was almost four times greater; and the rate of physical abuse was nearly twice as great."

Skyrocketing stress levels in the parent left behind are one of the key factors contributing to elevated rates of neglect and abuse, according to the research. The JAMA study found that the primary offenders were non-Hispanic white civilian females, who, according to other informal surveys and anecdotal reports, are also reporting higher rates of secondary PTSD. War-related "secondary trauma" shares

some of the same symptoms as a full-blown diagnosis, including emotional withdrawal, increased anxiety, and poor anger management.

The extended deployments of 15 months or more and the reduced dwell time in between deployments are also exacerbating tensions on the home front. Another issue is the Army's rather haphazard approach to providing respite childcare, family support, and prevention services and education.

"The Army is not really grasping what's going on with the kids," said Beth Pyritz, a 27-year-old mother of five whose husband, an Army specialist, returned to Iraq in June. It's his third deployment in six years, and this time he'll be gone for at least 15 months. His previous tour-of-duty lasted 10 months, during which time their six-year-old began acting out, and their eldest, an Honor Roll student, failed a grade.

Military kids are experiencing social, emotional, behavioral and academic problems that range from mild to severe, including bed-wetting, antisocial behavior, and juvenile delinquency. In the most acute cases, adolescents have been placed in psych wards or put on suicide watch while their parents were at war.

Well over one million children have had a parent deployed in combat since 2001, but there are few developmentally appropriate programs available, and the Veterans Administration and Vet Centers do not serve individual family members. The Army does provide some voluntary resources, such as Family Readiness Groups, but these are clearly not enough. And

although the TV series, "Army Wives," portrays a close-knit group of women on base, the reality can be quite a bit different. Beth's family has been stationed at Ft. Eustis in Virginia for less than a year, and she says, "There's not a lot of camaraderie with the wives."

Resources and support, both formal and informal, are even fewer and further between for the families and children of the more than 400,000 National Guard and Reservists who have been deployed. Five years into the war in Iraq, and the military is just now beginning to recognize that these citizen soldiers and their families are struggling with different challenges from those experienced by active duty troops, and have often been more detrimentally affected by long deployments.

At the state and local level, some are taking steps to help these families cope. While the WA State Department of Veterans Affairs is just beginning to conduct research on the impact of deployments in Guard families, a Boston-based group is piloting a program for families. Strategic Outreach to Families of All Reservists (SOFAR) provides psychotherapy at no cost for the parents and the kids.

For the littlest ones, who are most often the targets of maltreatment, immediate intervention is especially critical. The early years are the formative ones. The doubling—or more—of child maltreatment that occurs also has significant, long-lasting social ramifications, giving new meaning to that old bumper sticker: 'War is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things.' -Excerpt reprinted with the permission of S. Bannerman.

Legal Resources for Active Duty and Veterans: LAMP

The *Legal Aid to Military Personnel* (LAMP) Section of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) assists in providing appropriate and efficient legal services to members and veterans of the armed forces.

According to Adam Torem, LAMP Section Chair, the Section was created as a means to share military and local law expertise among members of the military Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps, who provide active duty legal assistance. Often JAG Corps members sit for one state's bar

exam but are posted to duty stations in other states. With nine active military installations in Washington, Torem explained that sharing of expertise is essential to ensure JAG Corps members posted in Washington gain essential knowledge of local law. While the military emphasizes legal assistance with matters of guardianship, estate planning, life insurance, and power of attorney as deployment readiness issues, service members also require assistance with issues under WA lemon law, landlord-tenant and family law.

LAMP section members are currently mulling over the idea of organizing a legal clinic to serve reservists and veterans no longer on active duty. Torem noted many issues involve veterans benefits, employment transition, or protections under the federal *Service-members Civil Relief Act (SCRA)*, which affects everything from default judgments to evictions. To discuss the potential clinic or for section membership information, please contact Torem at (360) 664-1138 or at atorem@utc.wa.gov.

Legal Resources

- LAMP : <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/helpreservists/home.html>
- Army JAG: <http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal>
- Navy JAG: <http://www.jag.navy.mil>
- Resources for Reserve Officers: <http://www.roa.org>
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve: <http://www.esgr.org>

Gold Star Moms Reach Out

If you or someone you know have lost a loved one while on active duty, Washington Gold Star Mothers are there to comfort, support, and listen.

Washington Gold Star Mothers is the local chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a non-profit based in Washington, D.C. founded by Grace Seibold in 1928. On Christmas Eve 1918 during the height of WWI, Seibold received a package: "Effects of

Deceased Officer, First Lieutenant George Vaughn Seibold." To assuage her grief, Seibold visited hospitals to comfort servicemen and reached out to other mothers whose sons had died while in service. Through Seibold's efforts, American Gold Star Mothers was born, named after the gold star families placed in the window in honor of a deceased veteran.

In Seibold's tradition, Wash-

ington's Gold Star Mothers meet quarterly to support each other through their grief. The chapter also maintains an online Yahoo Group, a safe and protected way to communicate via the Internet. The group will hold its annual retreat in Capistrano, CA Feb 29-Mar 2, 2008. For more information or to join the chapter, please contact Myra Rintamaki at myrar@u.washington.edu or Shellie Starr at bsnoho-mish@aol.com.

Health Resources

- National Center for PTSD: <http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp>
- Women Veterans Health: <http://www1.va.gov/vvhp/>
- Women Organizing Women: <http://www.vetwow.com>

*These listings do not constitute a specific endorsement or referral by KCWWL.

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THE VOICE, on our website, and at KCWWL events throughout the year. If you would like more information about becoming a KCWWL ANNUAL SPONSOR, please contact Tracy Sarich at tsarich@tousley.com.



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Seattle, WA 98119
Phone: (206) 448-1777
Fax: (206) 728-2131

For Information about THE VOICE,
please contact Kristen Larson, VP
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**For more information
on our topics, visit:**

- Coastaltrain.tripod.com/wmfso (MFSO)
- goldstarmoms.com
- sanctuaryvf.org (Sanctuary)
- hrw.org/backgrounder/wrd/iraq-women.htm (Human Rights Watch)
- <http://www.swyfs.org> (SWYFS)

**Coming in Our
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- ERA Today
- Leverage
- Career Shake-up
- Going Solo?
- 100 That Matter

KCWWL

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For more newsletter issues and for a host of other membership benefits, contact Theresa Torgesen, VP-Membership, at ttorgesen@gmail.com, or visit <http://kcwwl.org/contact.html> to complete our membership form.

King County Washington Women Lawyers presents



Women and the War in Iraq: CLE & Public Forum

2 CLE (including .5 Ethics)

Venue: The Seattle Art Museum
Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2007
CLE: 3 pm—5:15 pm (only \$75.00)*
Forum: 6 pm—9 pm (free admission)

Our CLE "Representing Military Personnel: Hot Topics in Employment Law, Family Law and Benefits" includes presenter **Thomas Quinlan** of Miller, Quinlan & Auter, a Judge Advocate with the rank of Major in the US Army Reserve. Presenter **Kimberly Cox** is a Safeco attorney and Captain in the JAG Corps who previously served on active duty at Fort Lewis.

Our Forum includes the debut of a short documentary film "Female Faces of War". Discussion panelists include nationally-recognized speakers **Dr. Bridget Cantrell**, author of Down Range to Iraq and Back; **Sara Rich**, M.S.W. and mother of soldier Suzanne Swift; **Stacy Bannerman**, author of When the War Came Home; **Dr. Tracy Simpson**, Co-Director of the Women's Trauma and Recovery Center of the Seattle VA; **Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos**, Deputy Director of WA's Department of Veterans Affairs; **Julia Villalobos**, Port Security Specialist 2, Coast Guard (served in Iraq and Kuwait Feb-Aug 2003); and special appearance by video, **U.S. Senator Patty Murray** (member, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee).

To Register for the CLE, contact jill@EmploymentLawWA.com; for the public forum, contact womeniniraq@yahoo.com, and to become a sponsor, contact tsarich@tousley.com.