

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Mock Jury Marital Rape Trial Explores Domestic Violence**

**Macomb, Illinois, October 15, 2010** – WIRC-CAA Victim Services is hosting its third Mock Jury Rape Trial in Macomb on Monday, October 25 at the McDonough County Courthouse, Room 201, at 7:00 PM. The trial is part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and is designed to bring awareness and education about domestic violence issues to the forefront. The trial focuses on marital rape and its intention is to help audience members unlearn domestic violence myths. The jury is comprised of audience members, lending a unique learning experience for both the members of the jury and those in the audience.

“It can be really hard for a victim of violence to come forward because they worry about being believed. There are myths in our society that place blame on the victim. These myths blame the victim and not the abuser. It is Victim Services’ hope that, although the trial is severely abbreviated, it will help dispel these myths and portray a realistic picture of what the courtroom experience can be like for victims of domestic violence,” explained Becky Cox, WIRC-CAA Victim Services Domestic Violence Legal Advocate.

Facts and scenarios will be presented by various characters in the legal system. Ultimately, the trial’s jury will make the final judgment of guilt or innocence of the accused. Immediately after the verdict, there will be a short discussion about the issues presented.

All are welcome to attend the performance. The trial can be a valuable experience and opportunity to show support for efforts to end domestic violence. For more information regarding the trial, contact Victim Services at (309) 837-6622.

Performance is free to the public.

**CAPTION:** Pictured are the jury sworn in from the 2009 Mock Jury Trial. The randomly selected jury consisted of community members and students.

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