
WOMEN LEAD IN MARYLAND:

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS



MLAW LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA CONFERENCE

November 1, 2025

AGENDA

Registration, Networking, and Continental Breakfast

Welcome and Greetings

Michael Cohen, President, MLAW Board of Directors

Delegate Dana Jones, President, Women Legislators of Maryland

Legislative Presentations

Questions will be taken at the end of each group

Group 1 – Presentation of Proposals

Facilitator: Jan Molino

Group 2 – Presentation of Proposals

Facilitator: Angela McDaniel

Group 3 – Presentation of Proposals

Facilitator: Tahira Mussarat Hussain

Keynote Speaker

Representative Sarah Elfreth, Congresswoman for Maryland's 3rd District

Wrap-Up

Adjourn

1994-2025

31 YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN'S AND FAMILY ISSUES



31 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 124 pieces of legislation enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in the last 31 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 31 years, but there is more to be done. **Join us and help us continue to make a difference for Maryland women and families.**

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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MLAW PUBLIC CONTACT INFO



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ON THE WEB



mdlegagendaforwomen.org



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mdagenda4women.bsky.social

SPEAKER BIO

DELEGATE DANA JONES

**PRESIDENT, WOMEN
LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**



Delegate Dana Jones currently serves as President of the Women Legislators of Maryland. She previously served as First Vice President and Secretary of the group also known as the Women's Caucus. A Democrat, she represents District 30A, an area that includes the city of Annapolis and surrounding areas within Anne Arundel County. Initially appointed to the House of Delegates in 2020, she was subsequently elected to a full four-year term in 2022 and was appointed to the Appropriations Committee in 2023. She has been a member of the Latino Caucus, the Veterans Caucus, and an associate member of the Jewish Caucus.

Delegate Jones is an advocate for women and families. She supports reproductive rights, including legislation in 2023 to establish a right to reproductive freedom in the Maryland Constitution, which appeared as Question 1 during the 2024 election. She has introduced bills to regulate

school bus capacity, exempt baby care products from the state sales tax, establish a State Disaster Recovery Fund to help jurisdictions recover from natural disasters, and supported a bill requiring the Department of Health to cover the cost of certain at-home therapies for children facing complex mental health issues. During her tenure, Delegate Jones has also championed health care, small businesses, and food insecurity.

Before her election to the House, Delegate Jones worked as a campaign manager, a legislative aide to Senator Ben Cardin, a senior researcher at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Emily's List, and as an independent political consultant. She has received awards for her leadership from several Anne Arundel County organizations. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology at Towson University. Delegate Jones is married and has a son.

SPEAKER BIO

REPRESENTATIVE SARAH ELFRETH



**CONGRESSWOMAN FOR
MARYLAND'S 3RD DISTRICT**

Sarah Elfreth broke barriers in 2018, becoming the youngest woman ever elected to the Maryland State Senate. Over six years, Sarah built a reputation as one of Maryland's most effective legislators, passing 91 bipartisan bills into law. Her work has focused on issues that directly impact Maryland families, including protecting the Chesapeake Bay, expanding prenatal care, and supporting veterans with PTSD. She has been recognized as "Legislator of the Year" by numerous organizations and serves on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, helping coordinate State and federal environmental clean up efforts. Known for her collaborative approach, Sarah brings people together to solve problems and do what's right.

Elected to represent Maryland Congressional 3rd District in 2024, Sarah looks forward to representing the communities of Maryland's Anne Arundel, Howard, and Carroll Counties with the same energy and dedication to partnership on Capitol Hill. A proud graduate of Towson University and the Johns Hopkins University, Sarah lives in Annapolis with her dog Ollie, where she enjoys hiking, being on the water, and collecting oyster plates.



*Congratulations on Celebrating
31 Years of Advocacy
for Women's and Family Issues
and the
Fall Legislative Agenda Conference
November 1, 2025*

*Michael Cohen
President, MLAW Board of Directors*

Congratulations to
MLAW on another
successful conference

Diana Rubin

"Thank you, MLAW,
for your tireless fight to
protect and sustain
our rights."

HGO VICE-CHAIR
BONNIE CULLISON



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

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.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



AWARENESS AND EDUCATION



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

WWW.MNADV.ORG

✉ info@mnadv.org

📍 1997 Annapolis Exchange Pkwy
Suite #300, Annapolis, MD 21401

📞 301-429-3601

Congratulations to MLAW for always keeping their Eye on the Prize and looking out for Maryland's women and families.

EMERGE
MARYLAND

www.EmergeMARYLAND.org

We inspire women to run, we hone their skills to win.



BANO
VOICE FOR
VOICELESS
Serving women and families

Founder :- Tahira Mussarat Hussain
tahiram2021@gmail.com



MONTGOMERY COUNTY (MD) ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Our Collective Impact: Empowering Our Community For Success

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

Proudly serving our community since 1970

We **MLAW**
Congratulate

For more than 30 years of tireless advocacy for progressive legislation and policies that protect the well-being of Maryland women and their families.



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www.mcaedst.org



Working toward a Maryland where everyone can choose how to live as they age.

aarp.org/mdadvocates



WE CAN joins all MLAW members in support of a robust legislative agenda to improve the lives of women and girls in Maryland!



Congratulations MLAW!

2025 FALL CONFERENCE

WWW.WOMENSEQUITY.ORG



Our Wishes for Another Successful Year fighting for women and families
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch



charlotte CRUTCHFIELD
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 19



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB



Postpartum Support International Maryland Chapter

PSI brings together families, communities, and professionals working to support families during pregnancy, pregnancy loss, and the postpartum period.

Free Materials



Contact us
maryland@postpartum.net

PSI

PSI HelpLine
1-800-944-4773
postpartum.net

Celebrating

MLAW

as women take the lead in Maryland to protect our rights

WDC stands with you!

www.WomensDemocraticClub.org
facebook.com/mcwdc • womensdemclubmoco.bsky.social

By authority of the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, Deborah Williams, Treasurer.

MELISSA CURTIN



Women's
Law Center
of Maryland



The Women's Law Center provides critical free legal services for survivors of intimate partner violence and drives systemic change for future generations of Maryland women. Join us today.

Services We Provide:

- Protective Orders
- Divorce & Custody
- Immigration
- Family Law Hotline
- Employment Law Hotline
- Judicial Selections
- Legislative Advocacy

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 Pennsylvania 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.

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SURVIVORS TODAY**



**I'm proud to sponsor the
2025 MLAW Conference.
Now, more than ever, we
must empower and uplift
all Maryland women.**

— Delegate
Nicole Williams

**NICOLE A.
WILLIAMS**

DELEGATE • DISTRICT 22

By Authority: Friends of Nicole A. Williams, Robert L. Williams, Treasurer.



**The Maryland Chapter of the
National Organization for Women**
and our local chapters



We Thank MLAW

**FOR ADVANCING LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE
LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MARYLAND.**

P. O. Box 7716 | Silver Spring, Maryland 20907 | (410) 347-1455 | www.marylandnow.org
For information about joining a chapter, contact membership@marylandnow.org



Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Working to end sexual assault in Maryland

Our work:

Public Policy

Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)

Community Outreach

Education & Training

Technical Assistance & Expert Advice

**TRAINING &
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE:**

**301-328-7023
info@mcasa.org**

**SALI
LEGAL SERVICES:**

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

MCASA.ORG

Maryland Commission for Women & MLAW: Celebrating 60 Years Advocating for Women & 20 Years of Partnership!

1960's

- *Organized First Statewide Women's Rights Conference * Passed First Equal Pay for Equal Work Law *
- *Supported Family Planning Programs * Advocated for Liberalization of Abortion Laws *
- *Recommended Repeal of Anti-Miscegenation Law*

1970's

- * Organized ERA Referendum Campaign * Enacted Laws to Protect Household Workers *
- *Developed Job Training for Displaced Homemakers * Eliminated Sex Segregated Job Ads *
- *Organized "Speak Outs" Across the State * Conducted Fair Share Credit Law Campaign *
- * Developed "Assault is a Crime...(even if the assailant is your spouse.)"*

1980's

- * First State Employees Family Leave Policy * Women's History Schools Partnerships *
- * Founded Maryland Women's Hall of Fame with Women Legislators of Maryland*
- * Needs Assessment for Programs Serving Women *

1990's

- * Founded and staffed Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (*became MLAW 10 years later*) *
- * Researched Gender Composition of Maryland's Boards & Commissions * Sexual Harassment in Schools & the Workplace * "Battered Spouse" Bill * Abortion Rights Law & Referendum *

2000's

- * Legal Rights in Marriage and Divorce Publication * *Battered: What Can I Do? A Survival Manual* *
- *Maryland Women's History Project *MLAW Becomes Independent Organization *
- * Women Moving Forward: Justice Involved Women & Re-Entry *

2010's

- **Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour* * Women's Health and Wellness Resources * Maryland Women's Heritage Center *Task Force to Study Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance *
- * Advocated for Stronger Pay Equity Law * Women's Issues Clearinghouse*

2020's

- *Over-the-Counter Birth Control Access Collaborative * Maryland Women in Elected Office Report *
- *Reproductive Freedom Amendment **Time To Care Act* * Women's Organizations Strategic Convenings *
- * State Responses to Federal Issues Advisory Group *

www.MarylandWomen.org





BALTIMORE COUNTY
Commission for Women

Proud Supporter of the 2025 MLAW Fall Conference
"Women Lead in Maryland: Protecting Our Rights"

The Baltimore County Commission for Women proudly supports MLAW in advancing policies that uplift women and families across Maryland. We are committed to **promoting equity, strengthening communities** through legislation, and **fostering leadership, education, and civic engagement** where building a future where every woman's voice is heard.

Together, we are **empowering women, inspiring meaningful change, and advancing equality** for a stronger, more inclusive Maryland.

To learn more, visit us at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/women



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER

proud sponsor of the
2025 Fall Agenda Conference
for the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

It is a distinct honor to extend greetings
on behalf of the
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Prince George's County Chapter,
serving youth and adults throughout the county
for the past 16 years.

Our national theme of "Continuity of Service in Action"
speaks to who we are as **"Women in the Lead"**
and our commitment to **"Protecting Our Rights."**

Lady Carolyn Culver
Chapter President

Lady Eddie Lee Marsh
National President and CEO
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

www.tlodpgcc.org

Tazeen
Ahmad

Congratulations to
MLAW for 31 years of
powerful advocacy.

Elizabeth Joyce

Member of the
Board of Directors



<https://harfordcounty-md.aauw.net/>



Montgomery County
Business and
Professional Women

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SUCCEED

Business and Professional Women advocates for
working women, equal pay, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

All are welcome to join us in the fight for equality
through local and national advocacy efforts.

For more information, contact Susan Horst
susanhorst@yahoo.com



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**AAUW Maryland is proud to sponsor
the 2025 MLAW Legislative
Conference!**

*AAUW – Advancing gender equity
through education and advocacy*

Website: aauw-md.aauw.net
Email: aauw-md@aauw.net




WLB
Women's Legislative Briefing

STRONGER TOGETHER:
Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values

 SATURDAY,
JANUARY 31, 2026  THE UNIVERSITIES
AT SHADY GROVE

montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/wlb.html



SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



2025-2026 Membership Form

MLAW's membership year is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

I Want to Make a Difference!

I Want to be an MLAW Member

Type of Membership (*check only one*):

- ☐ \$40 - Individual
- ☐ \$75 - Organization revenue under \$25,000
- ☐ \$125 - Organization revenue over \$25,000
- ☐ \$25 - Student

If you are joining as both an individual and an organization, please complete a separate form for EACH.

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: <http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org> or use the QR code to link directly to our secure Paypal account.

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 via email.

Mail this completed form along with your check to:

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

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (MLAW) is a 501(c)4 organization. Because we engage in legislative advocacy, contributions to MLAW are not tax-deductible.



mdlegagendaforwomen.org