

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO



NOTICE FROM THE CLERK NO. 20-20

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
AND THE ATTORNEY'S ROLE IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS P.O.W.E.R. ACT EVENT

In its continuing series highlighting the high rates of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Puerto Rico and how such violence or behavior harms the most vulnerable members of our society,¹ the United States District Court of Puerto Rico (“USDCPR”) and the United States Probation Office (“USDCPO”), in partnership with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico’s Women Advocate Office (“PRWAO”), will hold a virtual event on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020**. This second event aims to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault during the current COVID-19 pandemic and the pivotal role of attorneys in legal processes related to such matters.

The event’s feature speakers are: Lersy Boria-Vizcarrondo, Esq., Solicitor PRWAO; Madeline Bermúdez-Sanabria, Esq., Deputy Solicitor PRWAO; and Liz Sepulveda-Arroyo, Deputy Solicitor Education and Support Services PRWAO.

The program will run from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., and it will be hosted through the Microsoft TEAMS application. Every effort will be made to obtain accreditation from the Puerto Rico Supreme Court’s Continuing Legal Education Program. A very limited amount of spaces will be available, with reservations on a “first come, first served” basis. Requests for reservation will only be received through the Court’s registration application.

Prior to submitting your registration application, be advised that:

- You should click on the registration application link embedded in your email invitation.
- Each attorney must make his or her own reservation.
- Attorneys must be in good standing to register
- Participants must commit to attend the entire event.
- Attorneys with confirmed spaces will be provided a URL link to access the virtual event.
- The deadline to reserve is **Friday, September 11, 2020**.
- Attorneys with a confirmed space who do not attend must explain reasons in writing.
- No telephone calls will be accepted.

¹ On September 4, 2018, the President of the United States signed S. 717, the “Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent (POWER) Act of 2018” (P. L. 115-237). The POWER Act authorizes our judicial district to lead at least one public event, in partnership with a State, local, tribal, or territorial domestic violence service provider or coalition and a State or local volunteer lawyer project, promoting Pro Bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and engage citizens in assisting those survivors.

After the reservation period has closed, the Office of the Clerk of Court will send a confirmation notice to registered attorneys with a reserved space, with the link to access the event, to the email address registered in the CM/ECF system. Any cancellations must be notified on or before September 18, 2020 to prd-cle-registration@prd.uscourts.gov.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 9th day of September 2020.



MARIA ANTONGIORGI, ESQ.
CLERK OF COURT

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