



OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY  
2019 DEC 17 PM 12:55

MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

DEC 17 2019

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 2 of the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act of 2002, effective April 11, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-296; D.C. Official Code § 16-1052), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

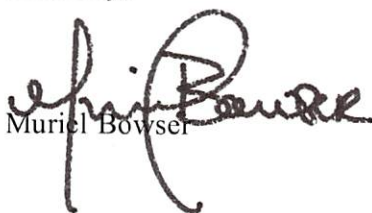
Ms. Laila Leigh  
1954 Columbia Road, NW Apt 201  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

for reappointment as a community member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, for a term to end July 20, 2022.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,  
which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_.

To confirm the reappointment of Laila Leigh to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Laila Leigh Confirmation Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

Ms. Laila Leigh  
1954 Columbia Road, NW Apt. 201  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

as a community representative member, of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board,  
pursuant to section 2 of the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection  
Orders Act of 2002, effective April 11, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-296; D.C. Code § 16-1052, , for a  
term to end July 20, 2022.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,  
upon its adoption, each to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

# LAILA E. LEIGH

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Break the Cycle**

Washington, DC

#### *Legal Services Manager*

Jan. 2014 - Present

- Conduct training and ongoing supervision of staff attorneys, volunteer attorneys, and law student interns
- Supervise, set goals with and for, and review the performance of legal services staff
- Represent youth ages 12 to 24 in all aspects of domestic violence and domestic relations litigation, and provide legal advocacy services in related criminal matters
- Cultivate collaborative partnerships and relationships with national and local agencies, community members, volunteers and supporters with the goals of assessing, analyzing and proposing solutions to issues and problems surrounding provision of dating and domestic violence services for youth
- Provide training and technical assistance to key community partners and professionals including advocates, attorneys, social workers, and educators
- Facilitate workshops for youth on their legal rights and on recognizing healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Develop, implement and monitor progress toward short- and long-term strategy and goals for legal services programs
- Participate in writing legal services program budgets and budgets for special projects and grants, and manage expenses
- Track program outcomes and efficacy for reports to funders, and prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual reports
- Assist in and support fundraising, media and communications efforts that further program goals
- Serve as public representative of organization and expert on issues of teen dating and domestic violence

#### *Legal Intern*

May - Aug. 2008

- Trained District of Columbia universities' campus police on responding to stalking and dating violence on campus
- Taught Break the Cycle's Rand-tested *Domestic Violence 101* curriculum to teens, including pregnant and parenting teens

### **Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.**

Riverdale, MD

#### *Family Law Staff Attorney*

Mar. 2011 - Jan. 2014

- Represented low-income clients in all aspects of complex divorce, contested child custody, and domestic violence protective order litigation in three counties with a focus on immigrants and survivors of domestic violence
- Liaised with community organizations, police, court personnel, and team of eight staff to coordinate client care and ensure the safety and economic stability of clients and their children
- Chaired state-wide Family Law Task Force where responsibilities included coordinating trainings and providing leadership for family law attorneys

### **The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law Columbus Community Legal Services**

Washington, DC

#### *Clinical Fellow*

Aug. 2010 - Mar. 2011

- Researched and assisted in the implementation of the Clinic's community legal education initiatives
- Developed promotional materials for diverse audiences, including: clinicians, alumni, and prospective students

#### *Families and the Law Clinic Certified Student Attorney*

Aug. 2009 - May 2010; Jan. - May 2009

- Staffed a walk-in legal clinic through the Clinic's community outreach program
- Represented clients in protection order cases, child custody cases, domestic-violence based immigration cases such as U Visas and VAWA petitions, and provided non-legal systems advocacy

### **Survivors and Advocates For Empowerment (SAFE)**

Washington, DC

#### *Court Advocate/On-Call Advocacy Program Advocate*

Dec. 2010 - Mar. 2011

- Oriented survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to the civil protection order process, provided legal information, assisted with drafting civil protection order petitions, and developed personalized safety plans
- Answered calls Metropolitan Police on the scene of dating and domestic violence crimes
- Coordinated receipt of emergency services such as shelter, food, locksmith, transportation and counseling after court hours

#### *On-Call Advocacy Program Volunteer*

Aug. 2009 - Dec. 2010; Apr. 2007 - Feb. 2009

#### *On-Call Advocacy Program Response Line Advocate*

Feb. - Aug. 2009

#### *Court Advocate Intern*

Jan. - Apr. 2006

### **Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE)**

Washington, DC

#### *Legal Intern*

May - Dec. 2009

- Conducted legal research, co-authored motions and briefs, and facilitated WEAVE's walk-in legal clinic
- Prepared and submitted nine domestic violence-based immigration applications, i.e.: VAWA self-petitions, U Visas, and I-192s

**Legal Momentum***Immigrant Women Program Legal Intern*

Washington, DC

Sep. – Nov. 2008

- Collaborated on official comments submitted to DHS on regulations affecting battered immigrants
- Furnished technical assistance to professionals from service organizations catered to immigrant victims of domestic violence

**International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers***Economic Research Analyst*

Washington, DC

Aug. 2006 – Apr. 2008

- Tracked and analyzed union membership and construction industry data, and developed data reports and presentations

**Park Jeong Edi English Academy**

English Instructor

Daegu, South Korea

Oct. 2004 – May 2005

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**PUBLICATION**

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Colleen Gallopin and Laila Leigh, *Teen Perceptions of Dating Violence, Help-Seeking, and the Role of Schools*, 16(1) PREVENTION RESEARCHER 17 (2009).

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**SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

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Presenter, Domestic Violence Advocacy Certification Training (DVACT), Washington, DC, November 19, 2015, June 23, 2015, and November 21, 2014.

Co-Presenter, *Assisting Student Survivors of Sexual Assault, Domestic/Dating Violence, Stalking or Harassment in the On-Campus Grievance Process*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual You Are Not Alone District of Columbia College and University Conference, Washington, DC, July 14, 2015.

Presenter, *Advocating for Young Survivors*, National Training and Institute on Protection Order Practice for Attorneys and Advocates, Washington, DC, May 27, 2015.

Keynote Speaker, *Start Talking Tech! Relationships, Technology, and You*, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence iStand Youth Summit, Tampa, FL, February 21, 2015.

Panelist, *Hope in Hashtags*, Maryland Coalition against Sexual Assault Annual Women of Color Network Conference, Rockville, MD, November 6, 2014.

Presenter, *Dating Violence, Response, and Intervention Strategies*, Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women Staff Training, Washington, DC, October 16, 2014.

Presenter, *Dating Violence: Advocating for Young Survivors*, Nebraska County Attorneys Association Fall Conference (3.5 hour training for CLE credit), Omaha, NE, October 9, 2014.

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**EDUCATION AND HONORS**

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**Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America**, Juris Doctor, May 2010

- Class Rank: 64/210 (Top 30.5%)
- Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Outstanding Student Award, 2010
- Charles and Louise O'Brien Fellowship for pro bono service, 2008

**Loyola University Chicago**, Honors Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Political Science, *magna cum laude*, April 2004

- Gannon Award for women's leadership, 2004
- Presidential Scholarship for academic excellence, 2001 – 2004
- Damon Scholarship for academic excellence, 2000 – 2001

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**ADMISSION TO PRACTICE**

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Maryland, 2010

District of Columbia, 2014

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**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

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**Spanish**, proficient in oral and written Spanish, provide direct representation to Spanish-speaking clients, experience in sight translation and written document translation

**Farsi**, basic conversational



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

## Laila Leigh, Esq.



Ms. Laila Leigh is a Legal Services Manager at Break the Cycle.

Break the Cycle is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire and support young people to build healthy relationships and a culture without abuse. Ms. Leigh oversees all aspects of Break the Cycle's Legal Services Program, whose team provides direct, holistic legal representation to 12-24 year old survivors of dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Ms. Leigh and her team represent youth in a broad range of civil cases and advocate for young survivors throughout the criminal justice process. Laila trains adult professionals on dating and domestic violence laws that affect teens, on recognizing abuse in teen relationships, and on effective intervention strategies for youth. Laila also manages Break the

Cycle's youth education and outreach initiatives in Washington, DC, focused on building healthy relationships and understanding legal rights.

A resident of Ward 1, Ms. Leigh is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bars. Laila earned her Juris Doctor from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and her Honors Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University of Chicago.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Gianelle Rivera, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** November 18, 2019  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of a resolution nominating Crystal Jacobs, Lenore Jarvis, Karen Barker Marcou, Shannon Sigamoni, Laila Leigh, and Ashley Joyner Chavous to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

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**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Elizabeth Cavendish