



The Amara Legal Center envisions a society where our clients are free from stigma, violence, oppression, exploitation, and criminalization.

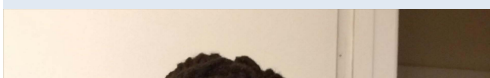
New Amara Board Member is Passionate about Anti-Human Trafficking Work

Mary Beth Jacoby graduated from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law in 1987 and then joined the Central Intelligence Agency. During her 30 year career, she and her family were posted to three countries in Africa and one country in South America. In addition to her job, she was a member of the CIA choral group, the Keynotes, which performed for memorial services, holiday concerts, and retirement ceremonies. She was also a member of an informal Human Trafficking Working Group. After retirement in 2017, Mary Beth volunteered for the Jane Goodall Institute and Reset 180. She is currently a volunteer for Hostage US; Love 146; and the University of Maryland's Support Advocacy, Freedom, Empowerment (SAFE) Center.



"I am interested in serving on Amara Legal Center's Board of Directors because Amara provides critical legal assistance to victims of human trafficking who are vulnerable and have no resources of their own. I am a firm believer in the need to expunge criminal records for people who have violated laws through fraud, force or coercion. They have experienced severe trauma and desperately need legal and social services to reclaim their life and dignity. To me, human trafficking is an issue with no gray areas; it is abhorrent on every level."

New Operations Manager Brings 14 Years of Nonprofit Experience to Amara



Natasha Thomas joins Amara as our new Operations and Resource Manager. She brings 14



years of nonprofit experience to the organization.

In this position, Natasha will manage the day-to-day operations for Amara, including daily financial management, management of Amara's existing grants and contracts, overseeing operational partnerships and timelines, and serving as the human resources point person. She also will support Amara's fundraising and communications activities, helping to grow our donor base and corporate sponsorship efforts, as well as extending our reach to new audiences.

Most recently, Natasha worked for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) for more than decade, serving in a variety of positions, including Membership Manager and Development & Special Events Coordinator. In these roles, she provided support to 30+ community-based membership organizations across the country and supported HRSA grant-funded projects. She also oversaw and coordinated SCDAA's annual conference of 700+ attendees and its national fundraising walk that raised close to \$300,000 annually. Natasha also has worked for Clinical Associates, GE Capital and Towson State University.

Natasha has an Associate degree in Business Administration from Baltimore City Community College. "I am very excited for this new challenge in my career! Amara is a great organization with such an important mission. I am looking forward to putting my skills to work to support Amara's goals to provide legal services to survivors of sex trafficking, and to seeing how I can assist with Amara's growth to reach more people who can benefit from our services."

Fall Interns Seek Justice & Holistic Redress for Survivors of Sex Trafficking

Asritha Vinnakota is a 2L at American University Washington College of Law (WCL) earning her Juris Doctor degree. She graduated in December 2018 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Law, Justice, and Social Change.

She has interned previously with the Family Law/ Domestic Violence Unit at the Legal Aid Society of DC and worked as an administrative assistant for Legal Counsel for the Elderly.

During her undergraduate career, Asritha noticed the disparities survivors of sexual violence experience and the need for more legal advocacy and systemic change for survivors in the justice system. She has a passion for anti-trafficking work and sexual violence and gender-based violence prevention, and she hopes to use her J.D. to help survivors and advocate for women's rights and human rights. Currently, she is on the Administrative Law Review, researching and writing on OVW's remedies provided to survivors of non-consensual pornography. She also is the WCL public relations chair for the Women's Law Association . Her goal is to use her legal skills to push for more equity and holistic redress for individuals who have been overlooked and exploited in today's society.



"Survivors of sex trafficking and sex work face countless obstacles within our society, from stigmatization to criminalization, and working at the Amara Legal Center provides me with the opportunity to zealously and passionately advocate for these survivors who deserve our legal

assistance to empower their lives."



Olivia Haskell is a 2L at American University Washington College of Law. She graduated from Colgate University in 2019, where she studied Religion and International Relations.

Olivia's first experience in the legal field was as an undergraduate intern at the University of Maryland Safe Center for Human Trafficking Survivors. During her internship, she saw the systemic injustices working against trafficking survivors as well as the power that free legal representation had in their lives. Since then, she has been interested in gaining legal

skills to provide advocacy to survivors of sexual violence. "Working at the Amara Legal Center provides me with the opportunity to learn from skilled attorneys who approach their work with a client-centered, trauma-informed perspective, and allows me to be a part of an amazing effort to empower sex workers and sex trafficking survivors to overcome legal obstacles in their lives."

Mamatha Ahlad is a student at George Washington University, pursuing a master's degree in public policy. As an undergraduate, she majored in criminal justice and economics which sparked her interest in both law and victim's rights.

Mamatha has interned with the Maryland Public Defender Service, working as an investigative intern for cases regarding sexual assault, domestic violence, and homicide. She also worked with D.C. Witness to help ensure transparency within the court system.



Mamatha's criminal justice background exposed her to the lack of services available for survivors of sex trafficking. Her goal is to learn about the different resources available to victims, how to provide those services to those who need them, and advocate for survivors of sex trafficking. She also is conducting research on the different strategies used by traffickers and how to help prevent trafficking from an international perspective.

"During my freshman year of college, I was told about an organization, Amara Legal, that helped survivors of sex trafficking. Two years later, I applied for a position with Amara with the intent to explore my interest in legal advocacy and policy research within the human trafficking sphere. Interning with Amara allows me to build on my knowledge obtained about victim rights in the justice system and the flexibility to apply my research skills."

AMARA VACATUR CLINICS IN OCTOBER

On October 18th and 19th, Amara hosted a two-day free Vacatur Clinic, where Amara attorneys provided brief advice during one-on-one legal consultations for five clients and 14 cases.

Attorneys provided individualized case

AMARA LEGAL CENTER'S OCTOBER
FREE VACATUR CLINICS WERE SUCCESSFUL!



assessments and recommendations to ensure individuals can access criminal record relief in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland. As a result of this clinic, Amara will represent one client seeking vacatur relief for charges received as a result of being trafficked.



**THANK YOU
TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS
FOR SHARING INFO
ABOUT THE CLINICS!
TOGETHER, WE'RE HELPING
INDIVIDUALS REMOVE BARRIERS!**

**HELP
SURVIVORS
RESTORE
THEIR DIGNITY
& THEIR LIVES!**



Become A Monthly Donor Today!



Amara Legal Center, Inc.
1629 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
Email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser](#)
[Unsubscribe](#)