



**LEGAL ACTION OF WISCONSIN WITHDRAWS FROM PUBLIC INTEREST INTERVIEW PROGRAM
IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE AND OFFERS
ALTERNATE INTERVIEW OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

Rachel Fox Armstrong, Development and Communications Manager
(414) 274-3097 rfa@legalaction.org

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (February 9, 2021) -- Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. has withdrawn from the Wisconsin Public Interest Interview Program (WIPIIP), a collaboration between the University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette University Law School. Legal Action condemns any form of discrimination or violence against Transgender or Gender-Non-conforming People and is committed to ensuring all members of the legal community have fair and equal access to employment opportunities. The firm recognizes the epidemic of violence against the trans community, especially Black trans individuals and trans individuals of color, and for these reasons, will not participate in a program alongside a group devoted to violence against trans and gender non-conforming individuals.

WIPIIP has chosen to allow a group devoted to violence against trans and gender non-conforming individuals to access university resources to virtually interview students. Due to this employer's goals and guiding principles, Legal Action finds the assertion that this employer will not discriminate against law students based on gender identity to not be credible. "It is incredibly harmful to our LGBTQIA+ community members, especially those in the Wisconsin law school system, that a discriminatory and hateful group is permitted to participate in a school-sponsored event," said attorney Jennifer Johnson, Legal Action's Director of Diversity & Inclusion and Racial Justice Legal Work.

Legal Action will provide alternative interview times for those students who would ordinarily interview with us at the WIPIIP, and all of our intern positions remain open. The firm will work diligently to accommodate the needs of students wishing to work at Legal Action. Legal Action will contact the students they have selected for interviews and plans to conduct interviews between February 15 – February 21. Students with questions can contact attorney Erica Lopez by phone at (608) 620-2027 or email at ekl@legalaction.org.

Legal Action is committed to serving LGBTQ+ individuals in our communities and service areas and expects interns to share in that commitment and work for justice for transgender people in our communities during their time at Legal Action.

####