

# Enhancing Courts' Response to Sexual Assault and the Intersection of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence



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Workshop for State Courts VAW Points of Contact

National Center for State Courts

Williamsburg, VA

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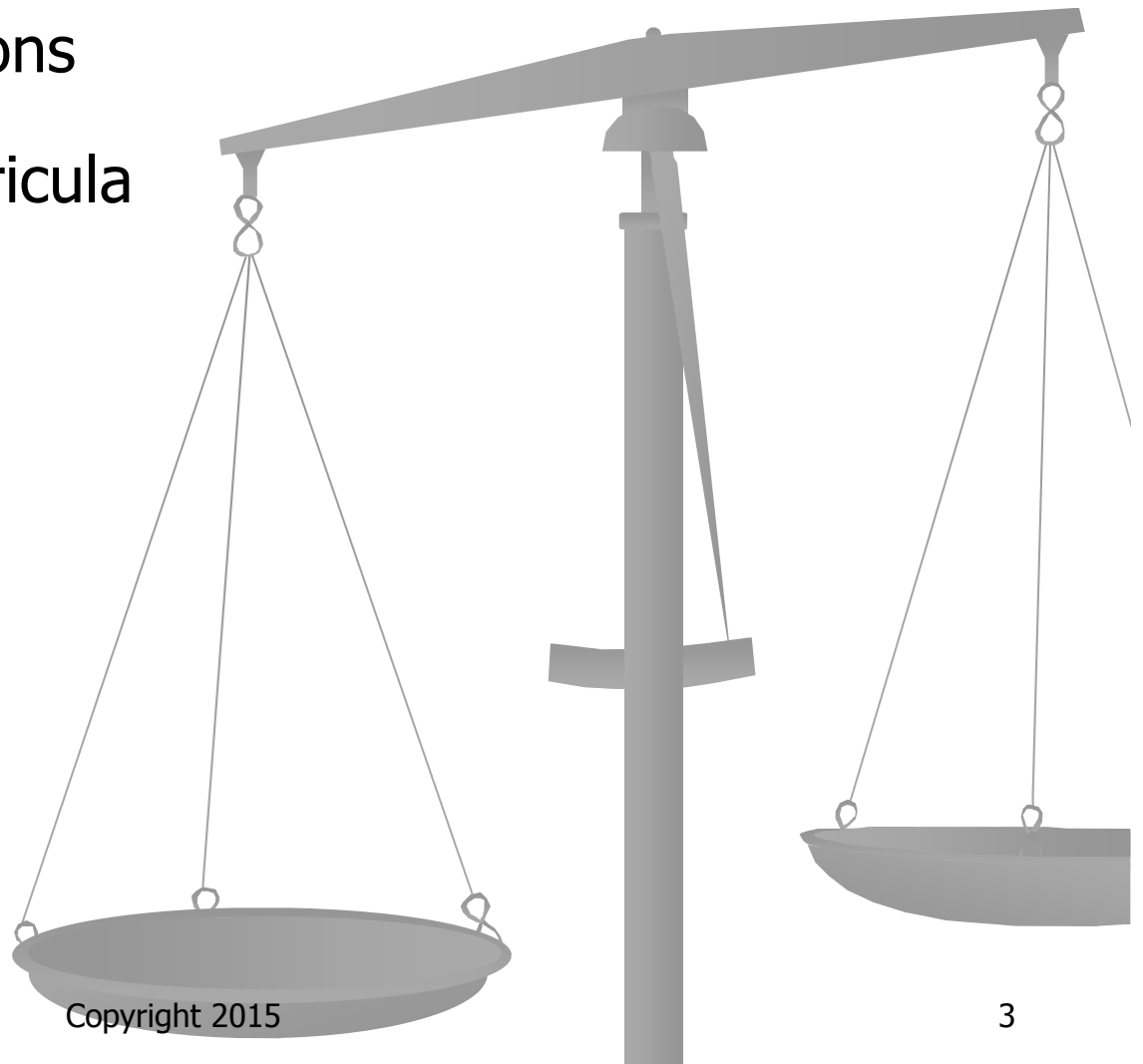
# About the National Judicial Education Program

- Established in 1980 by Legal Momentum in cooperation with the National Association of Women Judges
- Purpose: eliminate gender bias in the courts across the spectrum of civil, criminal, family, and juvenile law
  - Educating the courts about sexual assault and the intersection of sexual assault and domestic violence
- Task Forces on Gender Bias in the Courts
- Violence Against Women Act: Legal Momentum partnered with Senator/Vice President Biden to draft and pass the original VAWA in 1994; leader in three reauthorizations

# How Can NJEP Help You?

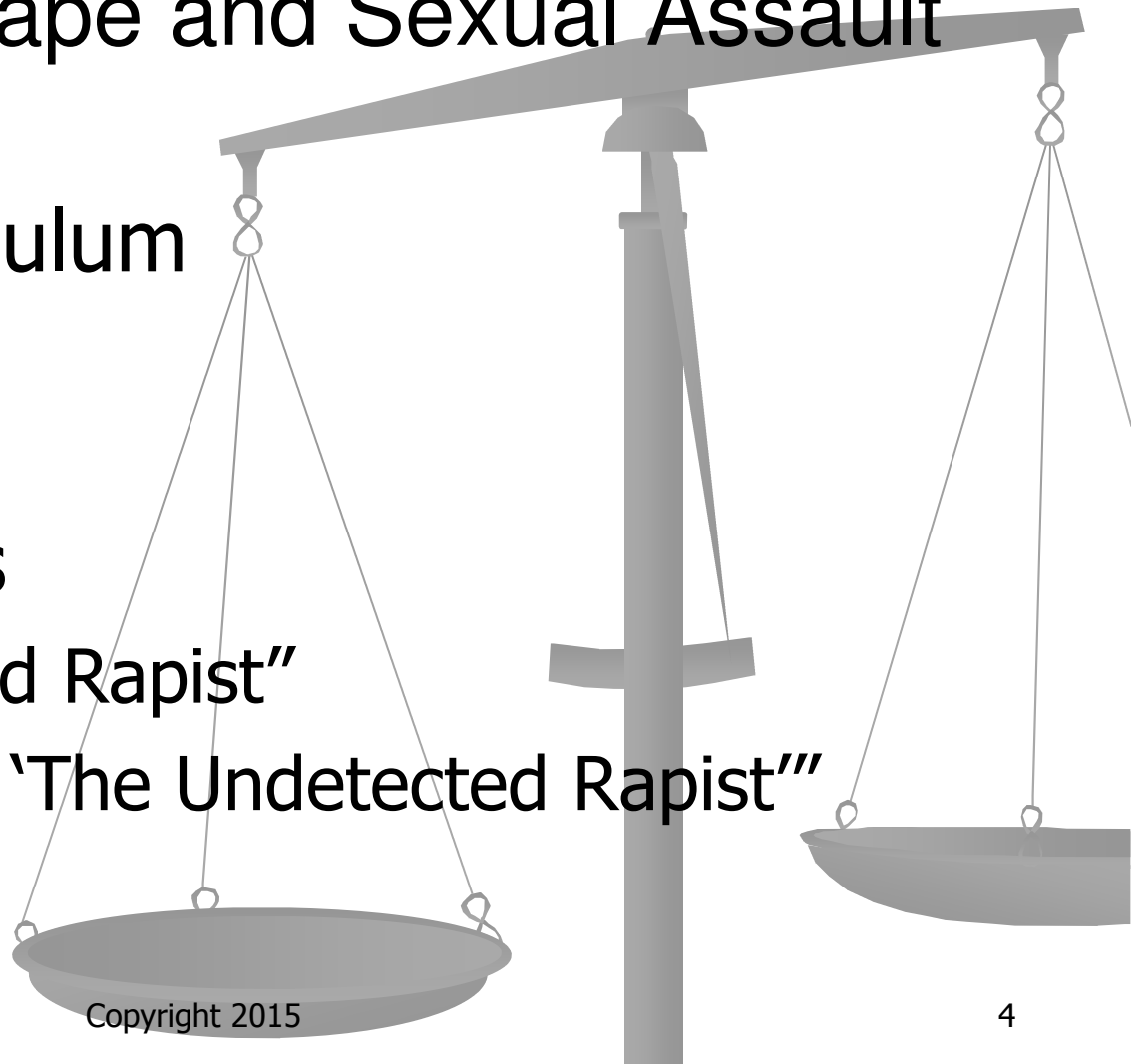
## Resources and Technical Assistance

- In-Person Presentations
- Multi-Use Online Curricula
- Web Course
- Related Publications
- DVDs
- Webinars
- TA Support



# Understanding Sexual Violence: The Judicial Response to Stranger and Nonstranger Rape and Sexual Assault

- In-person curriculum
- DVD version
- Excerpted DVDs
  - “The Undetected Rapist”
  - “A Response to ‘The Undetected Rapist’”

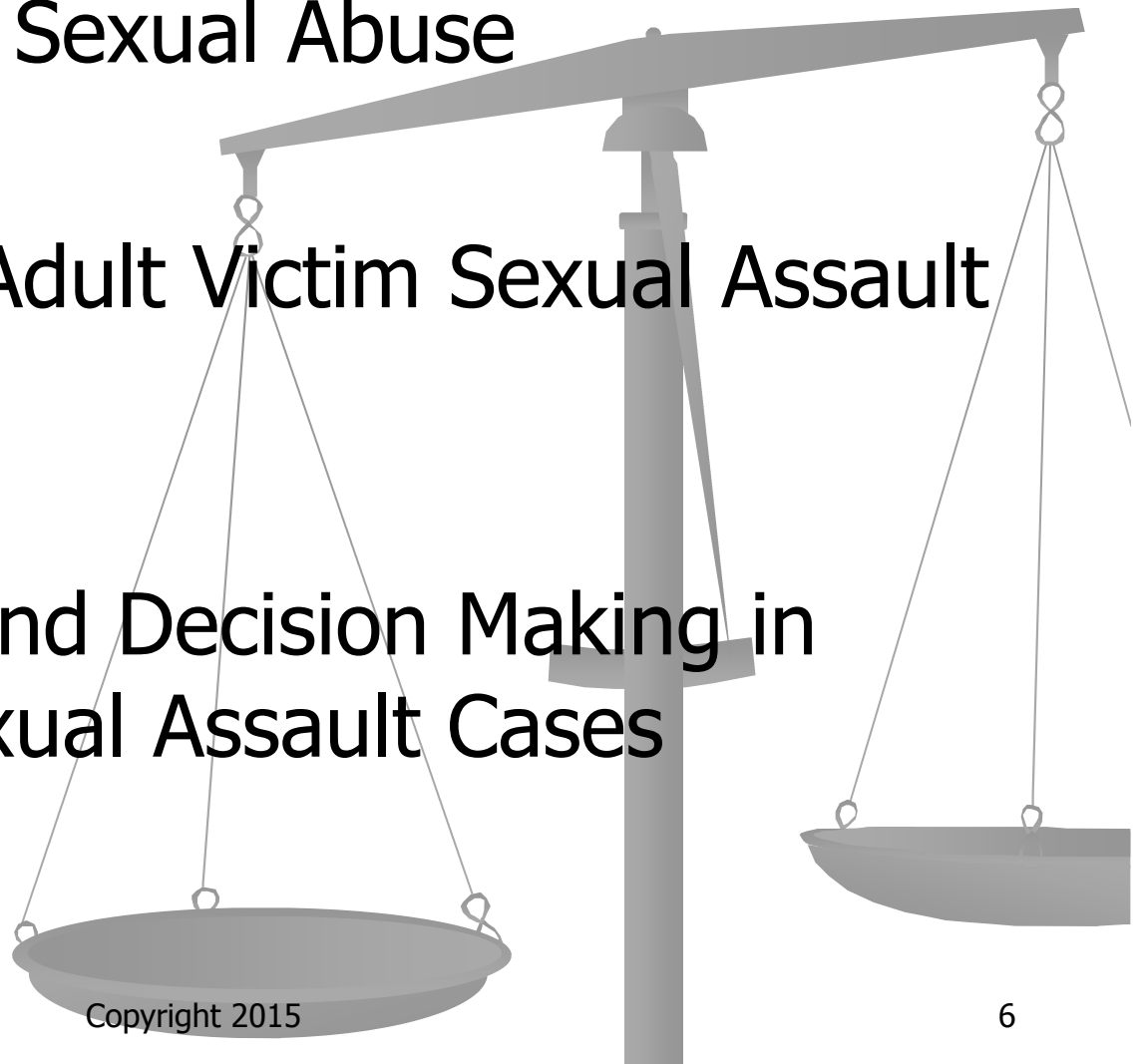


# On-Line Curriculum and Related Publication

- The Challenges of Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases
  - “Judges Tell: What I Wish I Had Known Before I Presided in an Adult Victim Sexual Assault Case,” National Judicial Education Program (2011).
- Each on-line curriculum includes a faculty manual, PowerPoint slides with suggested commentary, participant exercises and handouts

# On-Line Curricula

- Elder Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Interpreters in Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases
- Jury Selection and Decision Making in Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases



# On-Line Curriculum and Related Publication

- Medical Forensic Sexual Assault Examinations: What Are They and What Can They Tell the Courts?
  - “Medical Forensic Sexual Assault Examinations: What Are They and What Can They Tell the Courts?” Lynn Hecht Schafran, *The Judges’ Journal*, Summer 2015 at 32.

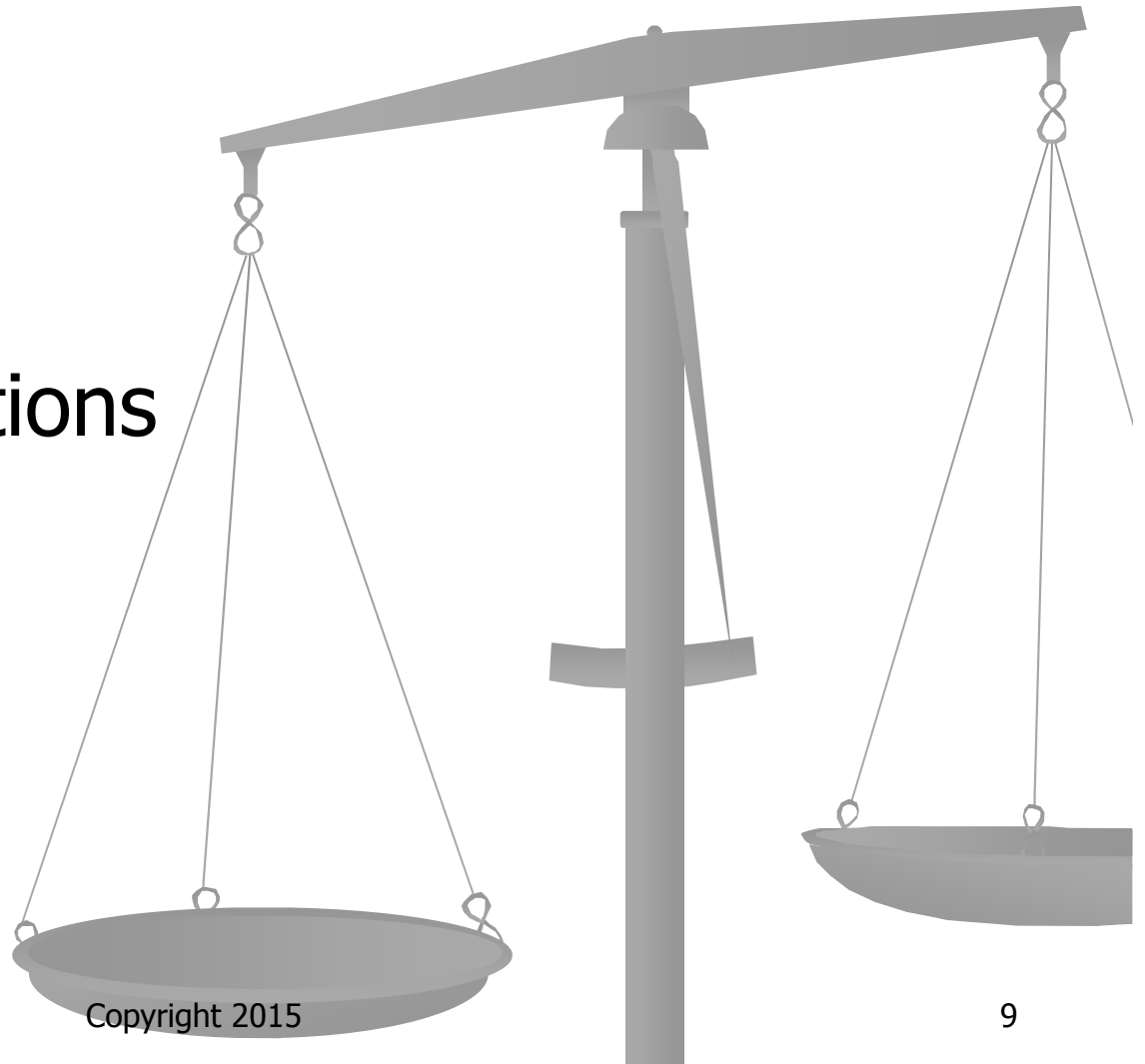
# On-Line Curricula

- Raped or “Seduced”? : How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence
- Women in Drug Treatment Courts: Sexual Assault as the Underlying Trauma



# The Intersection of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

- Web Course
- Related Publications
- Online Curricula

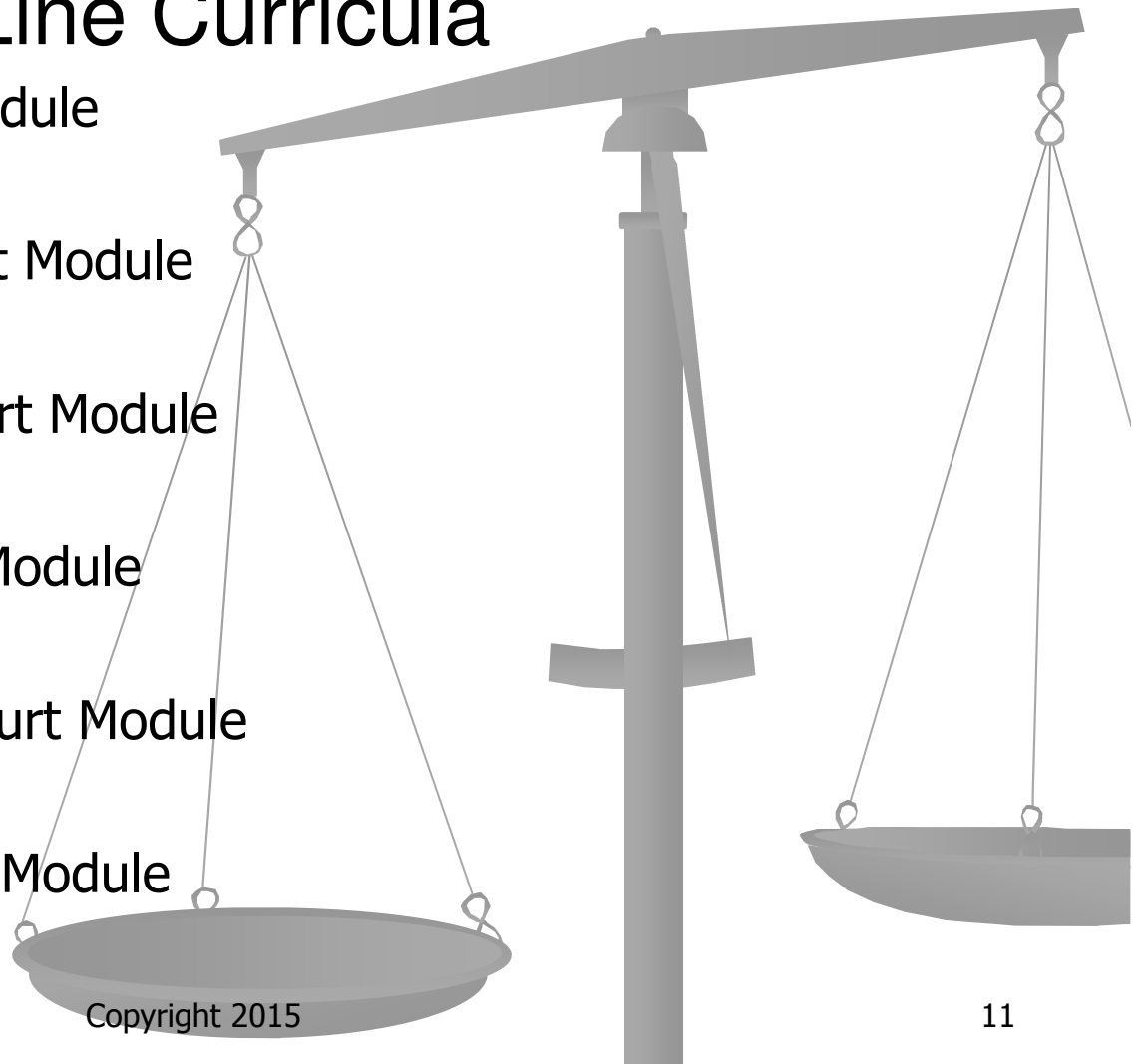


# Web Course: *Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating This Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases*

- 13 Interactive Modules
- 8 Criminal and Civil Case Studies
- Can be adapted to local law and practice
- Current adaptations:
  - Minnesota
  - Tribal law and practice
- Available free at [www.njep-ipsacourse.org](http://www.njep-ipsacourse.org)

# *Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating This Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases – On-Line Curricula*

- 15 Minute Introductory Module
- 60 Minute Risk Assessment Module
- 90 Minute Civil/Family Court Module
- 90 Minute Criminal Court Module
- 180 Minute Civil/Family Court Module
- 180 Minute Criminal Court Module



# Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Related Publications

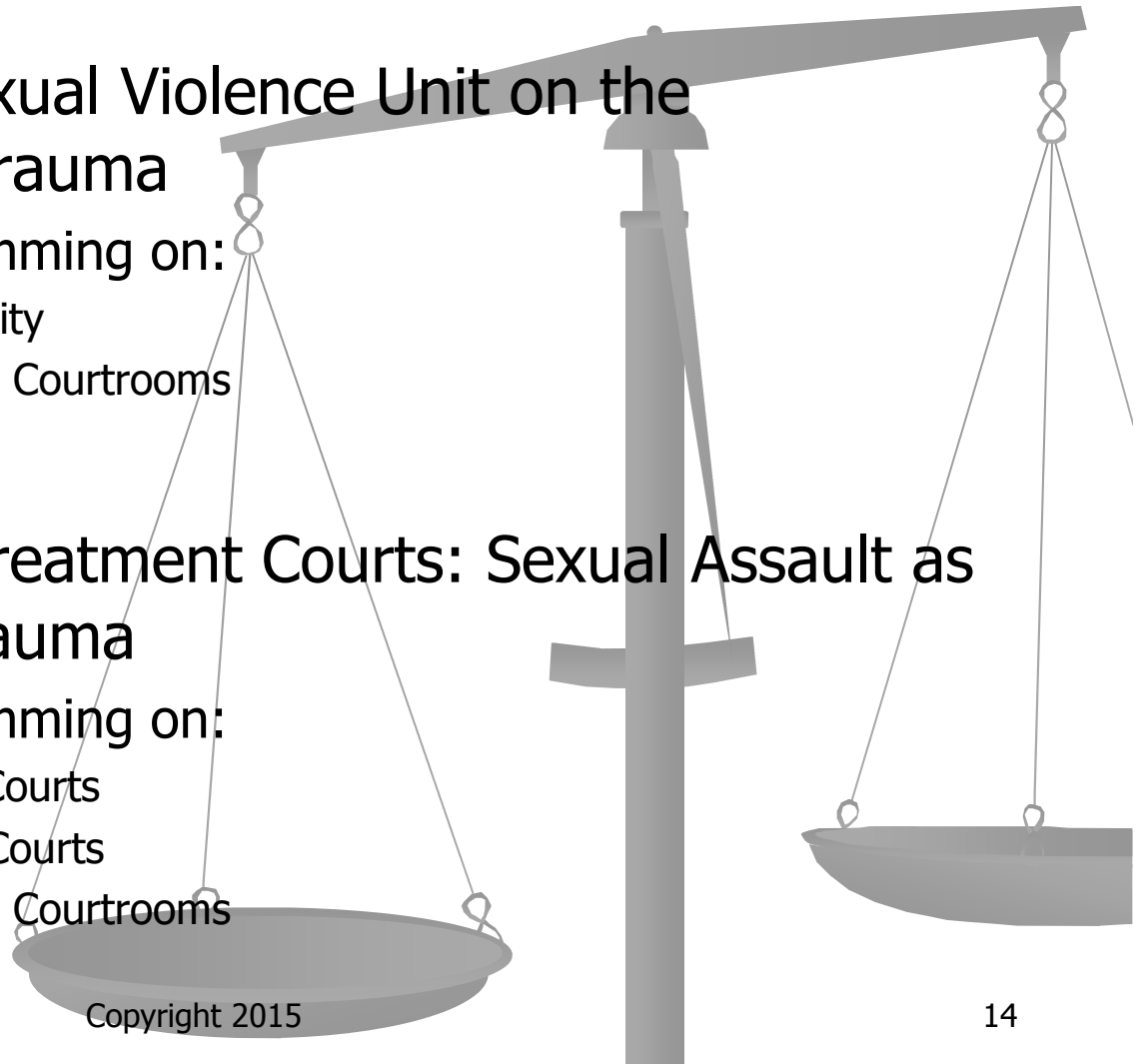
- “Risk Assessment and Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: The Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence,” Lynn Hecht Schafran, *Judicature*, January-February 2010, at 161.
- “Domestic Violence, Developing Brains, and the Lifespan: New Knowledge from Neuroscience,” Lynn Hecht Schafran, *The Judges’ Journal*, Summer 2014, at 32.

# Integrating Sexual Assault Issues Across the Judicial Education Syllabus

- “What Do Elder Abuse, Drug Treatment Courts, and Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Have in Common? Educating the Courts and Others About Sexual Violence in Unexpected Areas,” Lynn Hecht Schafran and Tracy Vris, *Sexual Assault Report* September-October 2011, at 7.

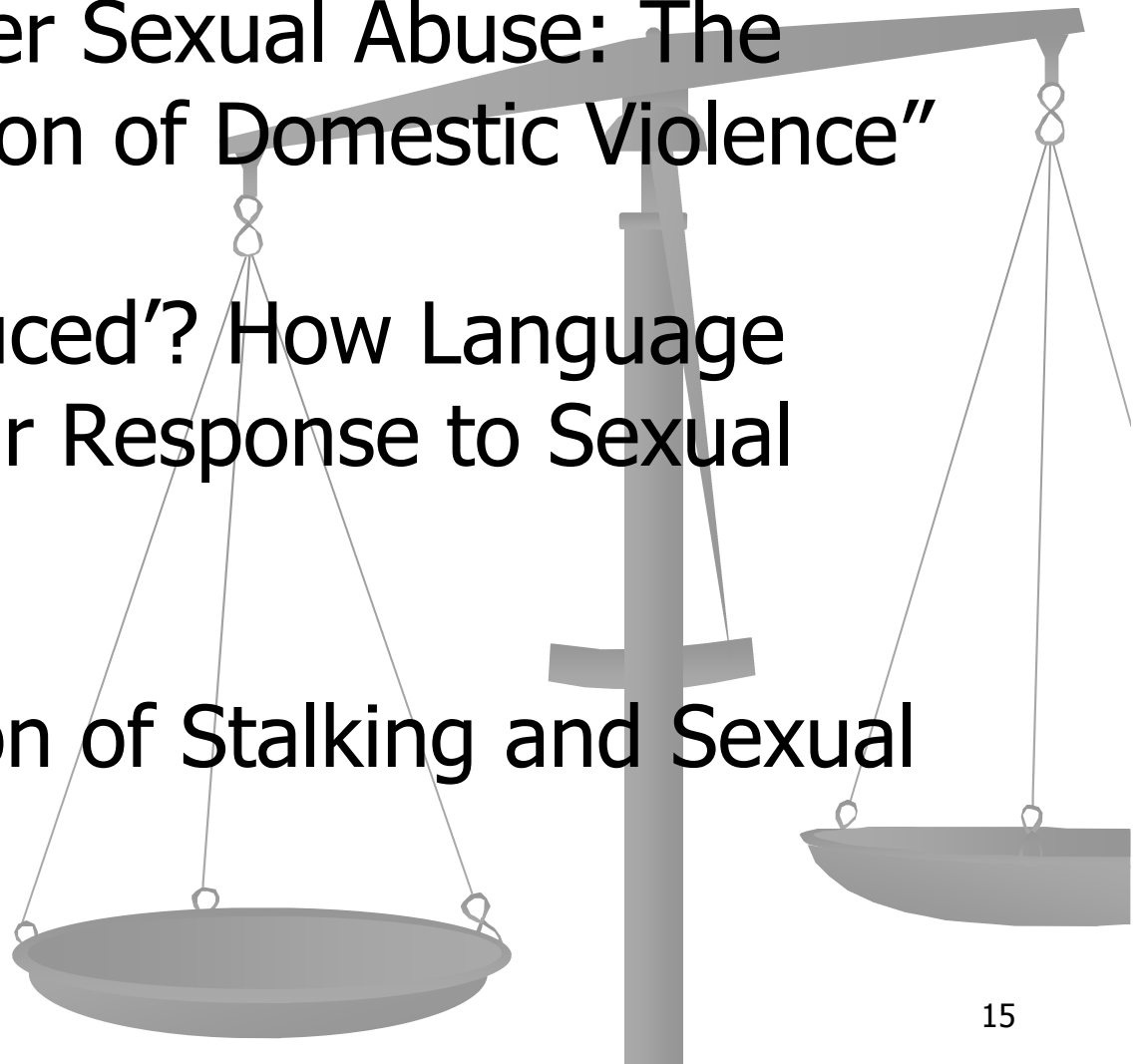
# Integrating Sexual Assault Issues Across the Judicial Education Syllabus

- Examples:
  - Understanding Sexual Violence Unit on the Neurobiology of Trauma
    - Include in programming on:
      - Assessing Credibility
      - Trauma-Informed Courtrooms
      - Expert Witnesses
  - Women in Drug Treatment Courts: Sexual Assault as the Underlying Trauma
    - Include in programming on:
      - Drug Treatment Courts
      - Problem-Solving Courts
      - Trauma-Informed Courtrooms



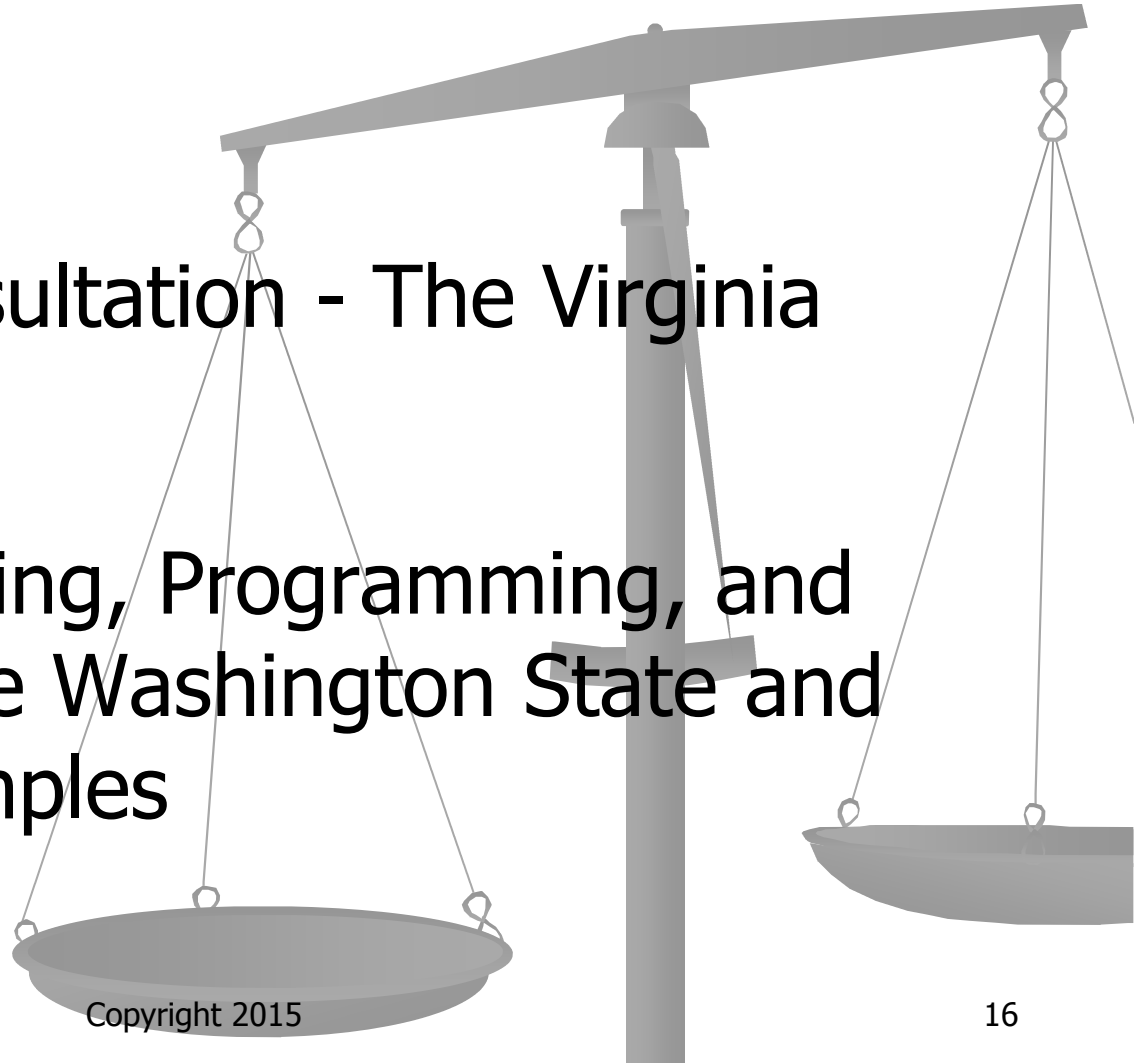
# NJEP Webinars

- “Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: The Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence”
- “Raped or ‘Seduced’? How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence”
- “The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault”



# What Kind of Technical Assistance Can NJEP Provide?

- Materials Only
- Telephone Consultation - The Virginia Example
- Complete Planning, Programming, and Presenting - The Washington State and Minnesota Examples





# Contact

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