A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of Amara,

I write this message with gratefulness in my heart and hope for the new year! As the executive director of the Amara Legal Center, I am both proud of all our successes in 2016 and humbled by the outpouring of support shown by our community of clients, supporters, partners, staff and board of directors. Below are my highlights:

First, 2016 was a year of growth for the Amara Legal Center. Together, we were able to grow the organization to a staff of five full-time employees. The additions of Rebecca Eng-Wong (Development and Operations Manager), Yvette Butler (Staff Attorney), and Elizabeth Landau (Staff Attorney) truly turned the Amara Legal Center into a powerhouse of survivor support and advocacy in the D.C. metro area.

Second, 2016 was a year of improved service delivery and outcome tracking. With the help of a grant of in-kind consulting services from Fair Chance DC and a capacity building grant from the DC government, Amara has been able to accurately identify our strengths and our challenges, has created metrics and systems to track client successes, and has created methods to communicate how our unique approach to survivor services changes not only individual lives, but entire communities.

Finally, 2016 was a year of increased safety, dignity and empowerment for our clients. We saw clients obtain jobs after successfully expunging their criminal records. We saw clients enter into safe housing after obtaining civil protection orders against their abusers. We saw clients reunited with their children. And most importantly, we saw clients gain the confidence they needed to demand justice for themselves in the face of multiple adversities. Amara was proud to walk with our clients each step of the way in 2016. Please join me in celebrating our accomplishments together!

With a grateful heart,

\[Signature\]

Stacie Reimer
THE TEAM

STAFF

Stacie Reimer - Executive Director
Rebecca Eng-Wong - Development & Operations Manager
Yvette Butler - Staff Attorney
Elizabeth Landau - Staff Attorney
Paul Fore - Staff Attorney (hired February 2017)

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Program Associate, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Radha Patel
Assistant Vice President, Federal Public Affairs, McGuireWoods LLP

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Amara's largest program is its **direct legal representation program**. Amara primarily receives clients through partnerships with local referral sources. Currently, Amara serves between 65-75 clients at any given time. These cases involve child custody, civil protection orders, criminal record expungement, criminal defense cases, victim-witness advocacy, and various other types of civil cases.

Amara has recently been engaged in **policy advocacy** for a vacatur statute covering federal and local D.C. offenses. The vacatur statute, if passed, will allow an individual who was charged and/or convicted of nonviolent crimes while a victim of human trafficking to petition to have the conviction vacated, or erased. Amara assisted in writing this bill and formed a coalition of 12 nonprofits to advocate for the bill. The vacatur statute has been introduced recently in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Amara is engaged in **advocacy and outreach**. Our attorneys regularly conduct trainings with nonprofit lawyers and social services organizations on identifying a survivor of sex trafficking and referring this population to appropriate services. As a result of these trainings, many trainees realized that they have had clients who were survivors of sex trafficking, but did not know how to properly identify and refer them for services. After an organization is trained, Amara typically sees an increase in referrals from the organization. Furthermore, Amara conducts trainings for survivors in-house at our partner organizations. These trainings focus on the legal rights of survivors, how to navigate the legal system, and various other practical topics.
YEAR IN REVIEW

LEGAL

- Provided free legal services to 152 clients
- Provided advocacy in 42 criminal defense cases
- Expunged 25 criminal records
- Provided victim-witness advocacy for 25 clients
- Successfully completed 11 custody cases
- Obtained 9 civil protection (restraining) orders

*Note that the majority of Amara's criminal defense cases are for low level prostitution misdemeanors. It is very common for survivors of sex trafficking to be wrongly arrested for prostitution as a result of their victimization.

TYPES OF CASES

- Victim-witness: 14%
- Expungement: 14%
- Criminal defense: 26%
- Other: 9%
- Custody: 6%
- CPO: 5%
- Referral: 20%
- Divorce: 2%
- Name change: 3%

*Referralbrief advice | Victim-witness advocacy | Expungement/record sealing | Civil protection (restraining) order

**Less than 2% of cases were for the following: civil suit for damages, pardon, revenge porn, OHR complaint, visitation, child welfare, search for birth mother, public benefits, living will, at the intake stage

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92% of Amara’s clients are connected to social services. Amara attorneys work diligently to both connect clients with social services and strengthen clients’ existing relationships with social services. Amara credits much of its success to its partnerships with multiple local nonprofits which provide counseling, housing, and case management to our clients.

Amara’s recidivism rate is 4%
Amara provided either criminal defense or criminal record expungement services to 71 clients in 2016. Of these clients, only 3 were re-arrested, or 4%. Compare this with the recidivism rate nationwide, which is 40% (http://correctionalnews.com/2011/04/14/study-recidivism-rates-lingers-40-percent/). Amara credits its success in this area to the high amount of quality time spent between lawyers and clients, as well as Amara’s work to connect our clients with vital social services.

The majority of Amara's clients are in school or employed
The impact of mistreatment, discrimination and sexual exploitation are great. Of the 71 clients whose employment statuses are known and are able to work (not disabled or incarcerated), 49 are employed or in school. Criminal records keep clients from employment. Furthermore, the impact of trauma and unstable housing and poverty present many obstacles to survivors of sex trafficking finding employment. Amara hopes to create innovative solutions to these obstacles in 2017 and beyond.
YEAR IN REVIEW

POLICY

- Broke ground to create a diversion program* for individuals charged with prostitution at D.C. Superior Court
- Created and led an anti-trafficking vacatur statute coalition with 12 organizations
- Led the D.C. Human Trafficking Task Force’s policy working group

*This program will allow individuals who have been charged with prostitution to seek social services as an alternative to traditional criminal punishment

ADVOCACY

- Trained 8 legal and social services organizations on how to properly identify survivors of sex trafficking
- Held 5 awareness-raising events in the local D.C. community
- Hosted 5 outreach events
  - The Vagina Monologues
  - Spring Happy Hour
  - Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event
  - Breaking Free: A Survivor’s Journey Film Screening
  - Holiday Happy Hour

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Sara* was referred to the Amara Legal Center by fellow partner organization Law Students in Court in the fall of 2016. Sara was referred to Amara because she had a criminal record of prostitution in DC. This record was a result of her victimization through exploitation in the commercial sex industry. Sara has a job in a small private medical office and has one daughter. As a single mom, Sara struggles to provide for her daughter, even though she works full time. In the summer of 2016, Sara applied for a job at a large hospital. The hiring process was going very well and she did well in her interview for the position. However, the hiring manager then did a criminal record check. After her records were checked, Sara was not given the position. Sara felt demoralized, especially because the job she was applying for would have been a substantial raise and would have helped her provide for her child.

An Amara attorney intervened and went to work doing a legal intake with Sara, gathering her criminal records and court documentation. Then the Amara attorney wrote a motion to seal her criminal record and filed it with DC Superior Court.

In the first week of January 2017, a judge ruled on the motion to seal and granted our motion. The attorney immediately informed Sara that she no longer, under DC law, has to disclose this criminal record on job applications. Amara attorneys now eagerly wait to hear good news about Sara’s future job applications. Amara believes that our work will allow Sara to find a higher paying job in the near future and therefore Sara will be able to better support herself and her family.

*Client’s name has been changed to protect her identity and privacy
The Amara Legal Center is pleased to report that we have been growing steadily as an organization since our founding. Our funding streams have also continued to grow steadily and their sources have increased in diversity. If you have any questions about our financial reports, please contact Executive Director, Stacie Reimer, at stacie.reimer@amaralegal.org.
FINANCIALS

INCOME & EXPENDITURES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017 (projected)</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
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AMARA LEGAL CENTER,  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<td>Federal Grants</td>
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<td>DC Government Grants</td>
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<td>Non-Federal Grants</td>
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<td>Event Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent &amp; Services In-Kind</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising, Marketing &amp; Website</td>
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<td>Bad Debt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dues &amp; Subscriptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance &amp; Bonding</td>
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<td>Legal Filing Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>License &amp; Registration</td>
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<td>Office Equipment</td>
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<td>Payroll Processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development &amp; Education</td>
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<td>Professional Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Service Fees</td>
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<td>Rent &amp; Services In-Kind</td>
<td>42,000</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
<td>109,392</td>
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<td>Service Fees</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Telecommunications</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$227,801</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

| Change in Net Assets            | (6,595) |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year |       |
| $40,426                         |       |
| Net Assets at End of Year       | $33,831 |
THANK YOU

TO OUR PARTNERS

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THANK YOU

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Annika Pettitt
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Rachel Prout
Reid Rector
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Allan Ament

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Tatiana Barros
Jeannie Baumann
Joe Bernstein
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As we have entered into a new year full of uncertainty, we are reminded of how important it is to seek hope and restoration as one united voice in defense of our clients. Please consider joining Amara’s Network for Good this year by committing to a monthly donation that would make our collective voices even louder in the community. Amara’s reputation among our clients, their peers, partner organizations, and community leaders in the D.C. metropolitan area grew significantly in 2016, as well as the number of survivors identified due to numerous trainings and advocacy efforts spearheaded by Amara. The number of service referrals Amara received as a result of these factors have stretched our internal resources extremely thin. Monthly support from you, our valued partner, will allow Amara to increase its capacity to lend a helping hand and voice of advocacy for every single client who asks for our help. It is not the desire of Amara’s team to turn away anyone seeking our legal assistance. However, 2016 marked the first year that our attorneys were unable to take on every single case that was referred to them. Amara’s staff works long hours to meet the needs of our clients, however there remains much to be done to increase our reach in the community. To accomplish this, we need stable, helping hands to empower our clients as we seek justice for them.

Join us today by visiting www.amaralegal.org/donate