

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

The first thing that drew me to working with the Women's Justice Institute (WJI) was "Look At Me," a project started by WJI which allows incarcerated survivors at Logan Correctional Center to share their stories and raise awareness about domestic violence through performance art.

In "The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma", Bessel van der Kolk writes that traumatic experiences "leave traces on our minds and emotions, on our capacity for joy and intimacy, and even on our biology and immune systems." That is why it is so important for survivors of systemic/ gender-based violence to be given opportunities to alchemize their experiences - turn them into something else - so that they can move forward with self-compassion and care.

I was drawn to WJI because it takes a holistic approach -they do more than just provide legal services - they understand the complicated dynamics of trauma, and work with survivors to reclaim the parts of themselves that had to be archived in order for them to survive. And that is truly invaluable!

All-in-all, it has been a great summer!

Sincerely,
Azlynn Brandenburg
Chicago Kent College of Law