AN ACT TO PROMOTE PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES AS A CRITICAL WAY IN WHICH TO EMPOWER SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

POWER ACT

2025 VIRTUAL EVENT

Tuesday, June 24 at 1:00 PM

SPEAKERS

HON. VIRGINIA MARY KENDALL

Judge Kendall serves as the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Illinois. She was appointed to the federal bench in January 2006. She currently serves on the Seventh Circuit Civil Jury Instructions Committee.
She is the co-author of Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining Global Enforcement and Supply Chain Challenges and U.S. Responses (Rowman & Littlefield 2016) and Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining the Global Challenges and the U.S. Responses (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers 2012), with T. Markus Funk.
Among other topics, Judge Kendall teaches human trafficking at University of Chicago Law School, Northwestern University School of Law, and Loyola University Chicago School of Law.
She served on the Judicial Codes of Conduct Committee and the United Nation's Judicial Integrity Network. In 2018, she was the Peter and Patricia Gruber Fellow in Women's Rights at Yale Law School. Prior to her judicial appointment, she served over ten years as a federal prosecutor and as the Child Exploitation Coordinator where she tried dozens of jury trials. She has received numerous awards for her work with victims and honorary degrees for her human trafficking work and her pro bono work. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Northwestern University and her J.D. from Loyola University School of Law.

HON. LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN

Laura Taylor Swain was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on July 11, 2000, and entered on duty on August 31, 2000.
She became Chief Judge of the Court on April 10, 2021.
A native New Yorker, Chief Judge Swain graduated from Radcliffe College of Harvard University, cum laude, and from the Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Constance Baker Motley from 1982 to 1983. Judge Swain was also the first woman, and first person of color, to serve as a member of the New York State Board of Law Examiners, and served as such for 10 years prior to taking the bench.
She served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of New York from November 1996 until August 2000.
Judge Swain chaired the Advisory Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure from 2007 to 2010.
Judge Swain has served the judiciary and the community through committee and board membership of numerous organizations, and has received numerous awards as well as honorary degrees.
Since May 2017, Judge Swain has presided, by designation of the Chief Justice of the United States pursuant to the federal PROMESA statute, over the PROMESA debt restructuring proceedings for Puerto Rico.

STACY SCHECTER, ESQ.

Stacy Schecter, Esq. is currently the legal director of the Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project, where she oversees nine attorneys and legal advocates. Stacy is an experienced family law attorney with 15 years spent assisting litigants in New York City Family Court. Prior to joining Safe Horizon in 2018, Stacy spent four years as a Court Attorney to the Hon. Linda Tally at Bronx Family Court, managing a large docket of child abuse and neglect matters. Stacy also litigated child welfare matters on behalf of the city with Administration for Children's Services at the start of her legal career. She also has teaching experience as an adjunct professor of government and law at CUNY Queensborough. Stacy is a proud graduate of Hofstra University School of Law and the University of Delaware.

This event promotes pro bono legal services as a critical way to empower survivors of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault, engage citizens, and help lift victims out of the cycle of violence.

to RSVP

Please respond by June 17, 2025

https://www.nynd.uscourts.gov/power-act-2025