OUR MISSION:
To provide free legal services to individuals whose rights have been violated by involvement in commercial sex.
Message from Amara’s Founders and Co-Executive Directors

It has been an incredible two years of work for the Amara Legal Center. We are proud of our accomplishments, especially providing free legal services to over 90 clients in the D.C. metro area who have been harmed through commercial sex. One of these clients is Julia* - a survivor of childhood sex trafficking, who was arrested for prostitution at the young age of 16 during a police sting operation.

Can you imagine being arrested for a crime you not only didn’t commit, but were actually the victim of? This story is all too common among our clients at the Amara Legal Center.

At the time, Julia’s pimp, who was forcing her to have sex with men against her will, was able to escape the police and was not arrested. To this day, Julia’s pimp has no criminal record. Meanwhile, Julia is living with a criminal record that haunts her as she searches for a job, housing, and educational opportunities.

On December 2, 2014, the DC Council, which is the legislative body for the District of Columbia, approved the Sex Trafficking of Minors Prevention Amendment Act. By offering immunity from prosecution to any victim under the age of 18, the bill acknowledges that “children being sold, or selling themselves, for sex is a form of sexual abuse that victimizes the children.” The Act provides a safe harbor to child victims of sex trafficking and mandates referrals to services.

We’re thankful the tide is finally turning, and that we could be a part of enacting change. The bill is a tremendous step forward in our fight against sex trafficking, but our fight isn’t over. Amara aims to continuously train police forces to treat survivors of sex trafficking as victims, not criminals, to push for further legislation in DC, and to urge remaining states who have not passed similar bills to do so.

*Name has been changed to protect confidentiality

Sincerely,

Stacie Reimer and Cara Gardner
Founders and Co-Executive Directors
Amara Legal Center
The Amara Legal Center

was founded in 2013 by a group of dedicated D.C. residents

Amara conducted an informal survey

500 self-identified victims seek services in the Washington, D.C. area

AMARA IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT ADDRESSES THE LACK OF ACCESSIBLE, TRAUMA-INFORMED LEGAL SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS HARMED BY COMMERCIAL SEX IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. METRO AREA

Amara successfully lobbied for the passage of

the Sex Trafficking of Minors Prevention Amendment Act of 2014

AMARA HAS FORMED PARTNERSHIPS WITH 10 LOCAL NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Amara provided 80 individuals with free legal services

Amara trained 12 local service providers on identifying survivors of sex trafficking

AMARA IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION IN THE D.C. AREA DEDICATED SOLELY TO SERVING DOMESTIC SURVIVORS' LEGAL NEEDS
2015 PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Amara partners with local organizations by giving and receiving referrals to ensure that each client has access to both legal and social services.

In Washington, D.C. alone, the trafficking of children is a $100-million industry. Nationwide, 300,000 children are forced into prostitution and child pornography every year. - Washington Times

Thanks to the Women’s Bar Association Foundation, the Office of Victims Services, the Jovid Foundation, and the Brokell Foundation, the Amara Legal Center had a successful 2015 grant year. Amara is thrilled to continue its important legal work in 2016. We were honored to partner with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLC, Dhali PLLC, Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein, Fox LLC, Capital City Ball, Eventstagers, Yoga District, and Stop Modern Slavery.

In August 2015, Amara moved to a new office space with Ropes & Gray LLP in downtown D.C. and is grateful for their continued support. We are also fortunate to have our second office at Catholic University Columbus School of Law and to participate in an externship program with the Catholic University students. The overwhelming majority of our client and fundraising work is done by volunteers and pro-bono attorneys.

Amara is always in need of pro bono attorneys and volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds. If you are moved by our mission, please contact us at info@amaralegal.org.

Donations make our work possible. Please visit our website: www.amaralegal.org to help survivors in need.

Thank you for your support!
2015 REVENUE SOURCES

- Grants: $40,000
- Corporations: $5,850
- Events: $17,303
- Individual Donors: $17,297

2015 EXPENSES

- Program Services: $44,312
- Management and General: $13,021
- Fundraising: $10,173

Contact us at: info@amaralegal.org and at www.amaralegal.org
To donate: www.amaralegal.org/donate