

Cyber-Violence – When A Leader Becomes the Victim



Cyber-violence is growing rapidly in its use against female leaders in business, law, politics, media, and virtually every other area where women exhibit leadership and influence. The use of cyber-violence against professionals differs vastly from revenge porn or domestic violence and is intended to limit or destroy the ability of those in leadership to perform in their professional role. Cyber-predators primarily target women using sexualized tools placing the victim at great risk of rape and other physical attacks.

The challenges faced by a professional under attack are multi-faceted and involve a threat to income earning opportunities, destruction of professional relationships, and breach of family security. In professional roles where an online presence is paramount to business development victims are doubly challenged with little recourse for protection.

Though members of the judicial community may be able to limit an online presence, they face exposure to acts of retaliation due to their role in ruling against dangers to society. Inappropriate communications or threats to protected court family members have also been on the rise. There were 4,542 reports of threats or inappropriate communications to family members in 2018. In 2014, that number was 768.

Our current opportunities for addressing this unique form of abuse lies in creating awareness of the challenges of cyber-violence faced by women in leadership roles, removing shame and generating solid support for victims, educating the public and judicial system of the important distinctions in the use of cyber-violence as professional retaliation and interference, preparing members of the judicial system to identify personal risk, and instituting safeguards and setting the stage for legislative changes that support those impacted.

In light of the above, many women compromised by acts of cyber-violence against their professional roles react in stages that include some or all of the following: 1) denial, or the hope that ignoring it will “make it go away”; 2) shame and embarrassment—exacerbated by the deflection of those in charge of protecting society from harm; 3) secrecy — an attempt to hide the attacks from their support system for fear of loss of reputation; 4) worthlessness — a lingering question as to why the victim wasn’t valued enough to protect; 5) disassociation — an effort to compartmentalize harm to enable the victims to carry out ongoing responsibilities; 6) problem-solving — progression into a call to action to identify roadblocks and drive solutions.

Sadly, the majority under attack do not progress to the stage of calling for solutions, and those that do are assumed to have experienced less emotional or financial damage which is a far cry from the truth.

Learning Objectives

1. Identifying cyber-violence in the professional setting as distinct from domestic violence.
2. Evaluating the personal and economic impact of cyber-violence.
3. Creating healthy barriers to prevention of cyber-violence against judicial members
4. Understanding the stages of victim response

Speaker:



Tamarin Lindenberg, Founder, Lindenberg Law Group

Tamarin Lindenberg is an executive with 25+ years as a business advisor. She has led efforts on matters involving reorganization, investor relations, M&A, spin offs, buy/sell, bank workouts, tech transfer, board formation, and SEC compliance. She has served as key advisor and contributed to forensic efforts in matters involving insurance fraud, embezzlement of escrow funds, tax fraud, harassment claims and has worked closely with legal teams in litigation and complex transactions throughout her career

and is a member of the Academy of Court Appointed Neutrals.

She is at the forefront of efforts to prohibit the use of cyber-violence to silence women in leadership roles. Her work has brought recognition to the risk for female leaders and is driving awareness of the threat to the physical, economic, reputational and family safety of those who have a voice in controversial matters.

Tamarin founded Lindenberg Law Group, a business law firm under the ABS Utah Office of Innovation and her work has drawn international attention to the need to prevent the use of cyber-violence as a tool for silencing women in leadership roles.

She is member of the American Bar Association, California Lawyers Association, Women En Mass, National Association of Women Judges and American Society of Plastic Surgeons.