

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS  
RESOLUTION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON NOVEMBER 7, 2014

WHEREAS the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers recognizes that recent events concerning domestic violence have brought this very serious issue back to the forefront of the public's attention; and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers has a history of condemning domestic violence and was among the forefront of supporters of the current version of the Federal Violence Against Women Act, and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers is uniquely situated, by virtue of its members daily work with families, to provide leadership in this very critical area of family law; and

WHEREAS domestic violence must be recognized as not only a crime (3 women die every day in the U. S. from domestic violence) but an insidious hazard to the well-being of children that observe and experience the violence; and

WHEREAS domestic violence is found in every community regardless of the education, income, ethnicity, race, age or gender of the victim or the abuser; and

WHEREAS because statistics show one in four women and one in seven men are victims of domestic violence; that 50% of women who are treated at emergency rooms are victims of domestic violence, and that women who are between age 18 and 34 are at the highest risk of domestic violence, it is vitally important that Fellows of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and all other family lawyers recognize that they are in a unique position to provide guidance, security and advice to these women, men, and children victims at the most vulnerable and needy times of their lives,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers will establish a task force to examine how we, as family lawyers, can improve the family law system to better address victims of domestic violence, including exploring collaborations with existing governmental and nongovernmental entities, addressing domestic violence in our communities, and providing education for judges, lawyers, legislators and law enforcement on ways to better address domestic violence and its devastating consequences.