



**GERI REDDEN  
IS AN EXPERT  
IN DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE AND  
CHILDHOOD ABUSE.**

*Qualified as an expert witness  
and has testified in court.*

- BA, Sociology, Webster University
- M.Ed., Counseling, University of Missouri at St. Louis
- Founding member of both local and statewide Coalitions Against Domestic Violence
- Member National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA)
- Testified at passage of the first Adult Abuse Remedies Law in Missouri
- Founder & Executive Director of Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW)
- Founder & Executive Director of National Center for Violence Prevention (NCVP)
- Developed (5) Family Violence Councils in Missouri (Funded by the CDC)
- Has published more than 40 commentaries and articles.
- Educated professionals at workshops throughout the country from 1989 to 1998.
- Appeared on radio and TV shows across the nation.
- Speaker at the First World Conference on Family Violence, Singapore, 1998.
- Represented family violence on the boards of the following organizations:
  - ALIVE (Alternatives to Living in Violence Environments)
  - Missouri Injury Control Committee
  - Governor's Alliance for the Prevention of Disabilities
  - Governor's Task Force for the Department of Mental Health
  - Missouri Department of Health Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Committee
  - Missouri Statewide Child Fatality Review Panel
  - National Johnston Institute Foundation

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**GERI REDDEN, M.ED.**  
A LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION  
**MITIGATION SPECIALIST  
EXPERT WITNESS**  
SPECIALIZING IN  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AND CHILDHOOD ABUSE

*"... I know that any one of an  
infinite number of causes reaching  
back to the beginning might be working  
out in these boys' minds - whom*



*someone in the past has  
sinned against them."*

*- Clarence Darrow, 1924*

*Leopold & Loeb Trial*

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**There is a relationship between abuse and criminal behavior . . .**

## **MS. REDDEN CAN HELP YOUR CLIENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ABUSED**

### ***If past violence is a defense, why don't clients talk about having been abused?***

Often clients don't realize they've been abused. Even those who have been severely abused during childhood often won't talk about it.

#### **Here's why:**

- they were told they were not being abused
- they viewed their abusive treatment as normal (it was all they knew)
- they think they caused the abuse because they were bad
- they've been trained to not talk about family business
- the shame of abuse makes it too difficult to talk about

*" People are always speculating: Why am I as I am? To understand . . . any person – his whole life, from birth – must be reviewed. All our experiences fuse into our personalities. Everything that ever happened to us is an ingredient."*

*– El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz*

#### **Recent case:**

Janice was battered by Bill for 16 years before they committed a crime together and got arrested. Bill is serving 7 years for the crime. Janice was awarded probation with an SIS.

**Ms. Redden helped the judge to understand that Janice was a victim, not a criminal.**

Ms. Redden has learned how to speak about violence. After years of educating professionals from various fields, Ms. Redden knows how to convince others to her point of view about this confusing issue. She has the expertise to identify and explain the linkup between the various aspects of abuse and your client's behavior.

As a specialist in family violence, Ms. Redden can interpret the effects of violence on the client's mental and emotional development. She can convince judges and juries that these effects played a major role in your client's criminal behavior.

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*" Mitigation is the biography of mental disability. It is the explanation of what influences converged in the years, days, hours, minutes and seconds leading up to the crime, and how information was processed in a damaged brain. It is a basis for compassion – not an excuse."*

*– Richard Stetler,  
Capital Crimes Defense Expert*

**89% of violent criminals  
come from violent homes.**

(FBI, 1992)

**Being abused or neglected as a child  
increases the likelihood of arrest  
as a juvenile by 59%,  
as an adult by 28%  
and for a violent crime by 30%.**

(National Institute of Justice, Feb 2001)

#### ***Killers are demonstrating a triad of factors:***

- 1) some form of mental illness**
- 2) neurological damage**
- 3) childhood abuse**

(Dr. Jonathan Pincus, *"Base Instincts: What Makes Killers Kill?"* Norton Press, 2002)

**Experiences within the first few years of life  
set one's "world view" and continue to  
influence the person into adulthood.**

(*"Understanding the Effects of Maltreatment on Early Brain Development"*, article by the Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2001)