



**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

*"A lot of women  
are in prison not  
because they had  
criminal intent,  
but because they  
hooked up with the  
wrong guy."*

*- Essie Alfonso, LCSW, ACSW  
Domestic Violence Expert  
and Mitigation Specialist*



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**“Why does a women stay in a violent relationship?”**

**“BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO STAY ALIVE.”**

### 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 understands the long-term effects of violence. After years of educating professionals from various fields, Ms. Redden knows how to present a sympathetic yet clear-headed view of this often confusing issue. She has the expertise to identify and explain the linkup between your client’s abuse and her subsequent criminal behavior.

**1996 study found that a majority of the women incarcerated in New York City’s jail reported engaging in illegal activity in response to experiences of abuse, the threat of violence, or coercion by their male partners.**

*(Compelled to Crime: The Gender Entrapment of Battered Black Women; Routledge Press, 1996)*

### Recognizing an abused client:

If you represent a female criminal client who is accused of committing a crime with, for or against her boyfriend, husband or significant other, and demonstrates any of the following behaviors, you may have a legitimate battered woman defense or sentencing mitigation argument.

1. She is more concerned about her abuser’s fate than her own.

**Example:** An attorney’s female client asked him to take her boyfriend’s case instead of hers because she thought he was a better attorney than her boyfriend’s attorney.

2. She still cares for him regardless of how badly she has been treated.
3. She seems more afraid of her partner than she is of going to jail. The client may urge her attorney to not place blame on her partner because doing so would make him angry.
4. She wants to tell her partner about every strategy discussed for her defense. She may even say she has to check with him before she agrees to let her attorney use a particular strategy.
5. She may downplay prior abuse. She may not admit to the level of abuse which has occurred.

In 1999, the federal government found that three out of five women in prison had been abused by current or prior husbands or boyfriends.

*(Bureau of Justice Statistics, April 1999)*

### How Ms. Redden can help:

#### **Eliciting information.**

With a deep understanding of domestic violence and a compassionate commitment to victims, Ms. Redden is able to help your client get past the fear and humiliation of admitting the abuse and become motivated to fight for her own case.

#### **Finding evidence.**

Ms. Redden knows how to look for the specific evidence that can prove your client has been abused.

#### **Safety planning.**

A long history in domestic violence work has given Ms. Redden the knowledge and perspective to help clients stay safe.

#### **Convincing judges and juries.**

Ms. Redden knows how to interpret domestic violence in a way that shows your client as a victim.

#### **Freeing up the attorney’s time.**

Ms. Redden will handle the numerous contacts required to get the client able to work on her case, freeing the attorney to focus on case strategy.

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