POWER Act 2021



The Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act (POWER Act) requires the chief judge in each judicial district to host at least one public event annually to promote free legal services to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The 2021 POWER Act event is sponsored by the United States District Court for the District of Montana. It is also co-sponsored by the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, Montana Legal Services Association, and the State Bar of Montana.

POWER Act 2021 – Friday, September 17, 2021 2.5 CLE credit pending (including 1.0 Ethics CLE credit pending)

Schedule of Events

| | | Schedule of Events |
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| • | 1:00 p.m. | Welcome and Opening Remarks, Chief Judge Brian Morris |
| • | 1:10 p.m. | "The Importance of Pro Bono Representation" presented by Angie Wagenhals, Deputy Director, MLSA |
| • | 1:25 p.m. | "The Ethics of Serving Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence" presented by Monique Voigt, MSLA staff attorney – 1.0 Ethics CLE credit pending |
| | 2.25 | 5 |

- 2:25 p.m. 5-minute break
- 2:30 p.m. "Representing Renters Impacted by Domestic Violence" presented by Amy Hall and Alexandra House, MLSA staff attorneys 1.5 CLE credit pending
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn

POWER Act 2021 SPEAKER BIOS (in order of appearance)

Hon. Brian Morris

Chief Judge, United States District Court for the District of Montana

Chief Judge Brian Morris was appointed to the federal bench in 2013 by President Barack Obama. Before that he served as a justice of the Montana Supreme Court from 2005-2013 and as solicitor in the Montana Department of Justice from 2000-2005. He was in private practice with the firm of Goetz, Madden & Dunn from 1995-2000, and served as a legal assistant to the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal from 1994-1995. Judge Morris received his law degree from Stanford University and served as a law clerk to Judge John T. Noonan on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and then to Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Angie Wagenhals

Deputy Director, Montana Legal Services Association

Angie Wagenhals joined MLSA in 2011 and serves as MLSA's Deputy Director. She received a Bachelor's Degree in English and Women's and Gender Studies from Willamette University.

Monique Voigt

Staff Attorney, Montana Legal Services Association

Monique Voigt is a staff attorney at MLSA. She joined the Billings office in June 2020 after having previously worked in the area of insurance defense and bad faith litigation of a little over twelve years. Monique graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2007 and joined the Montana Bar that year. She later took the Wyoming Bar and maintains her license to practice in both Montana and Wyoming. Monique has previously served as a Trustee for the Montana Bar Association and focuses her present work in the area of domestic violence. (Also admitted in Northern Cheyenne Tribal Court.)

Amy Hall

Senior Attorney, Housing Law, Montana Legal Services Association

Amy Hall is MLSA's housing specialist and works on MLSA's Agricultural Workers project. She also has experience representing domestic violence survivors. She received her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law. Before coming to MLSA, Ms. Hall worked at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc., primarily in housing and farmworker law. Ms. Hall was recognized by the Montana Justice Foundation as one of its 2014 Champions of Justice, awarded for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of equal justice.

Alexandra House

Domestic Violence Attorney, Montana Legal Services Association

Alexandra House joined MLSA as a Domestic Violence Attorney in 2020. She received her J.D. from Tulane University School of Law where she also received a certificate in International and Comparative Law. While at Tulane, Alexandra worked with the Criminal Justice Clinic where she advocated for clients at various stages of the justice system. She also interned with the Innocence Project, the Bozeman Office of the Public Defender, and Hogan Lovells in Paris. She received her undergraduate degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.