

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUCCESS



MLAW FALL AGENDA CONFERENCE

**NOVEMBER 23, 2024** 

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## 1994 - 2024

30 Years of Advocacy for Women's and Family Issues

30 years ago MLAW was established to harness the collective power of women and to create a statewide, non-partisan, independent coalition of groups and individuals to advocate for progressive legislative initiatives that promote and protect the well-being of women and their families in Maryland.



This call to action for legislative change has resulted in a coalition almost unique in the United States. The annual legislative conference and other activities have energized thousands of women - and male allies - to become engaged in advocacy for important issues affecting Maryland women and families.

The annual Legislative Agenda has included a broad diversity of issues and the organization's advocacy and collaborative efforts have resulted in the passage of 119 pieces of legislation enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in the last 30 years.

This extraordinary success has made a significant difference for women and families. It has established MLAW as a powerful voice for women and their priorities in Maryland.

#### MLAW provides visibility for legislation affecting women and

**families.** The fall conference develops our MLAW Legislative Agenda and a legislative briefing during the legislative session introduces the Agenda to advocates and legislators. These events focus legislators' attention on our issues and raise their visibility throughout the state. We distribute the annual Legislative Agenda to every Maryland legislator. In collaboration with our advocacy partners, we submit testimony, advocate for bills, and promote our Agenda through our large e-mail list, website, and Facebook page.

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women is proud of its achievements during the last 30 years, but there is more to be done. **Join us and help us continue to make a difference for Maryland women and families.** 

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUCCESS

#### 1994-2004

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) began as a group called the **Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women** (LAMW) and was associated for its first 10 years with the Maryland Commission for Women.

#### 2004-2024

# IN 2004 THE LAMW BECAME THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR WOMEN (MLAW), AN INDEPENDENT, 501C4 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH A DIVERSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

MLAW was established to harness the collective power of women and to create a statewide, non-partisan, independent coalition of groups and individuals to advocate for progressive legislative initiatives that promote and protect the well-being of women and their families in Maryland.



For the past 30 years, LAMW/MLAW has held an annual **legislative conference** and created the **Agenda document** with legislative proposals supported by MLAW.

Lead advocacy groups and legislators propose legislation for inclusion in the Agenda. MLAW members vote on which proposals to include.

The first Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (LAMW)

Agenda document was created for the 1994 legislative session.

The Agenda document has promoted a broad diversity of legislation affecting women and families, including:

- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- · Health care
- Reproductive rights
- Employment
- Child care
- Family law
- Equality
- Discrimination

To promote the fight against systemic racism, racial injustice, and discrimination, MLAW advocates for legislative priorities that address issues of concern to women that also disproportionately affect communities of color.



## ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS SIGN ON IN SUPPORT OF THE AGENDA.

The Agenda document is sent to every Maryland legislator and disseminated to advocates and interested citizens throughout the state.

## During the General Assembly session, MLAW:

- Collaborates with lead groups and legislators
  - Writes letters of support
- Provides testimony, legislative alerts, information, updates and outcomes.

Every year, MLAW hosts a **briefing** during the session to introduce the Agenda document proposals.

Ten years ago, MLAW added a legislative wrap-up held after the end of the General Assembly session.

MLAW supported 119 successful pieces of legislation between 1994 and 2024.

In most years, **more than half** of the legislation on the MLAW Agenda has been enacted.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF 2024-2025

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Michaele Cohen

**VICE PRESIDENT** 

**Angela McDaniel** 

**SECRETARY** 

**Sheena Foster** 

Montgomery County Commission for Women

**TREASURER** 

**Wandra Ashley-Williams** 

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**Helene Meister** 

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**Anita Riley** 

**Diana Rubin** 

**Shuchi Sharma** 

**Joan Stine** 

**Lenita Walker** 

Laura Weeldreyer

Maryland Family Network

**Dianne Williams** 

#### **STAFF**

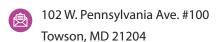
#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

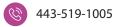
**Catherine Hill** 

#### **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

Jessica Morgan

#### **MLAW CONTACT INFO**







#### **ON THE WEB**









mdlegislativeagendaforwome5755



In celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we launched the \$30 for 30 Years campaign.

Thank you to all of the donors who participated.

#### **CHEERS TO 30 YEARS!**

Tazeen Ahmad Ella lams Diane Roca Diana Rubin Pam Beidle Elizabeth Johnson Sandy Bell Liz Joyce Laure Ruth Lorraine Blaydes **Delores Kelley** Pamela Smelser Tracy Brown Roxann King Jamila Smith Jennifer Chaffee Katherine Larrabee Kate Campbell Alice Chambers Stevenson Ellen Stifler Caroline Lewis Lorraine Chase Cynthia Lifson Pat Stocker Tara Balfe Clifford Anne Martin Dee (Mabel) Strum Michaele Cohen Stephanie McGencey Sandra Swinson Pamela Trickett Diana Conway Helene Meister Melissa Curtin Jan Molino Karen Ware Del. Nicole Williams **Dorothy Darrah** Jessica Morgan Judy Lyons Wolf Yolande Dickerson Joyce Moyer Linda Fihelly Nancy Nyland Nancy Hackerman Joann Orlinsky Planned Parenthood of Metro Washington Megan Outten Sue Hecht Catherine Hill Diana Philip Women's Law Center **Howard Iams** Mary Helen Risler of Maryland

Barbara Roberts



Delegate Linda Foley represents District 15 in Montgomery County. In 2022, she was elected to a full 4-year term after being appointed in December 2021 to finish out the term of former Delegate Kathleen Dumais, who was appointed to the Circuit Court bench. She was elected Montgomery County Delegation Caucus Chair in 2023 and joined the Executive Board of the Women Legislators of Maryland, the oldest legislative women's caucus in the United States. In 2024, she was elected treasurer. Linda also is a member of the General Assembly's Latino Caucus. Delegate Foley currently serves on the House Environmental and Transportation Committee.

Before serving in state government, Delegate Foley was the elected District 15 representative to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee where she provided effective and innovative leadership that resulted in an unprecedented level of engagement between Montgomery County, District 15 residents, and their elected representatives. Delegate Foley strives to respond to constituents' concerns, represent people of all ages and backgrounds, and listen to those with whom she agrees and disagrees before making decisions. A former journalist, she honed these skills as the national president of the 34,000-member News Guild-CWA union. Delegate Foley has been active in her neighborhood and has mentored many young women throughout her career and established a non-profit foundation, the Berger-Marks Foundation, to promote the work and careers of young women who pursue social justice initiatives.



LASHAUNE STITT, EdD CHAIR, MARYLAND
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

LaShaune Stitt, EdD, is an educational leader, social justice advocate, and community engagement specialist with over 25 years of experience championing equitable education. Dr. Stitt is a dedicated speaker, coach, and trainer, specializing in Culturally Responsive Teaching, Social Justice Sustainability, and women's empowerment. She co-founded an all-male high school in the Bronx, NY, and has served as a teacher and administrator in urban settings across New York City, Richmond, VA, and Baltimore, MD. Her work includes coaching aspiring school founders, mentoring novice teachers, facilitating culturally responsive teaching workshops, and overseeing educator pathway programs in her role with the New York City Department of Education. Dr. Stitt holds degrees from City College of NY, Mercy College, University of Scranton, and Northeastern University.

In 2013, Dr. Stitt founded Women of the World, LLC, to empower women as leaders within their families and communities. In 2020, she established Educate the World, Inc., where she served as Executive Director, developing programs for personal advancement, economic mobility, wellness workshops, and identity-affirming events for students, families, teachers, and community partners in both virtual and in-person settings. Dr. Stitt remains dedicated to addressing issues impacting BIPOC students and families through her voluntary roles throughout Maryland. As the newly elected Chair of the Maryland State Commission for Women, she continues to champion the rights and empowerment of women.

OF MARYLAND

Aruna Miller is the 10th Lieutenant Governor of the state of Maryland. She is the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor and the first woman of color and immigrant elected to statewide office in Maryland. As Lieutenant Governor, her policy portfolio includes matters relating to transportation, mental health, and STEM equity. She brings her training and expertise as a civil and transportation engineer to her work as chair of the Governor's Work Zone Safety Work Group, dedicated to making highway work zones safer and protecting the lives of workers, motorists, and law enforcement. The Lieutenant Governor also chairs Maryland's first Council on Interfaith Outreach, which convenes faith leaders from across religions and across the state of Maryland to bridge divides, increase religious tolerance, end hate, and better serve all communities.

From 2010 to 2018, Aruna Miller represented Montgomery County's District 15 in the Maryland House of Delegates, where she created legislation to invest in STEM education and streamline the regulatory process for small businesses. She was a champion for working families, survivors of domestic abuse, and the environment. During her tenure, she served on committees addressing the state budget, transportation, education, and the environment. Prior to being elected as a delegate, she worked as a civil and transportation engineer in Montgomery County's Department of Transportation, addressing public safety, traffic, and equitable access to transportation in the county.



ARUNA MILLER

U.S. SENATOR
FOR MARYLAND

Elected to the United States Senate by the people of Maryland in November 2016, Chris Van Hollen is committed to fighting every day to ensure that our state and our country live up to their full promise of equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity.

Senator Van Hollen believes that every child deserves the opportunity to pursue their dreams and benefit from a quality education, and that anyone willing to work hard should be able to find a good job. That's why his top priorities include creating more and better jobs, strengthening small businesses, and increasing educational and job training opportunities for individuals of all ages and in every community.

Senator Van Hollen started his time in public service as a member of the Maryland State Legislature, where he became known as a tenacious advocate for everyday Marylanders and someone who was unafraid to take on powerful special interests on behalf of working people. In 2002, he was elected to represent Maryland's 8th Congressional District. In the House of Representatives, he served as a member of the Democratic leadership and was elected by his colleagues to be the Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee and protect vital interests like Social Security and Medicare.



## CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

#### ARIANA KELLY

The Board of Directors of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is honored to present Ariana Kelly with the 2024 Legislative Leadership Award in recognition of and appreciation for her many years as a champion of legislation to improve the lives of Maryland women and families.

Her leadership, as both a delegate and a state senator representing District 16 in Montgomery County, has been extraordinary. Her sponsorship of dozens of bills, many of which have been on the annual MLAW Agenda, has made a significant impact on the citizens in our state.

During her 14 years in the Maryland General Assembly, Ariana Kelly's ground-breaking legislative achievements in reproductive health, violence prevention, and family economic security included lead sponsorship of more than 100 pieces of legislation. Among the 15 successful MLAW priority bills were The Contraceptive Equity Act (2016), Consent in Sex Education (2018), and the Abortion Care Access Act (2022). In the Senate, Ariana Kelly was the lead sponsor of the successful 2024 Consent



Definition bill and the 2023 legislation repealing the spousal defense to sex crimes, as well as the Equal Rights Amendment resolution. She was the original author and longtime Time To Care Act champion, passed in 2022 after a decade-long statewide campaign. States across the country have replicated her legislative achievements, which continue to inspire advocates and policy-makers on the issues that matter most to women and families.

In the legislature, Ariana Kelly served as President of the Women Legislators of Maryland, Vice-Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee, and Chair of the Joint Committee of Children, Youth, and Families. Prior to her political career, she was the Executive Producer of PBS's To the Contrary, a weekly women's issues news program. Earlier, she served as Executive Director at NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland and National Campaign Director at MomsRising.

#### HGO VICE CHAIR Bonnie Cullison DELEGATE, DISTRICT 19

"THANK YOU MLAW,

For standing with and for all Maryland Women to be leaders in the fight for social peace and equal rights!



AND CONGRATULATIONS TO FORMER STATE SENATOR ARIANA KELLY,

recipient of the Legislative Leadership Award."

Borne Cullison

AUTHORITY: Friends of Bonnie Cullison, Pamela M. Pinkett, CPA, CGMA, Treasurer











Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC



In 2024, bills on the MLAW agenda advanced Maryland's place as a nationwide leader in sexual and reproductive health.

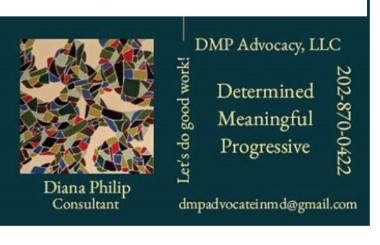
The Trans Shielding Act affirmed Maryland as a sanctuary for patients seeking gender-affirming care, sending a clear message that we will protect patients and providers from extremist out-of-state attacks on health care.

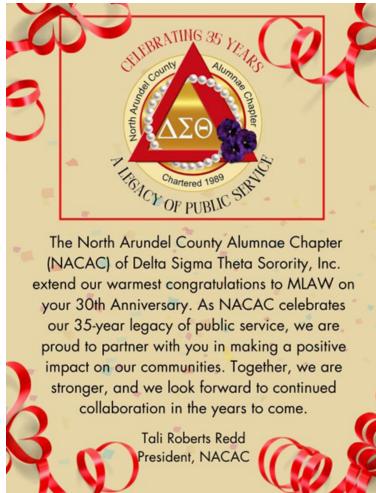
The Reproductive Freedom amendment advanced abortion, contraception, IVF, and other reproductive health care to a state constitutional right, protecting Marylander's right to decide for future generations.

Thank you for making this possible, MLAW!



Thank you, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, for your consistent and committed advocacy in promoting gender equity, reproductive rights, and healthy families since 1994.







PACE offers programs and initiatives that spark interest in public affairs and civic engagement and acts as a resource center for local government.

We work to bring our students in closer contact with the community and political leaders helping to shape the places we live.

Our programs include the largest AmeriCorps program in Maryland and the largest Nonprofit Leadership Alliance campus program in the United States.

Learn more at www.salisburv.edu/pace







## Working to end sexual assault in Maryland

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

301-328-7023 info@mcasa.org

#### Our work:

\*Public Policy

\*Sexual Assault Legal
Institute (SALI)

\*Community Outreach

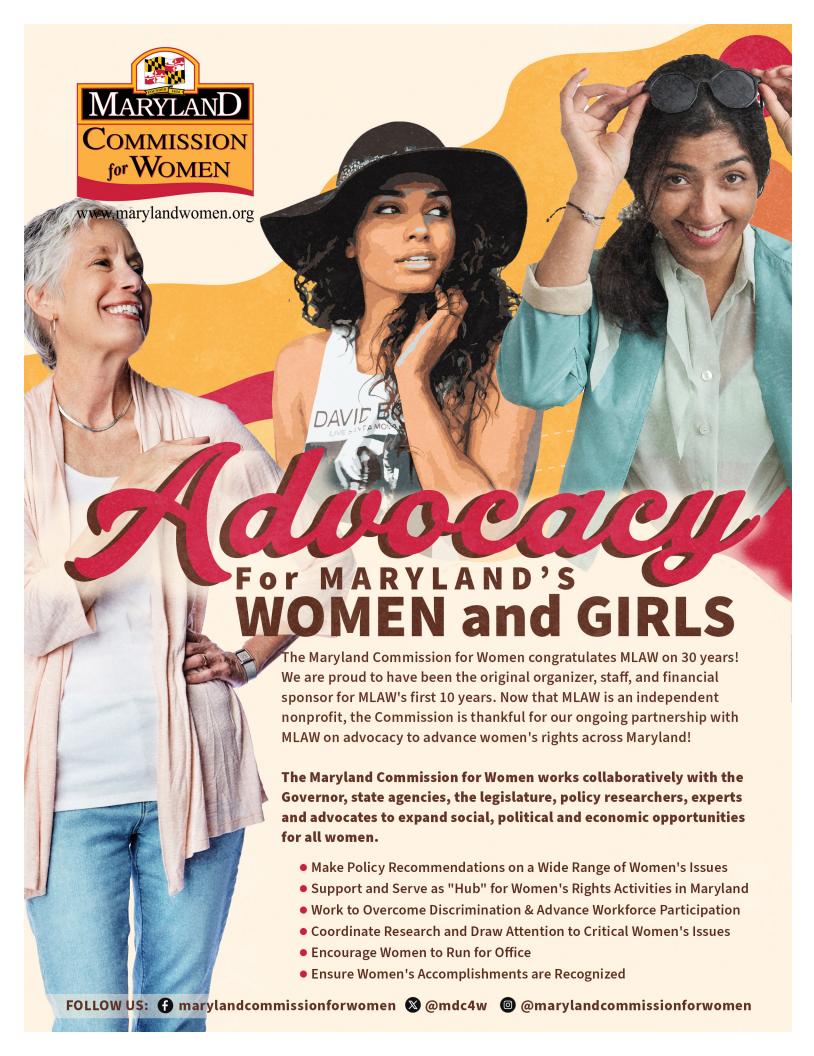
\*Education & Training

\*Technical Assistance
& Expert Advice

SALI LEGAL SERVICES:

301-565-2277 Toll-free: 877-496-SALI

mcasa.org





WOMEN'S
ACTION
COALITION,
ALLEGANY
COUNTY

#### **FOCUSED**

on issues that impact women in today's world and making change that is long-lasting for future generations.

Check us out on FB at WAC, Greater Allegany County

#### **COMMITTED**

to our mission-to create a society in which all women are free and able to live their lives in safe and healthy environments. Thank you, MLAW, for 30 years of relentless advocacy for Maryland women. We're proud to partner with you to amplify women's voices and advance justice across the state.

Women's Law Center of Maryland

#### **How We Help**

- Protective Orders
- Divorce & Custody
- Immigration remedies for survivors
- Family Law & Employment Law Hotlines
- Judicial Selections
- Legislative Advocacy

The Women's Law Center needs your help to continue this vital work—your support funds free services for survivors today and drives systemic change for future generations of Maryland

future generations of Maryland women.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Tax ID Number is: 52-1238912. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. at 102 West Pennsylvainia Avenue, Suite 100, Towson, MD 21204. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, Annapolis, MD 21401 for copying and postage costs.

Be Radical -Fund Legal Services for Survivors

Women's Law Center of Maryland 102 W. Pennsylvania Ave Ste 100 Towson, MD 21204













www.womensequity.org





Congratulations to

#### **MLAW**

advocating for women for 30 years and to

former state senator

## **Ariana Kelly**

for being honored with The Legislative Leadership Award

www.WomensDemocraticClub.org facebook.com/mcwdc • x.com/mocowdc

By authority of the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, Mary Lou Fox, Treasurer.



The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence is pleased to partner with MLAW to make Maryland better and safer for women all across our State.

#### Congratulations on 30 years of success!

#### **OUR MISSION**

To lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence.



#### **OUR VISION**

That one day Maryland will be a state where families and relationships thrive on mutual trust and respect and where there is no place for violence.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!







@MNADV



Awareness and Education



Training and Technical Assistance



Community Collaboration











95 YEARS OF "WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SUCCEED"

## **Business and Professional Women of Maryland** Congratulates MLAW on 30 Years of Advocacy on Behalf of Women and Families

All who support our mission of "Women Helping Women Succeed" are invited to join. For more information, please contact:

**Frederick BPW** 

Alice Houck abhouck1@gmail.com mepoole6@gmail.com

Mary Ellen Poole

**Hagerstown BPW** 

Julianna Albowicz julianna.albowicz@gmail.com

Susan Horst susanhorst@yahoo.com

Montgomery County BPW Southern Prince George's BPW

Lenita Walker lenitawalker@gmail.com

#### www.bpwmaryland.org



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**BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS** 





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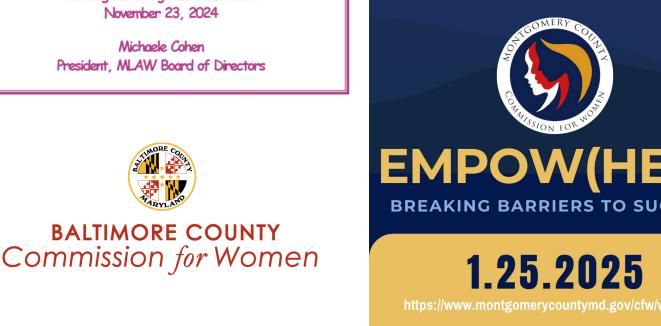
## APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING CENTER

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# Congratulations

#### National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated

from the officers and members of the BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN CHAPTER

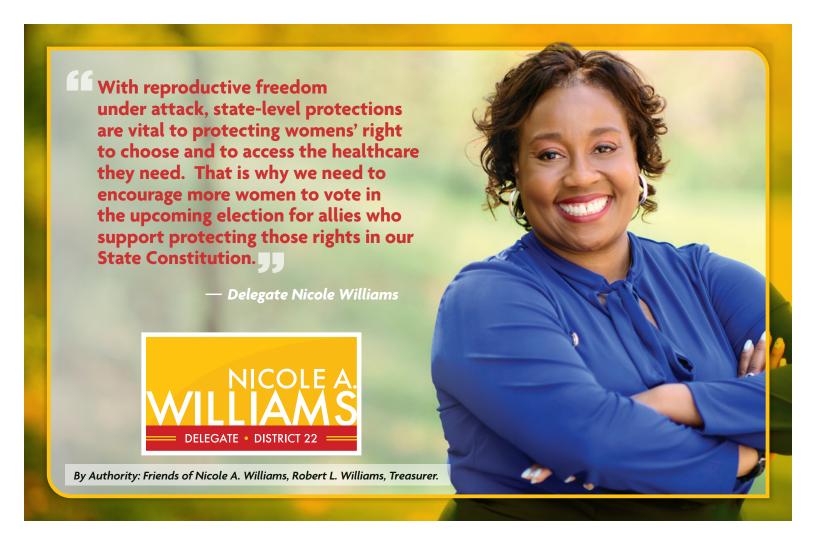






#### OFFICERS:

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Gail Moody, First Vice President, Programs
Thelma T. Daley, Second Vice President, Finance & Fund Development
Mary J. Demory, Third Vice President, Membership
Nea E. Wiggins, Treasurer
Melanie Hill-Irby, Financial Secretary
Bernadette Gilliam, Secretary



The Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated joins participants of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's Fall Agenda Conference to advocate for legislation impacting women and families in Maryland.





# Congratulations MLAW on 30 years of success!



MARYLAND FAMILY NETWORK

marylandfamilynetwork.org



Congratulations to the
Maryland Legislative Agenda
for Women on your 30<sup>th</sup>
Anniversary of protecting and
advancing the lives of women
and families!

-Ms. Sheena Foster

Commissioner, Montgomery County Commission for Women Board Secretary, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women fostersheena@gmail.com



## The Maryland Chapter of the National Organization for Women

and our local chapters

# Congratulate and thank MLAW

for **30 years** of advancing legislation to improve the lives of women and girls in Maryland.

#### **MARYLAND NOW CHAPTERS**







CARROLL COUNTY
MARYLAND

#### **CONVENING CHAPTERS**

Allegany County NOW | Lower Shore NOW | Mid-Shore NOW







Our mission is to honor the principles of SisterSong by championing reproductive justice as a fundamental human right for all Marylanders. We believe that everyone deserves the freedom to make informed decisions about their bodies, health, and futures, free from discrimination, coercion, and barriers.

@@ReproJustice\_MD

reproductivejusticemaryla nd.org



Celebrates MLAW's

30 years improving the lives of Maryland's women and families through better laws.

AliciaHannon.com





Learn more at executivealliance.org



women leaders in Maryland



#### **Celebrating 30 Years of Advocacy: 1994-2024**

### 2024-2025 Membership Form

MLAW's membership year is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

I Want to	Mal	ko a D	ìff	arancal
I vvalit to	IVICII	ne a b		erence:

Wallt to Make a Difference:			
I Want to be an MLAW Member			
Type of Membership (check only one):			
<ul> <li>\$40 - Individual</li> <li>\$75 - Organization revenue under \$25,000</li> <li>\$125 - Organization revenue over \$25,000</li> <li>\$25 - Student</li> </ul>			
If you are joining as both an individual and an organization, please complete a separate form for EACH membership.			
I Want to Make a Contribution to the \$30 for 30 Campaign ☐ \$30			
I Want to Do More by Making an Additional Donation			
□ \$500 □ \$250 □ \$100 □ \$50 Other			
Payment:			
☐ A check for \$, made payable to MLAW, is enclosed.			
■ I want to pay through PayPal. Go to the MLAW website at: <a href="http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org">http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org</a> or use the QR code below.			
Individual or Organization:			
Please spell out organization name. No acronyms.			
Contact Name (for organizations only) Mailing Address:			
Phone Number: Email:			
IMPORTANT! Please include an email address. Most of the business of MLAW will be conducted by email.			
Mail this completed form to:  MLAW			

102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 Towson, MD 21204



#### NOTES