

Her Justice Names Amy Barasch as New Executive Director

New York, NY—Her Justice announced today that Amy Barasch will join the organization as its new Executive Director on September 15, 2014. She will also serve as a member of the Her Justice Board of Directors. Ms. Barasch succeeds Catherine J. Douglass, the founder of Her Justice, who earlier this year announced her plan to retire after serving as Executive Director for nearly 22 years.

“I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Cathy Douglass, who showed great vision when she founded Her Justice,” said Ms. Barasch, “and I’m excited to be reconnecting with my work as a civil court litigator and continuing the focus of my career—bridging the gaps between low-income women and the services and information they need. I look forward to working with the entire Her Justice team to build on its model of leveraging the vast network of dedicated attorneys to serve the equally vast numbers of women and children in our city who need and deserve legal representation.”

“We identified Amy through an extensive search and feel incredibly fortunate to have found such an accomplished and inspirational leader to serve as our next Executive Director,” said Peter V. Pantaleo, Board Chair of Her Justice. “Amy was our clear first choice in an exceptionally strong field of applicants. Her passion for social justice and her commitment to the women and children served by Her Justice could not be stronger.”

Ms. Barasch brings to Her Justice a proven track record of success in both program development and public policy management, as well as a deep understanding of intimate partner violence, sexual assault and public safety. Appointed by the Governor as the Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, where she worked from 2007 to 2012, Ms. Barasch served as a senior member of the Executive branch, advising the Governor and executive agencies on the integration of domestic violence response and prevention into New York State’s important agenda of policies and legislation. During her tenure, she was also tapped to lead a statewide initiative focused on communities facing significant challenges, such as high rates of poverty and crime, to better align state support with local community needs.

Ms. Barasch previously worked for the New York City Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, serving as the Executive Director of the City’s first Family Justice Center, which opened in Brooklyn in 2005. Her Justice is currently an on-site partner at the City’s Family Justice Centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. Ms. Barasch’s deep familiarity

PRESS CONTACT

Carol M. Lindley | Senior Director, Development and Communications
646.442.1170 | CLindley@herjustice.org
www.herjustice.org



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with this important public-private partnership model for serving domestic violence survivors will be a valuable asset for Her Justice. Early in her legal career, Ms. Barasch represented hundreds of women in Family Court in the types of matters Her Justice handles.

After leaving state government, Ms. Barasch became a public service professor at SUNY Albany. She also served as an independent consultant to state and county governments, private foundations and not-for-profit organizations. Ms. Barasch holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and a B.A. from Brown University.

About Her Justice

Her Justice engages the vast talent and resources of New York City's law firms, bringing together committed lawyers and determined women to secure life-changing results. By recruiting, training and mentoring volunteer attorneys from over 80 law firms and corporations to stand side-by-side with women who cannot afford to hire a lawyer, Her Justice shifts the power from abusers to determined and courageous survivors, giving them and their children the chance to survive and thrive. Our free legal services—focused on family law, divorce and immigration—address the unique needs of women who have suffered domestic violence and immigrants isolated by language and culture.

For more information, visit www.herjustice.org.

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