

PRESS RELEASE

According to the Bar Association of Madrid, Lawyers in Spain Enjoy Impunity from Malpractice under the Principle of *Judicial Independence* in the Violation of Rights of Domestic Abuse Victims

by Quenby Wilcox
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Washington, DC – Founder of Global Expats, Quenby Wilcox, announced today that she is appealing the decision of the *Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid* (Bar Association,) *Preliminar 859/13*, which contends that lawyers in Spain enjoy impunity for malpractice and violation of the rights of their clients, as well as any infractions of the law, under the principle of *judicial independence*.

In the *Preliminar 859/13*, the Colegio de Abogados de Madrid contends that:

- **The violation of the rights of a victim of domestic violence and discrimination against women “*exclusively affect fundamental rights recognized in the Spanish Constitution (CE) and norms in international agreements, and not in any way norms under ordinary laws*”** and thereby protects lawyers from any wrong-doing. **(Demonstrating a lack of recognition of the hierarchy of judicial norms in Spain by the *Colegio de Abogados*.)**
- The malpractice and negligence of implicated lawyers are “*decisions by lawyers [that] fall under their independence, prerogative that assist in the execution of their function as provided for under article 542.2 of the Ley Orgánica del Poder Judicial, 33 of the Estatuto General de la Abogacía and 2 of the Código Deontológico de la Abogacía Española, [and] that immunizes them from all interference and is the exclusive territory of the defense, without any possibility of a deontological revision*” **(Demonstrating a lack of recognition of article 1, 9, and 10 of the Spanish Constitution, inter alia by the *Colegio de Abogados*.)**

The *Preliminar 859/13* was dictated in response to an official complaint filed by Ms. Wilcox on June 14, 2013 against her legal counsel Gonzalo Martínez de Haro, María Fernanda Guerrero Guerrero, Belén García Martín, Jose Manuel Hernández Jiménez (court-appointed lawyer,) Jorge Capell de Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves Pereira, Alberto Fontes García Calamarte, Miguel Martínez López de Asiain, and Ignacio González Martínez for gross negligence and professional malpractice in regards to her domestic violence complaint, divorce and custody battles in the last 6 years. Her original complaint against implicated lawyers, the *Preliminar 859/13*, and appeal to *Preliminar 859/13* are posted on <http://worldpulse.com/node/72778>. The attached Tables 1 & 2 provide a resume of the infractions.

The lack of protection of victims of domestic violence by family courts is of epidemic proportions (see Amnesty International’s report *Que Justicia Especializada?* attached, with a video & testimony posted on www.es.amnesty.org/paises/espana/violencia-de-genero.) Ms. Wilcox has solicited the support and assistance from human rights & women’s rights organizations in Spain in denouncing widespread malpractice of judicial actors, responsible for failure of family courts to protect victims and the assassination of over 500 women in the past 7 years.

Quenby Wilcox, is a career Expat “Trailing Spouse” whose work focuses on domestic violence as a human rights violation, the advancement of women/homemaker’s rights, and promoting the interests of expatriated citizens around the world. Her research, and results of her work regarding the problems in family courts are posted on www.worldpulse.com/user/2759/journal.

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