

BRIDGET HEALY RYAN

Bridget Healy Ryan is presently a Highly Qualified Expert (HQE) assigned to the Trial Counsel Assistance Program of the United States Army Legal Services Agency. In her capacity as an HQE she provides technical assistance and training to trial counsel on sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse cases. Prior to her appointment as an HQE she was the Director of Legal Hiring and Recruiting, Director of Public Affairs and the Violence Against Women Policy Advisor for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. In her role as Director, she advised the State's Attorney on a broad range of issues, especially domestic violence and sexual assault, involving the nation's second largest prosecuting office. Prior to being named Director she was the Deputy Supervisor of the Domestic Violence Division for the State's Attorney's Office. During this time, she monitored the prosecution of over 55,000 domestic violence cases emanating each year from the city of Chicago. As an Assistant State's Attorney Ms. Ryan dedicated most of her 16 year career to domestic violence and sexual assault, prosecuting everything from misdemeanor domestic battery to murder. She coordinated the Target Abuser Call, which identifies and prosecutes the highest risk domestic violence offenders. This program was developed under a grant from the Department of Justice and was named one of the top twenty promising practices by Attorney General Janet Reno.

Ms. Ryan developed and presented numerous training sessions on the topic of domestic violence and sexual assault to prosecutors, advocates, judges, law enforcement agencies, psychologists, shelter personnel and court watchers. Among other achievements, Ms. Ryan has had numerous national speaking engagements on workplace violence and stalking. She is also on the Faculty of the National College of District Attorney's, the National District Attorney's Association, The American Prosecutors Research Institute, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the National Sheriff's Association and the International Association of Forensic Nurses. In August 2001 Ms. Ryan was designated by the International Criminal Investigation and Training Assistance Program under the Department of Justice to train several members of the South African Police Service on domestic violence in Pretoria, South Africa and returned in 2005 to the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana where she conducted a two-week Sex Crimes Investigation course. She was one of one hundred experts nationwide chosen to participate in two think tanks conducted by the FBI on the topics of workplace violence, elder abuse, child abuse and intimate partner abuse. Ms. Ryan was instrumental in initiating a teen dating violence prevention curriculum entitled The Breakable Vow, which has become a model program in several states across the nation. For this effort she was awarded the Crimestoppers award in 2002.

In 2004 Ms. Ryan was nominated for an Emmy as a co-producer of an educational video entitled "Not in My School", which serves to educate youth on the effects of hate crimes. In 2006 she was named one of Illinois "Top 40 Lawyers under 40". In 2007 she was inducted into the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Hall of Fame for golf. In 2008 she was chosen as one of only 32 young professionals to do a fellowship in Leadership Greater Chicago, which seeks to identify and support the next level of leadership in the Chicago land area. Among its alumni are First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Additionally, she serves on the UCAN Pace Advisory Board, which assists underprivileged youth. She received her B.A. in English from Indiana University, and her J.D. from the John Marshall Law School.