

## STOP Administering Agencies and State Court Collaborative Efforts: The Iowa Experience

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### Iowa's Courts

- Unified Court System
- Appointed Judiciary
- History of striking down discriminatory law (slavery [1839], segregation [1868; 1873], women's rights [1869], same-sex marriage [2009])
- Procedural Fairness
- Extraprofessional collaboration



*"Shattering Silence" (2009), commemorates the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of In re Ralph wherein Iowa's Supreme Court ruled, "no man in this territory can be reduced to slavery."*

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### VAW Dedicated Point of Contact

- 1994 Iowa Supreme Court Taskforce on DV recommended a dedicated 'domestic abuse coordinator' position be created within State Court Administrator's Office
- Initially funded via State Justice Institute Grant
- Position evolved to address all forms of VAW
- Funded via STOP funds since 2000

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### A Little About STOP in Iowa...



- Administered via the Iowa Attorney General's Office
- VOCA, FVPSA, FSAP
- State Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Grant Program
- 1995 Implementation Plan included dedicated positions in key state agencies

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### VAW Dedicated Point of Contact Collaboration & Innovation

<p><b>Collaboration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STOP Implementation Team</li> <li>• Grant Review</li> <li>• Iowa Domestic Abuse Death Review Team</li> <li>• Iowa Domestic Abuse Program Steering Committee (BEP/BIP)</li> <li>• Other VAW-related state policy, protocol, and research projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>Innovation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging the position to access additional funds (updated DV Taskforce; updated DV Benchbook; specialized training for judges)</li> <li>• Partnering to create programs that address identified gaps -- Iowa Accountability Program; Integrated DV Court Project; CVAD Restitution Initiative; Retooling BEP &amp; other curricula</li> </ul>
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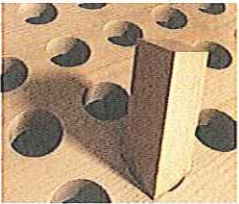
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That's nice,  
but in *my* state we . . .

- Can't find . . .
- Can't do . . .
- Don't have . . .
- Couldn't . . .



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You don't know  
what you don't  
know

To succeed in life, you  
need two things:  
ignorance & confidence.

- Mark Twain

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But, you *can*:

- Find who administers the funds in your state
- Learn who are the 'go to' people for problem 'X, Y, Z'
- Talk to grassroots providers & local practitioners about who from each discipline they'd want at 'the table'
- 'Set' the table & keep asking people to join you



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