# EYES ON THE DRZE:

When Women Vote, We All Win



MLAW FALL AGENDA CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

mdlegagendaforwomen.org

### 29 YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN'S AND FAMILY ISSUES

### 1994 - 2023

MLAW was established to harness the collective power of women and to create a statewide, nonpartisan, independent coalition of groups and individuals to advocate for progressive legislative initiatives that promote and protect the well-being of women and their families in Maryland.

This call to action for legislative change has resulted in a coalition almost unique in the United States. The annual legislative conference and other activities have energized thousands of women - and male allies - to become engaged in advocacy for important issues affecting Maryland women and families.

The annual Legislative Agenda has included a broad diversity of issues and the organization's advocacy and collaborative efforts have resulted in the **passage of 112 pieces of legislation enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in the last 29 years. In the 2023 Maryland General Assembly session, all 7 bills on the MLAW Agenda PASSED.** 

This extraordinary success has made a significant difference for women and families. It has established MLAW as a powerful voice for women and their priorities in Maryland.

**MLAW provides visibility for legislation affecting women and families.** The fall conference develops our MLAW Legislative Agenda and a legislative briefing during the legislative session introduces the Agenda to advocates and legislators. These events focus legislators' attention on our issues and raise their visibility throughout the state. We distribute the annual Legislative Agenda to every Maryland legislator. In collaboration with our advocacy partners, we submit testimony, advocate for bills, and promote our Agenda through our large e-mail list, website, and Facebook page.

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women is proud of its achievements during the last 29 years, but there is more to be done. Join us and help us continue to make a difference for Maryland women and families.



# NOVEMBER 4, 2023

9-9:30 AM	Registration, Networking and Continental Breakfast
9:30-9:45 AM	Welcome Welcoming Remarks Michaele Cohen, <i>MLAW President</i> Welcome to UMBC Valerie Sheares Ashby, <i>President</i>
9:45-10:15 AM	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> <b>Comptroller Brooke Lierman</b> Introduction: Diana Philip, <i>MLAW Board Member</i> Questions & Answers
10:15-10:30 AM	<b>Greetings</b> <b>Greetings from the Women Legislators of Maryland</b> Delegate Edith J. Patterson, <i>President</i>
10:30-10:45 AM	Break
10:45-11:25 AM	<b>Legislative Presentations – Group 1</b> Facilitator: Shruti Bhatnagar, <i>MLAW Board Member</i> Questions & Answers
11:25 AM-12:05 PM	<b>Legislative Presentations – Group 2</b> Facilitator: Angela McDaniel, <i>MLAW Board Member</i> Questions & Answers
12:05-12:45 PM	<b>Legislative Presentations – Group 3</b> Facilitator: Elizabeth Joyce, <i>MLAW Board Member</i> Questions & Answers
12:45-1:00 PM	Wrap-Up Remarks: Diana Philip, <i>MLAW Board Member</i> Voting process Join MLAW Get involved!
1:00 PM	Adjourn

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

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### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jessica Morgan

### MLAW PUBLIC CONTACT INFO



102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100



443-519-1005



mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com



mdlegagendaforwomen.org





facebook.com/mdagendaforwomen



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# SPEAKER BIOS

### DELEGATE EDITH PATTERSON

Dr. Edith J. Patterson is a distinguished educator and civic leader currently representing Charles County, District 28, Maryland House of Delegates and serves as the Charles County Delegation Chair. She is the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and serves on the House Ways and Means Committee and Education Committee. Her scope of governance includes Charles County Board of Commissioners (5 years) and Charles County Board of Education (12 years). Her voting record strongly supports working families and economic development. She also presided as the



Chair of Charles County Democratic Central Committee, elected to the 2004 and 2016 Democratic National Conventions as a Delegate for Senator John Kerry, and then for Secretary Hillary Clinton in addition to a host of other prestigious appointed and elected leadership positions at the state and national levels. Dr. Patterson is a consummate erudite. She holds degrees from Virginia Union University, Bowie State University, and George Washington University. Delegate Patterson is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., Charles County NAACP and Metropolitan United Methodist Church.

### **BROOKE LIERMAN**

### **Comptroller, State of Maryland**

Brooke Lierman is the 34th Comptroller of the state of Maryland and the first woman to be independently elected to one of our state's constitutional offices. After running a strong, policy-focused and grassroots-led two-year campaign, she was elected with over 60% of the vote in November 2022. She is an attorney by training, practicing as a civil rights and disability rights lawyer for many years, and prior to her election as Comptroller, she served for



8 years a member of the House of Delegates representing part of Baltimore City. While in the House, she spent time in leadership roles on both the Appropriations Committee and the Environment and Transportation Committee. Additionally, she was the House Chair for the Joint Committee on Pensions, sat on the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness, and founded the Maryland Transit Caucus. Brooke successfully passed landmark legislation to invest in and improve public transit and public schools; prohibit the suspension and expulsion of young students; fund evidence-based gun violence prevention programs; aid sex trafficking victims; close loopholes in affordable housing laws, and create the office of statewide broadband. As Comptroller, she is dedicated to creating a Maryland that is more equitable, more resilient, and more prosperous so that all Marylanders can reach their full potential. She and her husband and two school-age children live in Baltimore City.

# SPEAKER BIOS

### VALERIE SHEARES ASHBY

### **President of UMBC**

Valerie Sheares Ashby began as the sixth president of UMBC on August 1, 2022. The first woman to serve in this role, she also holds a faculty appointment in UMBC's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.



Sheares Ashby joined UMBC from Duke University, where she had served since 2015 as dean of the Trinity College of Arts & Sciences. As dean, she led the

development and implementation of strategic plans that resulted in significant new investments in faculty recruitment and development, philanthropy, and student engagement, and a realignment of operations that enhanced services and created operational efficiencies. Throughout, she consistently advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion as imperative to excellence in both teaching and research.

Prior to her tenure at Duke, Sheares Ashby chaired the chemistry department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) from 2012 to 2015. As a faculty member at UNC since 2003, she held numerous leadership positions and had experience at all levels of academic administration. She served on UNC's Arts & Sciences Foundation Board of Directors and Research Advisory Council and chaired the university's Institutional Conflict of Interest Committee and the College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Diversity Task Force. She engaged in all aspects of the undergraduate educational experience as director of undergraduate studies in the chemistry department, and she directed the UNC National Science Foundation Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. Sheares Ashby was instrumental in UNC's collaboration with UMBC to launch the Chancellor's Science Scholars Program, which was among the earliest replication pilots by a research university of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program.

She began her academic career in 1996 as an assistant professor at Iowa State University and was promoted to associate professor in 2002. At Iowa State, Sheares Ashby served as a mentor for the Iowa State University Program for Women in Science & Engineering, a summer research program for undergraduate and high school students.

As a researcher, Sheares Ashby has focused on synthetic polymer chemistry, with an emphasis on designing and synthesizing materials for biomedical applications such as X-ray contrast agents and drug delivery materials. She is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Career Development Award, DuPont Young Faculty Award, and 3M Young Faculty Award, as well as numerous teaching and service awards, including the UNC Chapel Hill General Alumni Association Faculty Service Award and the Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professorship for excellence in undergraduate teaching and research. In 2022, Women of Color Magazine named Sheares Ashby its Technologist of the Year.

She received her B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed postdoctoral research at Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz in Germany as a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow and NATO Postdoctoral Fellow.

# Maryland Chapter National Organization for Women

Proud Sponsor of MLAW

# Thanking Them For All They Do To Advance Women's Rights In Our State



P. O. Box 7716 | Silver Spring, Maryland 20907 | (410) 347-1455 | www.marylandnow.org



# Advocacy for Maryland's Women and Girls

- Maryland Women's Hall of Fame
- Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards
- Policy and Legislative Action
- Advocacy, Collaboration and Engagement
- Maryland Women & the COVID-19 Crisis
- Maryland Women A Status Report
- In their Own Words: the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour

# The Charles County Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

# CONGRATULATES

the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women on their Fall 2023 Conference!

Founded by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, NCNW has been leading, advocating for, and empowering women of African descent, their families, and communities since 1935.





North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

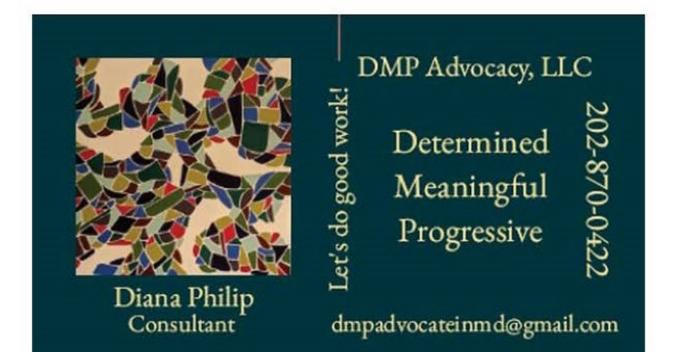


North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated P.O. Box 340 Odenton, Maryland 21113 Tel: <u>443-422-2928</u> Email: <u>info@nacacdst.org</u> <u>www.nacacdst.org</u> Sincere wiskes for another

successful conference.

Elizabeth F. Johnson

commitment | unity | self reliance charles county section Thank you, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, for your consistent and committed advocacy in promoting gender equity, reproductive rights, and healthy families since 1994.





### Montgomery County Chapter National Organization for Women

MCNOW is a proud sponsor of MLAW's Fall Conference.

Thank you, MLAW, for your advocacy and strong voice for Maryland women and families.

To subscribe to our Feminist Calendar, contact <u>info@mcmdnow.org</u>





Behind every great woman, [pray, will be another great woman whispering, "You've got this!" in her ear. - Unknown

#WomenLeadinMaryland

melissacurtincoaching.com



# BALTIMORE COUNTY Commission for Women



United voices building visibility & support for women.



It's going to take ALL of us -working together -- to improve the lives of women in Maryland!



Congratulations to MLAW for always keeping their Eye on the Prize and looking out for Maryland's women and families.



www.EmergeMARYLAND.org

We inspire women to run, we hone their skills to win.

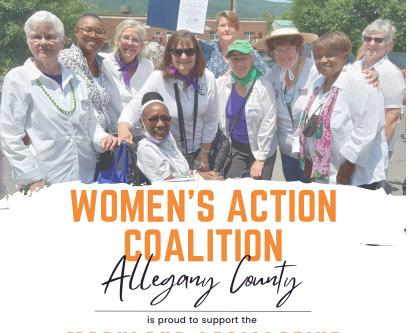


### 50+ YEARS OF ADVANCING JUSTICE IN MARYLAND

Congratulations to MLAW on a successful conference! Thank you for being a voice for women in Maryland.

Save the Date

ANNUAL CELEBRATION & AWARDS CEREMONY May 7, 2024 6 pm The Cove at Citron (Baltimore)



AGENDA FOR WOMEN



OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE A SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL WOMEN ARE FREE AND ABLE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES IN SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REACH OUT TO WACALLEGANY@GMAIL.COM



### 301-752-4362



# Equality begins in the voting booth. Elections matter!



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB of Montgomery County, Maryland

Keeping Members Better Informed, Better Connected, and More Politically Effective. #WDCthePlaceToBe

> Congratulations to MLAW for 29 years of powerful advocacy.

> > Elizabeth Joyce & Joan Stine

Members of the Board of Directors



# <text>

### Since 2022, bills on the MLAW agenda have:

Planned

Parenthood



Created a training fund for aspiring abortion care providers



Created abortion care coverage equity



Protected abortion care patients and providers from extremist laws out of state



Expanded access to reproductive health on campuses



Sent Reproductive Freedom to the Nov. 2024 ballot

Maryland is a nationwide leader in reproductive health, and MLAW helped us get there! "Thank you, MLAW, for standing with and for all Maryland women to be leaders in the fight for social justice and equal rights!"

### HGO VICE-CHAIR BONNIE CULLISON

DELEGATE, DISTRICT 19



Bonnie Cullison

Authority: Friends of Bonnie Cullison, Pamela M. Pinkett, CPA, CGMA, Treasurer



### CTLDomGroup, Inc

CTLDomGroup, Inc., is a nonprofit Resource Hub assisting veterans transition into the community.

We are a veteran resource hub providing total well-being using (3) pillars of personal wellness (fitness, mental health, and nutrition) from the components of Proactive Health and Wellbeing known as the "Circle of Health" process. CONGRATULATIONS TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD MARYLAND

FOR ITS ONGOING ADVOCACY FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING HISTORY BY PASSING THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

TO ENSHRINE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS FOR ALL MARYLANDERS!

Wendy Frosh



# THANK YOU MLAW

# FOR SUPPORTING PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY

## SANDY BARTLETT MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT 32

BY AUTHORITY SCOTT BARTLETT, TREASURER, CITIZENS FOR J.SANDY BARTLETT



Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

### Working to end sexual assault in Maryland

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

301-328-7023 info@mcasa.org

### **Our work:**

\*Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) \*Public Policy \*Community Outreach \*Education & Training \*Technical Assistance & Expert Advice SALI LEGAL SERVICES:

301-565-2277 Toll-free: 877-496-SALI

**Supporting MLAW's Fall Conference Agenda** 

**ZONTA CLUB OF** MID-MARYLAND

No Violence

Against Women



"Mothers **Stepping Out Against** Domestic Violence" Saturday / May 11, 2024 9:00am - 3:00pm 

FOR REGISTRATION

https://5kwalkrunmotherssteppingoutagainstdomesticviolence.eventbrite.com/

With reproductive freedom under attack, state-level protections are vital to protecting womens' right to choose and to access the healthcare they need. That is why we need to encourage more women to vote in the upcoming election for allies who support protecting those rights in our State Constitution.

> Silver Sponsor Delegate Nicole Williams



By Authority: Friends of Nicole A. Williams, Robert L. Williams, Treasurer.



The Rebuild Maryland Coalition proudly stands with MLAW in the pursuit of a brighter future for Maryland women and their families. Our Coalition is a diverse group of stakeholders working to establish practical solutions to reduce GHG emissions and put frontline communities first.

Support the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act







Congratulations on Celebrating 29 Years of Advocacy for Women's and Family Issues and the Fall Legislative Agenda Conference November 4, 2023

> Michaele Cohen President, MLAW Board of Directors





### Business and Professional Women of Maryland

Business and Professional Women of

Maryland (BPW/MD) promotes equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information. Established in 1929 as a not for profit, nonpartisan and nonsectarian volunteer organization, BPW/MD provides its members with the opportunity to develop personally and professionally through programs and workshops, enhance business relationships through networking, and support legislation that ensures equality, equity, and economic change for women. All who support our mission are invited to join.

# BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN OF MARYLAND (BPW/MD)



2023-2024 Theme: United for Equality!

### BPW/MD 2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Equal Rights Amendment shall stand first, foremost, and above all other items that may appear on the Platform of this organization until equal, legal rights for women and men become guaranteed in the United States Constitution.

### THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.



Leader, Advocate, Educator

BPW/MD Proudly Honors **Michaele Cohen** as our 2023 Woman of Achievement!

### Women Helping Women Succeed!

www.bpwmaryland.org





### **OUR MISSION**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens.

The MNADV promotes awareness and prevention of domestic violence by

- Maintaining an informational website
- Disseminating information via e-newsletters, social media platforms, and literature distribution.
- Offering member domestic violence programs access to a language-interpretation service for survivors who speak languages other than English.
- Tracking the loss of life caused by domestic violence through a statewide fatality database and holding an Annual Memorial Service.
- MNADV provides technical assistance and develops resources to help domestic violence service providers and allied professionals in Maryland.
- MNADV collaborations promote coordination and partnerships to improve services to domestic violence survivors

# Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

### **MNADV WEBSITE**



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Email info@mnadv.org

Operation of the second state of the second

Phone 301-429-3601



# BANO VOICE FOR VOICELESS Serving women and families

Founder :- Tahira Mussarat Hussain tahiram2021@gmail.com



# **REPRODUCTIVE** JUSTICE SCAN ME MARVIAND

As the reproductive advocacy landscape has changed over the past 2 years, the opportunity for a new and more strategic and inclusive organization presented itself. With this in mind, we are building a deliberate and authentic engagement strategy and bringing together past leaders and inviting new ones. We believe that it is more important than ever to build, strengthen and support new voices and develop new leaders who will fight for unrestricted access to comprehensive reproductive health care. We invite you to join us.

@ReproJustice\_MD

info@reproductivejustice maryland.org

### **SEXUAL &** REPRODUCTIVE TELEHEALTH SERVICES

- **ABORTION PILLS BY MAIL**
- **ABORTION PILLS FOR** FUTURE USE
- MISSED PERIOD PILLS
- **GENDER AFFIRMING CARE**
- **BIRTH CONTROL COUNSELING &** PRESCRIPTIONS
- EMERGENCY **CONTRACEPTION**
- UTI & STI SCREENING
- **IRREGULAR MENSES** \*AND MORE\*



**Promoting Patient** Autonomy Through Empowering Healthcare For All



**Forward Midwifery** 800-754-2062 WWW.FORWARDMIDWIFERY.ORG ORWARDMIDWIFER' FWDMIDWIFERY

Every child needs strong families, quality early learning environments, & a champion for their interests.



MARYLAND FAMILY NETWORK





THANK YOU FOR MAKING THEIR FUTURES, YOUR PRIORITY.

marylandfamilynetwork.org



TAGE



### WE HAVE A NEW HOME AT MARIAN HOUSE/WOMAN'S INDUSTRIAL EXCHANGE

333 NORTH CHARLES ST, BALTIMORE MD 21201

Adding herstory to history to tell ourst MEMORY OF LINDA MAHONEY IN



### Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. **Prince George's County Chapter** proud sponsor for the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's Conference 2023

It is a distinct honor to extend greetings on behalf of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter serving youth and adults throughout the county for the past 10+ years. Our national theme "Celebrating our Legacy: Transforming Lives and Making a Difference... One Teen, One Lady and One Community at a Time" speaks to who we are and our commitment to the community.

> Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President Lady Dawna Dilworth, Chapter President Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.







Brooke G. Holmes Chapter President

The Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated joins participants of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's Fall Agenda Conference to advocate for legislation impacting women and families in Maryland. www.dstpvac.org | **[6] f [9]** @dstpvac



# **Proud Sponsor of MLAW**

Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

www.pgcacdst.org





### National Coalition of 100 Black Women Southern Maryland Chapter

### We Advocate on behalf of Black Women and Girls



Learn about our initiatives and how we serve the community.

### **Our Programs**

Health Awareness Economic Empowerment Education & Mentoring Public Policy & Advocacy



National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter

www.ncbwpgc.net



Celebrating 29 Years of Advocacy: 1994-2023

### 2023-2024 Membership Form

MLAW's membership year is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

### I Want to Make a Difference!

### I Want to be an MLAW Member

**Type of Membership** (check only one):

- □ \$40 Individual
- □ \$75 Organization revenue under \$25,000
- □ \$125 Organization revenue over \$25,000

If you are joining as both an individual and an organization, please complete a separate form for EACH membership.

I Want to Do More by Making an Additional Donation

□ \$500 □ \$250 □ \$100 □ \$50 Other		
Payment:		
A check for \$, made payable to MLAW, is enclosed.		
I want to pay through PayPal. Go to the MLAW website at: <u>http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org</u>		
Individual or Organization:		
Contact Name (for organizations only) Mailing Address:		
Phone Number: Email:		

**IMPORTANT!** Please include an email address. Most of the business of MLAW will be conducted via email.

Mail this completed form to: MLAW 102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 Towson, MD 21204

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (MLAW) is a 501(c)4 organization. Because we engage in legislative advocacy, contributions to MLAW are not tax-deductible.