

# SANCTIONED INDIFFERENCE: ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE COURTS AND BEYOND

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## INTRODUCTION

As the issue of domestic violence in the United States has been brought more fully into the national conscience over the last several decades, so too have the shortcomings in both law enforcement and the legal systems in addressing it. The sad truth is that victims of domestic violence have found little protection from law enforcement officials, a problem compounded by an almost complete lack of remedies offered by the judicial system. Indeed, in an apparent irony, U.S. courts have demonstrated more ability and willingness to help foreign domestic violence victims than those victims who are U.S. citizens. While this step might be laudable in addressing what is truly an international problem, it leaves the U.S. in an untenable and ultimately unjust position relative to its own citizens.

This paper will outline the scope of the domestic violence problem in this country, as well as law enforcement's documented failures in responding to it.

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