

Winter  
2017



## *LEAP Needs Your Support*

*Make your tax-deductible donation today*

As a member of LEAP's extended family of supporters, we know that you know the daily, direct impact that LEAP makes on the lives of women in prison, their families, and our communities. We do so much with very little. However, we do need at least a little financial support to keep providing services. It's a great time of year to show the women of LEAP that you care. Please go to our new website and click on the donate link to make your year end donation. [www.LeanForLadies.org](http://www.LeanForLadies.org)

## *The Best Worst Job I Ever Had*

*Thanks to Sherri Romano, Esq.*

As many members of the LEAP community know, I was a practicing attorney in a prior life. While I certainly never liked practicing law, it was easy (ish.) With my position as Executive Director of LEAP, it is the exact opposite. I LOVE my job, but it's really hard.

The hardest part is seeing how much more needs to be done. Knowing that we are able to serve only a fraction of the women in prison who need jobs, housing and education keeps me up at night. Having to figure out how to stretch our limited financial resources to keep the program running is more challenging than any case I have handled.

The pleasure of seeing LEAP graduates thrive more than makes up for sleepless nights. Another awesome part of my job is seeing how members of our community show up in support of LEAP. Some show up by donating money. Others show up by mentoring, others by donating to our Dragonfly Thrift Boutique, and others by sharing, liking and sending love on social media.

A few show up quietly. One of those is attorney Sherri Romano. Sherri is a criminal defense attorney. She is one of those attorneys who obviously loves her job and truly cares. She is also one of the rare souls who offers to help and really means it.



Sherri Romano, Esq.

One of the biggest challenges facing women when they get out of prison is accumulated traffic fines and warrants. Most LEAP graduates get jobs, but just earn minimum wages that barely cover living expenses. We all know that to get ahead in Miami in the long run, one needs a car and a license. With mountains of fines that they can never pay, it is an overwhelming catch-22.

Whenever we have a LEAP graduate in that situation, all I have to do is call Sherri and it's handled. She works her magic, and the fines are reduced to something manageable. Once, one of our students, Heather, had an arrest warrant improperly issued for failing to appear on a traffic matter (she was in prison and so could not make it to court.) That warrant meant that Heather would not get out of prison on her release date. Instead, she would be transferred to County Jail for a few extra days until they figured out that the warrant was improper. I called Sherri and again, like magic, the issue was resolved. Heather was released on her scheduled date and was able to go home to her daughter. Sherri does all of this pro bono and always graciously assures me that it was "no problem."

As we at LEAP count our blessings going into the New Year, we include people like Sherri who show up in ways large and small that make LEAP possible. Thank you everyone and keep the love coming!

Mahlia Lindquist  
LEAP  
Executive Director

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## Contact

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## Stay Connected



America is the land of the second chance - and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life -

George W. Bush

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