



Gratitude and Hope Amidst the “Apocalypse”

In this season of gratitude, we are especially grateful for the support you have shown us this year. We also want to give a massive shout out to our team for all of their hard work representing clients from home offices, couches, kitchen tables, wherever they needed to work from in order to advocate for our clients’ stated interests. We are grateful for a racial justice movement that is only gaining momentum and for that reason, we are spending this year’s No Show Ball focusing on how Systemic Racism and Racial Bias in the Legal System Impact our Clients. Each week we will highlight one of our practice areas and share how our clients face systemic racism and racial bias on a daily basis through over-policing, harsher sentences, bias from judges, and more. Stay tuned and learn how you can be part of balancing the scales!



Our Board

A Message from Board Member Cindy Fox

As I suspect is the case for many of us, I have been challenged to find things to be grateful for this Thanksgiving season. But as much as 2020 feels apocalyptic, it is in this very apocalypse where I can find both hope and gratitude.

Things have been bad, it’s true. Under siege with the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been forced to socially distance from family and friends, wear masks to keep each other safe, and wash our hands until they are raw. Millions have lost their jobs or businesses and now struggle to pay the rent or feed their families. New incidents of police brutality, evidence of systemic racism and killings of unarmed Black people confront communities across the nation daily. Close to home, the recent death of Karon Hylton-Brown, a family member of an Amara staff member, stirs despair in me.

Things are even worse for Amara’s clients, the majority of whom are Black women. These days they confront lose-lose choices in social and economic circumstances that are particularly grim. For some, to remain “quarantined” means being trapped in living situations with those who exploit and abuse them. The viability of sex work as a means of survival mirrors the deteriorating

economic prospects of their customers and the increasing fears of contracting COVID. Sex trafficking victims are forced to engage in other activities like pornography to fulfill “quotas” set by their traffickers.

But the convergence of these crises and their widespread impacts presents us all with an opportunity. According to Giovanni Bazzana, a professor at Harvard Divinity School, the apocalypse is a time of revelation, a period of actually seeing reality. It is only by seeing reality and acknowledging truth that we can start to make real change.

So this November, I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the change that Amara Legal Center is working to effect: how the legal system treats those engaged in sex work, how society develops and implements policies that affect those who are involved in sex work, how our community considers and engages with those working in the commercial sex industry, and in how we apply justice equally, regardless of the color of one’s skin. As we begin this season of thanks and with hope for a brighter year ahead, I hope that you will continue to support our work, and be a part of the change Amara’s clients need.



Upcoming Events

December: 6th Annual NO SHOW BALL

Our 6th annual No Show Ball (NSB) will take place between December 1st - 31st, to raise awareness about human trafficking and increase support for trafficking survivors and sex workers in the DMV. We understand that our clients cannot focus on their legal matters if basic needs are not met. Sometimes, this means buying our clients breakfast or lunch, paying for a Lyft to get them to court, or buying baby formula when they regain custody of their child. Your donations go towards these collateral client needs and programmatic costs that are not covered by our grants such as filing fees, process servers, criminal record relief representation in Maryland and Virginia, and our criminal defense work. By donating, you are not only supporting a worthy cause, but you’re influencing how the legal system interacts with our clients by providing them with legal representation. With black and brown clients from underserved communities, proper representation and support is crucial to leading a self-determined life.

Please join us on Monday, November 30th at 5:30 pm, as we host the [NSB 2020 kickoff!](#) If you want to share with a non-Facebook user, they can watch us on YouTube Live. Follow our [Youtube channel](#).



During the live stream, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and learn how our clients are impacted by systemic racism and racial biases in the legal system and why 75% of the clients we serve are black and brown women who have been involved in the commercial sex trade by choice, coercion, or circumstance. Be sure to invite your friends, family, and peers to learn more about Amara and to join the party!

Do you have a question we can answer during the No Show Ball kickoff? Email us at Info@AmaraLegal.org.

JANUARY: January is Human Trafficking Prevention month

We will be participating in several events from town halls, resource fairs, to fireside chats. Stay tuned next month for details.

Ways to Give

Federal Workers Can #ShowSomeLove to Amara, #43434 in the 2020 CFC

The 2020 [Combined Federal Campaign](#) continues until January 15th, 2021. CFC connects federal workers and retirees with non-profit organizations to which they can contribute. This year's theme is Show Some

Shop with Amazon Smile to Benefit Amara Make a difference this holiday.

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3819394 to generate donations for Amara Legal Center and check out our [AmazonSmile Charity Lists](#) to donate items we need most.

Love. Show your love and appreciation to everyone who is working together to support, care for, and change our community. If you're a federal worker or retiree who wants to get involved visit <https://givecfc.org/> and use our CFC #43434 to donate to Amara Legal Center.

Visit www.amaralegal.org/donate.



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