Alice Paul Institute’s ERA DAY
A Day of Activism, Education & Inspiration
Sunday, June 30, 2019   12pm–5pm   Paulsdale, the home of Alice Paul

Panel Discussion: Why the United States Needs The Equal Rights Amendment
1:00pm – 3:00pm


Panelists:
- Dr. Linda J. Wharton – Professor of Political Science, Stockton University
- Laura L. Dunn, Esq. – Attorney and Founder of SurvJustice
- Marcy Syms – Chair, ERA Coalition/Fund for Women’s Equality
- Bettina Hager – COO & DC Director, ERA Coalition

Bios & Photos of Panelists

Moderator: Roberta W. Francis
Roberta W. Francis, ERA Education Consultant for the Alice Paul Institute, has been a nationally known advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment for over 40 years. After working on ERA ratification through the League of Women Voters in the 1980s and as Chair of the ERA Summit in the 1990s, she was Founding Chair of the ERA Task Force of the National Council of Women’s Organizations from 1999-2015.

Roberta was project coordinator and script consultant for the educational documentary The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution, which premiered in 1998 in Seneca Falls, NY on the 75th anniversary of the ERA’s
introduction by Alice Paul. She also established the www.equalrightsamendment.org website and managed it for nearly 20 years.

A resident of Chatham, NJ, Bobbie served from 1990–94 as Director of the New Jersey Division on Women in the administration of Gov. Jim Florio. She has worked and written extensively on not only the ERA but numerous other issues for women’s advancement, including pay equity, inclusive education, political participation and office-holding, reproductive rights, and the prevention of sex-based violence.

Panelist: Marcy Syms

Marcy is founding trustee and President of the Sy Syms Foundation and since 2012 President of TPD Group LLC, a multi-generational succession planning company. She is the former Chair and CEO of SYMS, one of the first companies to offer designer and brand-name clothing at “off-price” rather than “regular-price”. In 1983, when taking SYMS public, Marcy became the youngest female presidents of a New York Stock Exchange company. In 2009, SYMS acquired Filene’s Basement and operated 50 stores under both names.

Marcy is also author of the book “Mind Your Own Business, And Keep It In the Family” and for eight years a columnist for “Family Business Magazine”. She is presently serving on Rite Aid and Benco Dental boards. Not for profit boards are the Sy Syms School of Business, ERA Coalition (chair), NPR Foundation and NYWF (vice president). In the past, she has also served on numerous other not for profit and private/public partnership boards. A recipient of retail industry and charitable organization honors and recipient of two honorary doctorate degrees. Husband, son and a beloved dog all reside together in New York.

Panelist: Linda J. Wharton

Linda J. Wharton is a Professor of Political Science at Stockton University, where she teaches Constitutional Law, Women and the Law, Civil Liberties, Advanced Constitutional Litigation, and Gender and Political Action. Professor Wharton’s scholarly research and writing focuses on issues of state and federal constitutional law with a special concentration in the law of gender discrimination. Her

From 1989 until 1997, she served as the Managing Attorney of the Women’s Law Project, a public interest law firm located in Philadelphia, where she specialized in litigation and law reform relating to gender discrimination. She served as lead co-counsel in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a challenge to Pennsylvania’s restrictive abortion law, which was decided by the United States Supreme Court in 1992. She also serves as a consultant on issues of gender equity in education and constitutional protection for women’s rights. She serves on the ERA Coalition’s Legal Task Force and was featured in the recent documentary on the Equal Rights Amendment, Equal Means Equal. She has taught courses in sex discrimination law at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law and Rutgers School of Law.

Linda Wharton graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a B.A. in 1977 and from Rutgers Law School with a J.D. in 1981. She was a law clerk to the Hon. Dolores K. Sloviter, former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and an associate with the Dechert law firm in Philadelphia. She is the former Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Women’s History Project.

Panelist: Laura L. Dunn

Laura L. Dunn, Esq., advances victims’ rights through direct representation of survivors in campus, criminal and civil systems, as well as select legislative and policy efforts. As a nationally-recognized victim-turned-victims’ rights attorney and social entrepreneur, her work has been featured by National Public Radio, PEOPLE Magazine, Forbes, the National Law Journal, the New York Times, and many more.

While a student at Maryland Law, Dunn interned at the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women and the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, and worked as a law clerk for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. She also
worked with Congress to pass the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and developed its implementing regulations under the Clery Act through the U.S. Department of Education, which she also worked with on the Obama-era Title IX guidance. For this advocacy, Vice President Joe Biden and Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy have publicly recognized Dunn. Upon graduation, Dunn founded the survivor-led and DC-based legal organization, SurvJustice. It is still the only national nonprofit representing victims of campus sexual violence in hearings across the country.

As an attorney, Dunn is now a published legal scholar, an adjunct law professor, a member of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence and its Criminal Justice Section’s Task Force on College Due Process, a liaison to the American Law Institute’s Model Penal Code on Sexual Assault and its Student Sexual Misconduct Project, an accomplished litigator who helped win the first-ever recognition of a federal victim-advocate privilege, and an expert legal consultant on various campus sexual assault lawsuits. She works as an Attorney and Managing Counsel for the Washington D.C. branch of The Fierberg National Law Group, PLLC.

Dunn has trained countless campus community members, advocates and attorneys at events hosted by the ABA, the Federal Bar Association, the National Association of Women Judges, the College Republican National Committee, the Democratic Attorneys General Association, the University of Chicago’s Institute of Politics, Harvard Law, Stanford University, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the Texas Municipal Police Association, the Arkansas Bar Association, and many more.

For her work, Dunn has received a 2015 Echoing Green Global Fellowship, the 2016 Benjamin Cardin Public Service Award, the 2017 Special Courage Award from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime, and a 2018 TED Fellowship, along with other honors and recognitions over the years.

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**Panelist: Bettina Hager**

Bettina Hager is the COO and DC Director of the ERA Coalition and Fund for Women’s Equality. She also serves as the co-chair of the Equal Rights Amendment Task Force of the National Council of Women’s Organizations. Bettina has conducted focused lobby training workshops on the issue of Constitutional equality and oversaw the creation of a widely used ERA advocacy packet with information on how to contact elected officials, reach out to media and encourage constituency outreach. Bettina organized and
moderated a Senate briefing on the three-state ratification strategy legislation sponsored by Sen. Cardin in April, 2014. She participated in a House briefing on the ERA, March, 2013, and was a speaker on grassroots organizing for the ERA at the ERA conference, Roger Williams University, Nov., 2013. Bettina previously worked as Programs Director and Interim Executive Director at the National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC), advocating for the necessity of women’s political participation at all levels of government. Bettina graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in Biology and concentration in Women’s Studies.