



# WATCH Post

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## EVERYBODY'S ENTITLED TO MY OPINION

### Danger to the public in more ways than one

By Susan Lenfestey

The new year should begin with hope and light and imagination of good things to come. This one begins, instead, with the most desolate of scenarios—the massive death, destruction, and suffering found in the receding waters of the tsunami, whose merciless wake extends from Malaysia to Tanzania.

While mourning these staggering losses, most of us also distance ourselves, enduring only the digital images of ravaged coastlines and countries.

But even at home there was death and suffering that should not be ignored. The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's statistics show that in 2004 at least 13 women were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband or intimate partner, or family or household member. At least seven children were murdered in similar circumstances. And an additional three friends or family members were also murdered in domestic violence related incidents. According to the Minnesota Planning Department domestic violence victims account for over 25 percent of all violent crime victims in Minnesota.

The oft-heard refrain in domestic violence court is, "He's not a danger to the public," indicating a belief that as long as the victim is the defendant's

wife or girlfriend and he is ordered to stay away from her, the public is not in harm's way. To believe this, of course, requires a perilous leap of faith. Police officers would be the first to tell you that domestic calls are among their most dangerous, and a batterer's rage and fury often spills over to afflict family members, friends, and even strangers.

In May 2004, Diane Levy was stabbed and killed by her husband, Frank Levy, who stabbed her 15-year-old daughter and another family member who tried to intervene. Thankfully, they survived.

In September 2004, Casandra Current was also stabbed to death along with her mother and step-grandfather, allegedly by her ex-boyfriend, Bryant Jones. The week before, Current fled her home after being beaten and raped by Jones. She and her mother obtained an order for protection against him the day before they were murdered. She had done all she could to stop the abuse.

And in November 2004, Chai Soua Vang, allegedly insulted and threatened by a group of other deer hunters, responded by shooting six of them.

The one thing these men had in common was earlier incidents of domestic violence. Though Vang was

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## WHAT'S NEW

### Warm welcomes

WATCH gives a big welcome to **Dawn Dougherty**, our new volunteer coordinator. Dawn moved to Minnesota in May 2004 from Boston, Massachusetts, where she recruited and trained sexual assault and domestic violence advocates. In addition to the education and training she has done to end violence against women, Dawn is a yoga instructor. Next time you come into the WATCH office, make sure to welcome her.

**Joan C. Peterson** joined the WATCH board in November. Joan is a senior staff attorney for Qwest. She is a former Minneapolis city attorney, who worked courageously to prosecute domestic violence cases. In 2002, WATCH recognized her contributions to improving domestic violence prosecution with a Gold WATCH award. Joan will lend her considerable expertise to assist with program planning.

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What we've been WATCHing

***The mission of WATCH is to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of violence, particularly against women and children, and to create a more informed and involved public.***

## Beyond our borders

By Marna Anderson

The 16-year old rape victim sat outside the courtroom with her mother and several strangers waiting for their cases to be called when the clerk announced in a loud voice, "The rape case is about to begin. If you're here for the rape case, please come forward." It's not difficult to imagine how embarrassed the young girl and her mother felt as they made their way to the courtroom amidst the stares.

This happened this past year in Bulgaria. It was just one of many incidents that reinforced the need to start monitoring the courts and to start educating court personnel on violence against women. Bulgarian women's groups, with the assistance of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, are rising to the challenge. For ten years, they have been documenting such incidents and organizing to end violence against women in their society.

At the invitation of Cheryl Thomas, director of the Women's Human Rights Program of Minnesota Advocates and former executive director of WATCH, WATCH participated in its first international training on court monitoring. I traveled with Judge Kathryn Quaintance to the city of Sofia, Bulgaria where Cheryl, Judge Quaintance, and I spent three days with the in-country organizers and volunteers planning and discussing how to implement a 10-month court monitoring project in four jurisdictions throughout the country. Funded by the Open Society Institute of Sofia, the project's goals are to use court monitoring to provide safety for women, to hold offenders accountable, and to promote transparent courts as

part of a healthy democracy. Pushing to create a system where victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are treated with dignity and given the support needed to pursue justice can put an end to situations like the one described above.

Since WATCH's beginnings, board members, volunteers, and staff have discussed expanding WATCH beyond Hennepin County. Bulgaria, however, never seemed in the realm of possibility! In 2001, WATCH developed and marketed *How to Start A Court Monitoring Program*. The manual has sold to 37 states and five countries, and we receive calls and emails regularly from groups around the country interested in starting a court monitoring project or organization. WATCH provides technical assistance and training on court monitoring to many groups each year.

We have realized from our conversations that hundreds of individuals, especially women, are seeking ways to improve the justice system in their communities. They are dedicated to creating a system that works for everyone—not just a few. As our project in greater Minnesota shows, holding systems accountable looks different in each jurisdiction depending on the local beliefs, social network, and particular (or peculiar!) members of the justice system. WATCH has been the clearinghouse for court monitoring for 12 years, and we maintain contact with other court monitoring organizations through newsletters and conferences. With the support of the Philips Family Foundation, we will be contacting all the programs that have purchased our

start up manual to find out more about their local court monitoring efforts and to explore other ways WATCH can be of assistance.

It is with this in mind that WATCH begins 2005. In addition to conducting daily monitoring in Hennepin County, we are looking to expand our national presence, to see how our dozen years of monitoring in Hennepin County can improve the justice system for women throughout Minnesota, the United States, and, yes, other parts of the world. It is an exciting time to be part of WATCH. I invite you to get involved and become a court monitor or donor to WATCH. In doing so, you will join hundreds of others beyond our borders determined to prevent violence against women through meaningful systems change. ☐

### Domestic abuse law in Bulgaria

When Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights conducted its first study of domestic violence in Bulgaria in 1996, it found that domestic violence was a serious and pervasive problem not being addressed by the Bulgarian government. The Bulgaria Gender Research Foundation, based in Sofia, has been working closely with Minnesota Advocates to change that. Since 1994, Minnesota Advocates has led eight delegations to support Bulgarian women's organizations in their advocacy efforts. Now pending in Bulgaria's parliament is a bill creating a civil order for protection law modeled after Minnesota's domestic abuse statute. For more information about this important legislation, go to [www.mnadvocates.org](http://www.mnadvocates.org) and click on Women's Program. ☐

*continued from page 1*

never charged with domestic assault, a December 6 Star Tribune article describes an incident on Christmas Eve 2001, when police responded to a 911 call. Vang told police he waved a handgun and threatened to kill his wife during an argument about their impending breakup. Though Vang spent Christmas in jail, no charges were filed. Would he have been deemed a “danger to the public” and charged if he had threatened to kill someone else with a gun?

Somehow, we are failing to take these early acts of violence as the serious warning signals they are.

Perhaps it's because on some level domestic violence is still considered a “private” crime. Perhaps it's due to the myth that the violence is focused on only one victim, and if she changes her behavior, so will he. Perhaps it's because domestic violence is still referred to as a “domestic dispute,” as if both victim and batterer have a role in the violence.

In some cases, it's because of a lethal lack of communication between individuals and departments within the justice system. And sometimes, it's simply every judge's and prosecutor's nightmare—a decision made with the best information to take a chance on an apparently remorseful and salvageable defendant.

For a number of reasons, we are failing to hold these offenders accountable in a meaningful way, and the pain of the consequences is spread well beyond one victim or one family.

Jennette Turner, a friend of our executive director (and elementary

school classmate of my eldest daughter) knows something of that pain. Her father, John R. Turner, a well-known antique rug dealer who lived in Minneapolis, was killed on Christmas day in 1999, protecting a tenant from her estranged husband. Jennette's younger sister found his lifeless body on what should have been a day of joy and celebration.

Knowing of the husband's previous history of abuse, Turner refused to give him a key to her apartment when he came to Turner's house asking for it at 2:30 a.m. on Christmas morning. For that refusal, Robert Taylor beat him to death with a metal dye stamp. After one mistrial due to a deadlocked jury, a second trial was held and Taylor was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. He, too, had previous encounters with the law and had been convicted of second degree criminal sexual conduct in 1986, and fifth degree assault in 1987 and 1990.

Jennette's anguish is reflected in her victim impact statement, part of which is reprinted here with her permission. “The fact that his death was violent makes the hurt worse. I hate it that his last moments were angry. I'm terrified that he suffered. My body often feels like I'm going to implode, that the pain I feel is so great it will kill me, too. My heart hurts all the time. I miss my dad physically—I want to touch him, smell him. I want to see his hands. I want to watch him working in his shop. I want to hear his voice. And I can't. It's hard for me to believe this. I try to will him back. I bargain with God to give me five more minutes with him so I can tell him how much I love him one last time, so I can say goodbye. I never got to say goodbye.”

We can and should send money and prayers to those suffering on the far side of the world.

But we need to do far more here at home, too. Critics lament that there was no tsunami warning to alert those on the coastal areas of the approaching wall of water. A batterer's early and repeated criminal charges *are* that warning in the tsunami of domestic violence, and how the criminal justice system responds is a matter of life and death, at least in my opinion. ☐

### VOLUNTEER NOTES

✍ Before a probable cause hearing alleging terroristic threats and felony charges of violating an order for protection, two attorneys read aloud lines of a letter the defendant sent to the victim. One attorney called a line “poetic” and joked about it. The letter contained terroristic threats, some of which were read with a mocking tone.

✍ The sentencing hearing for a defendant convicted of false imprisonment was scheduled for 9 a.m., but neither the defendant, judge nor prosecuting attorney was on time. At 9:30 a.m., the prosecutor called to say he was getting a flu shot, and the hearing was rescheduled for the following week. The defendant would be out of custody for another week before he was sentenced to prison.

✍ I thought that the most interesting aspect of today's monitoring was the jury selection process. The defendant is black, unlike any of the potential jurors. What does this say about one's right to a “jury of one's peers”?

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\* WATCH, along with many other non-profit organizations, had to say good-bye to two friends in late 2004: former Minnesota governor Elmer Andersen and John Hartwell. Both men dedicated much of their time, talent and financial resources to improving the lives of others. They are greatly missed by many. ☹

### Volunteers needed

Become part of a dynamic organization working to improve the justice system. Monitor court hearings and lend your skills to social change.

WATCH's next volunteer training will be held on the evenings of June 7 and 9, from 6-9 PM.

Contact Dawn at 612-341-2747, or at [ddougherty@watchmn.org](mailto:ddougherty@watchmn.org) for more information. Or to complete a volunteer application go to [www.watchmn.org](http://www.watchmn.org).

### Challenges to systems advocacy

by **Emily Saunoi-Sandgren**

WATCH has monitored the criminal justice system of Hennepin County, Minnesota, for 12 years. Our direct experience has thus been in large, metropolitan courts. Violence against women and children, however, is not a strictly urban experience. Rural and urban courts alike handle cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse and neglect. It should come as no surprise that some of the issues identified in Hennepin County over the years can be found in courthouses throughout the state.

In recent years, WATCH has received an increasing number of calls from individuals living in greater Minnesota asking us to monitor violence against women cases in their local courts. Various organizations across the state have also contacted us with an interest in starting court monitoring efforts like ours. From trainings in other parts of the country, it has become clear that the appropriate court monitoring strategy for any jurisdiction depends on a host of geographic, demographic, socio-economic, ethnic, historical, legal and practical considerations. While urban models are available, few, if any, rural models exist. There is thus a significant information gap regarding effective monitoring strategies in non-urban areas.

As a first step in closing this gap, WATCH looked to greater Minnesota to help describe and define what it means to do systems advocacy in rural areas and to identify factors that could affect a small community's ability to engage in court

monitoring and other approaches to systems accountability.

#### **Project methodology**

This project consisted primarily of qualitative research through interviews conducted with 16 non-urban domestic and sexual violence advocacy organizations over the phone and via email. These organizations, which provide services to 35 of Minnesota's 87 counties, constituted a representative sample in terms of community size and location. WATCH used a standardized, open-ended interview format where each organization was asked the same questions but was free to answer any way it chose. Five on-site interviews were also conducted to experience the day-to-day operations of these organizations as well as observe court hearings with victim advocates. This report's insights and recommendations are based on the perspectives of victim advocates in these rural jurisdictions.

#### **Advocacy models**

Advocacy groups across Minnesota utilize a variety of approaches. A direct-service approach provides service to clients who have or are experiencing violence in their lives. An example would be a safe house or shelter for women and children leaving abusive homes. A systems advocacy approach identifies patterns and trends and pushes for change on an institutional level. WATCH would be an example of this approach.

All of the organizations interviewed in this project combined direct-services with systems advocacy. This two-pronged approach can be especially challenging when a client's wants do not

coincide with the systemic change an organization is seeking. Many communities partially solve this problem by engaging in systems advocacy through a coordinated community response that draws together key criminal justice system players to collaborate on systems change as well as coordinate community-wide violence prevention efforts.

#### **Interview highlights**

WATCH was gratified by the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response to the project from the organizations interviewed. They had many suggestions for how WATCH can better train and educate on systems advocacy in non-urban communities and hoped for a renewed connection to other advocacy organizations across the state.

It is no secret that abused women in smaller communities encounter many of the same obstacles as their urban counterparts in finding help and safety, but often to a higher degree. Some of these obstacles include isolation, cultural acceptance of violence against women, lack of support by the courts and a prevalence of weapons. Not surprisingly, in Minnesota and Wisconsin, about one in four domestic killings in recent years have taken place in the most rural counties.<sup>1</sup> Each of these obstacles was addressed by the organizations interviewed. The following paragraphs highlight the primary systemic issues that inhibit effective advocacy for organizations in greater Minnesota.

<sup>1</sup> Linsk, Rick, "Suffering in Silence," *The Pioneer Press*, December 19, 2000.

*continued from page 6*

## ***Lack of affordable housing and transportation***

The lack of affordable housing and access to transportation are two of the greatest factors that prevent rural women from leaving an abusive environment. Advocates in east central Minnesota reported that their county funding for affordable housing only goes to single individuals, leaving families adrift. Crime victims are not given priority either. Advocates in southwestern Minnesota reported that their closest safe housing for women and families is 70 miles away. Without transportation, women and families cannot make the trip. Across the state, advocates confirmed that women with children are staying in abusive relationships to provide shelter and food for their children.

## ***Lack of resources***

Funding sources for women and children are often nonexistent in rural communities. Recent state funding cuts and funding reallocations have increased the already dire financial situations of organizations serving rural communities. Across west central Minnesota, several counties rely on one advocate per county to serve all of the advocacy needs of victims of domestic violence. One of these advocates reported that her responsibilities include answering a 24-hour county crisis line, finding women safe shelter, providing legal advocacy in court, training law enforcement and community members on issues of violence against women and

providing safe visitation for families, all while building constructive relationships with criminal justice system personnel to make change on a systemic level. No one person should have to bear the entire burden of advocating for the safety of abused women and children.

## ***Troubling inconsistencies among jurisdictions***

Fifteen of the 16 organizations interviewed provide services in more than one county. One organization in south central Minnesota provides all of the domestic violence and sexual assault services for nine counties. Advocates from this organization find that the more rural the county, the longer the process to establish trust and connections with community members. Being from the community helps. An advocate from a different county was filling in for a colleague, but local police officers said they would wait for her colleague to return before sharing their regular reports of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes.

These organizations also find that advocacy successes in one county often do not translate into another. For example, advocates working in two different south central counties noted the differences in how law enforcement handles order for protection violations. One county takes the violations very seriously and has had great success in prosecuting violators. The neighboring county, however, sees orders for protection as useless documents, rarely penalizing violators.

## ***Institutional relationships***

Relationship building can be an uphill battle in any community, but is of particular difficulty in smaller communities where you know central Minnesota talked about a difficult transition period after a staff member left the organization. The staff member was related to

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## **2004 Support from Foundations, Corporations and Organizations**

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the local sheriff and had been able to create a positive working relationship with law enforcement. When this staff member left, the organization had to begin their relationship with law enforcement anew.

## ***Community support***

It is a daunting task to have a community recognize that domestic and sexual violence exists, that it is a crime, and that a community must be engaged for there to be effective change. An advocacy organization in central Minnesota has operated for over twenty years with a steady stream of clients, but the community it serves still refuses to grant it credibility and acknowledge the prevalence of violence against women. Its recent attempt to provide needed violence prevention education and support groups for youth in the local school system was rejected.

Each of the issues discussed above looms large for advocacy organizations in greater Minnesota. Often, they feel like they are fighting an uphill battle, but progress is being made. The following paragraphs highlight the systems advocacy strategies these organizations use to better their working relationships and interactions with the criminal justice system and the community at large.

## ***Criminal justice intervention programs (CJIP): court monitoring and defendant tracking***

The majority of organizations interviewed had a CJIP working to coordinate a consistent and effective criminal justice system response to domestic assault

crimes. CJIPs track all domestic assault cases within a particular jurisdiction to identify crime victims and provide them with services and monitor the justice system's response. Their goal is to improve arrest and conviction rates.

CJIP coordinators spend most of their time monitoring daily court hearings. Unlike at WATCH, they also work directly with victims, accompanying them to court appearances. A CJIP coordinator is often faced with conflicting advocacy strategies, where the expressed needs of their clients run counter to the overarching systemic changes needed to better serve all victims of domestic violence. A CJIP coordinator thus must wear two different hats: one hat for the individual needs of a victim, who may return to an abuser or not want to cooperate with the prosecution, and the other for effective prosecution of domestic violence cases and improved offender accountability across the system. This is a difficult balancing act.

## ***Coordinated community response and trainings***

The greatest successes that advocates described in their interviews occurred when they felt the community was truly involved in taking measures to end violence against women. These measures were often developed by a group of professionals that met on a regular basis to discuss current issues relating to domestic and sexual violence. Members coordinate their efforts to prevent domestic and sexual violence and to hold abusers appropriately

accountable by preparing and signing agreements binding their institutions to work toward the proposed institutional changes.

In eastern Minnesota, a countywide domestic violence task force organizes annual trainings for criminal justice system personnel on issues of domestic violence. Its members also make community presentations on domestic violence awareness to engage community members in taking an active role in ending violence against women.

## **Conclusion**

Great efforts toward positive social change are evident in communities across greater Minnesota. However, great barriers inhibiting the growth and strength of this social movement also exist. This project is another step forward. WATCH will use the information we gathered to better serve those non-urban organizations interested in developing court monitoring as a systems advocacy tool. ☐

## **Systems Advocacy Resources**

Domestic Violence: The criminal justice system response by E.S. Buzawa and Carl G. Buzawa

Battered Women in the Courtroom by James Ptacek

Women and the Criminal Justice System by Katherine Stuart van Wormer and Clemens Bartollas

The American Prosecutors Research Institute Violence Against Women Publications at [www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/apri/violence\\_against\\_women.html](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/apri/violence_against_women.html)

The Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse at [www.mincava.umn.edu/](http://www.mincava.umn.edu/)  
The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women at [www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org)



## CASE SUMMARIES

These are some examples of cases WATCH staff and volunteers have monitored in recent weeks.

### **Willie James Richardson, jury trial, first degree criminal sexual conduct**

Richardson was charged with first degree criminal sexual conduct for raping his 18-year-old stepdaughter. He was also charged with second degree assault for beating her with a baseball bat. Richardson had a criminal history of fifth degree assault, including several domestic assault charges. The defense tried to discredit the victim because she waited 37 hours to report the assaults; the prosecution said the victim waited because she was fearful of retribution. According to a later aggravated witness tampering criminal complaint, Richardson and his wife, the victim's mother, allegedly conspired to have the victim killed. Richardson was found guilty of two counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of second degree assault in December. Cara Neville was the judge, Martha Holton-Dimick was the prosecutor, and Jill Waite was the defense attorney. Sentencing is scheduled for late January.

### **David Eichholz, jury trial, third degree criminal sexual conduct**

Eichholz was charged with third and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct for raping his developmentally disabled 30-year-old daughter when she visited for Christmas. Eichholz, who had no criminal history in Hennepin County, was later charged with fourth degree criminal sexual conduct against a different developmentally disabled daughter. He was found guilty of both charges of criminal sexual conduct with the first daughter in December and

sentenced in January to 48 months in prison. A pre-trial hearing in the second case is set for March. Lajune Lange was the judge, Marlene Senechal was the prosecutor, and Tina Hudak-Appleby was the defense attorney.

### **Jason Molacek, sentencing, second degree murder**

Molacek, 19, was charged with second degree murder for shooting his mother who died two months after the assault. Molacek, known to have recurrent thoughts of killing his parents, had a history of mental health problems and substance abuse. After a court trial before a judge, he was found guilty of second degree murder. Molacek's 25 and a half year prison sentence was stayed under the following conditions: cooperate with in-patient psychiatric treatment, report to his probation officer every six months, and remain law abiding. At the sentencing in December, his family voiced its support for treatment outside of prison. Jack Nordby was the judge, David Genrich was the prosecutor, and Mark Cosimini was the defense attorney.

### **Kofi Yeboah, sentencing, third degree criminal sexual conduct**

Yeboah was charged with third degree criminal sexual conduct for raping and physically assaulting a woman he met at a club. The victim, who suffered many physical injuries, could not remember what happened between the time she left the club and woke up the following morning at Yeboah's residence. While Yeboah had no criminal history in Hennepin County, another possible rape victim testified about a similar assault. After two mistrials, Yeboah was found guilty of third degree criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced in November to four years in prison and fined \$9,063. John

Holahan was the judge, Martha Holton-Dimick was the prosecutor, and Larry Reed was the defense attorney.

### **Robert Kendell, sentencing, first degree murder**

Kendell was charged with eleven felonies and one gross misdemeanor for shooting his girlfriend, her two children, and a neighbor whom he suspected of having a romantic interest in his girlfriend. The neighbor died, while the three other victims survived. Kendell's two-week old baby was in bed with his girlfriend's two children when they were shot, but was not injured. Kendell was found guilty of all twelve charges against him. In December, he received three consecutive 20-year sentences, and a consecutive sentence of life in prison. Steven Lange was the judge, Beverly Benson was the prosecutor, and Susan Herlofsky was the defense attorney.

### **Randall Voeks, sentencing, third degree criminal sexual conduct**

Voeks, a marriage therapist, was charged with third and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct for initiating sexual contact with three women during therapy sessions. In one case, the criminal conduct entailed reenactment of sexual abuse the woman had experienced prior to seeking therapy. Voeks pleaded guilty to third and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct. He received a 48-month prison sentence for the former charge and a 21-month sentence for the latter. Both sentences were stayed if he completes one year in the workhouse and abides by the conditions of his probation. Jack Nordby was the judge, Karel Moersfelder was the prosecutor, and Marc Kurzman was the defense attorney. □

## WHAT'S NEW CONT'D.

*continued from page 1*

WATCH also welcomes new board member **Tom Fourre**, who brings a business perspective in addition to his belief in our mission. Tom is employed at Trammell Crow Company, where he is responsible for the overall delivery of services for accounts headquartered in the Twin Cities area. His tenure on the board begins this month.

### **Congratulatory farewells**

At an open house on December 2, WATCH board, staff and volunteers bade farewell to **Libby Wyrum**, who led WATCH's volunteer program for four years. During her tenure, Libby recruited and trained nearly 400 volunteers to monitor Hennepin County courts. In addition to supervising and scheduling interns and volunteers, Libby organized monthly volunteer educational events, developed innovative training sessions, and pitched in whenever needed. WATCH wishes Libby the best as she moves on to do great things.

Board member **Courtney Yasmineh** stepped down from the WATCH board in November. Her life has become extremely busy since the release of her new CD, *Sufi Line*, and she decided to give her musical career the attention it deserves. Courtney recently performed at the Fine Line along with several other musicians to benefit the Sheila Wellstone Institute and Casa de Esperanza, two vital community organizations working to end violence against women and children. WATCH wishes Courtney the best. For information on her music, [www.courtneyandfriends.com](http://www.courtneyandfriends.com).

**Vicki and David Cox**, long time WATCH supporters, donors, and **WATCH Post**

friends, have sold their Minneapolis house, meaning we can no longer coax Vicki to stay on the WATCH Board of Directors by pretending she hasn't really moved to Northern California. Though they plan to visit Minneapolis often, Vicki felt it was inappropriate to continue to serve when her availability would be so limited. Though saddened, we know Vicki would not want to serve in name only.

Vicki joined the board in 1998, saying that she had been promoting the idea of WATCH while attending the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and realized that she wanted to be more involved when she came home.

She enjoyed the give-and-take of our small board, and was an engaged and involved member, offering wise counsel, often from a fresh perspective. Her intelligent and clear reasoning was matched only by her generosity. She chaired the development committee until she began to spend more time in California. She and David set the pace for WATCH fundraising, providing several significant matching grants to encourage WATCH donors to increase their annual gifts and to make multi-year commitments to the organization.

Vicki promises to stay involved and we look forward to her visits when she's in town. Many thanks to both Vicki and David, and our best wishes for the years ahead. ☐

## NOTES CONT'D.


*continued from page 3*

✍ After monitoring several times in domestic violence court, I feel that the lawyers and judges joke around and make small talk with each other more than is appropriate. They've got to remember that the defendants and people sitting in the gallery are often nervous and confused. While they were extremely respectful and attentive during individual hearings, they let down their guard too much between cases.


✍ The deputy today was great. He spoke up in domestic violence court when the judge set bail without any conditions. He said, "What about no contact with the victim?" The judge then said, "no contact with the victim." The deputy continued to make sure the judge told the defendants what they were supposed to do so they wouldn't violate their conditions of release.


✍ During jury selection for a case with child endangerment charges, I found it perplexing that many possible jurors were excused simply because they said they cared about children. It seems to me that it should be the other way around. At the end of the morning, I really couldn't tell what they were looking for in good jurors.

✍ During a murder trial, the two deputies on hand whispered to each other and tried hard to suppress their laughter, actually turning red in the face. ☐


 Thumbs down to the **Bush Administration** for withdrawing U.S. funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Since July 2002, the Bush Administration has failed to provide any of its \$34 million annual obligation for the UNFPA, a major player in the fight to eradicate child marriage. The excuse? Wholly discredited allegations that the UNFPA participated in coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization in China.


Child marriage affects over 51 million girls in developing countries and puts girls at risk of HIV/AIDS and of health complications from becoming pregnant at an early age. According to the International Center for Research on Women, child marriage also perpetuates poverty because girls stop going to school after they are married, severely limiting their social, economic, and other opportunities.


 Thumbs up to **Berkeley, California voters**. They defeated, by a large margin, a measure on the November 2 ballot that would have virtually legalized prostitution by ordering police to make enforcement of laws against prostitution their lowest priority. Janice Raymond of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women said the measure would have made it difficult to enforce the law against pimps and johns—even more troubling when one realizes that the average age of entry into prostitution in the U.S. is fourteen.

 Thumbs down to **R.A.I.N.N.** (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network) for its debased fundraising tactics. R.A.I.N.N.'s fall fundraiser was its 2004 Frederick's of Hollywood Lingerie Art Auction and Fashion Show featuring celebrity-


designed corsets! Will next year's fundraiser feature a shoe company and celebrity-designed foot binding?

 Thumbs up to **Betty Dukes**, the lead plaintiff in the largest class action lawsuit against a corporation in U.S. history. The sex discrimination suit, filed against Wal-Mart, represents 1.6 million women workers. The suit alleges women experience discrimination in wages, opportunities for promotions and raises, and career opportunities in management. Duke received a Ms Woman of the Year award in 2004 and is featured in Lisa Featherstone's new book *Selling Women Short: The Landmark Battle for Worker's Rights at Wal-Mart*. Duke and her colleagues prove, once again, that everyday working women can pull together and take on corporate giants in our quest for equality.

 Thumbs up to **women in Swaziland** for holding the first ever women's march in their country. The march was in response to a gang rape of an 18-year old woman by a group of men who said they attacked her because she was wearing a miniskirt. Over 1,000 women and girls joined the march, organized by the Women's Legal Rights Initiative. Following the assault, a member of Parliament made a speech saying there should be a law against women showing their thighs. But the organizers have no intention of accepting this victim blaming. "We're fed up. Enough is enough," said Doo Aphane, of the Women's Legal Rights Initiative.

 Thumbs up to the **University of Minnesota Women's Volleyball team** for making it to the final championship NCAA game. It's exciting to see how the world has

changed for female athletes since Title IX was passed in 1972. Now, we just need to get more women's sports on network TV instead of shows like "Extreme Makeover" and "The Swan," where women go under the knife to meet society's absurd beauty standards.

 Thumbs down to the pernicious entrenchment of **sex discrimination** in employee compensation, even in nonprofits. The 2004 Guidestar report contains salary and benefits data on more than 83,000 U.S. nonprofits. It reveals gender-based pay inequities in most top positions, with men compensated higher than women as chief executive officers and in top program, training, development, and finance positions. ☐

### WATCH 2004 highlights

- ~ recruited and trained 60 new court monitor volunteers
- ~ hosted a training on sex offenders attended by 40 people during Sexual Assault Awareness month
- ~ hosted two judicial forums along with the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis and the Hennepin County Bar Association attended by 130 people
- ~ conducted a study on orders for protection (OFPs) to identify safety gaps for battered women. Report available on our web site and summarized in the fall *WATCH Post*
- ~ conducted a study on systems change in greater Minnesota
- ~ provided technical assistance to court monitoring projects in 12 states and conducted training for two Minnesota-based nonprofits adapting WATCH's model in their jurisdictions
- ~ presented WATCH's OFP and greater Minnesota reports at the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's conference
- ~ monitored nearly 3,500 hearings in Hennepin County courts
- ~ honored Cornerhouse at the annual Gold WATCH event
- ~ received a leadership award from the Hennepin County Attorney's Office ☐

## WATCH

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## THANK YOU TO OUR 2004 VOLUNTEERS

Every day, Monday through Friday, a steady stream of WATCH volunteers maintain a public presence in Hennepin County courts. Volunteers come to the office in the morning, receive information on the hearings scheduled, and make their way to court with red clipboards and WATCH monitoring forms in hand. They return just before noon to recount their experiences. At 12:30 p.m., the process begins again for the afternoon shift.

**Dedicated, reliable volunteers are the foundation of all WATCH does. A warm, heartfelt thank you to you all.**

Jean Alaspa	Christin Crabtree-McWethy	Heather Hlavka	Maira Lynch	Tinzing Sangmo
Brenda Alvarez	Gerri Crane	Holly Hofstad	Leanne Mairs	Cynthia Schauman
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Todd Coryell	Patricia Hill	David Lucas	Brittan Ryan	

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