

# Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress  
of the  
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and eighteen*

An Act

To promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018” or the “POWER Act”.

**Chief Judge Michael F. Urbanski  
United States District Court  
for the Western District of  
Virginia September 8, 2023**

# Violence Against Women Act of 1994

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**STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN**



- Enacted in 1994 as Title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act
- VAWA was intended to:
  - change attitudes toward domestic violence
  - foster awareness of domestic violence
  - improve services and provisions for victims
  - revise the manner in which the criminal justice system responds to domestic violence and sex crimes

# Categories of Crime Addressed Through VAWA



- VAWA provides grants to address victims of five categories of crime
  - Domestic violence (intimate partner violence)
  - Intimate partner homicide
  - Sexual assault
    - Definition recently broadened
  - Dating violence
    - Very relevant category to teenagers
  - Stalking
    - 3.3 million people 18 and older were victims of stalking in 2006

# VAWA Grant Program



- VAWA created numerous grant programs, including programs which:
  - bolster investigations and prosecutions in rural areas and encourage state, local, and tribal arrest policies in domestic violence cases
  - support domestic violence and battered women’s shelters, rape crisis centers, and other community organizations
  - educate and train federal and state judges and court personnel on the laws of rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault
  - make capital improvements to prevent crime in transportation systems and in public and national parks
  - assist state and local governments in entering data on stalking and domestic violence into national databases
  - establish the National Domestic Violence Hotline and fund its operation