March 2025

STANDING FIRM News

- In conjunction with members of the WC&S Legal department, our Senior Customer Engagement Manager, Mary, hosted a two-part webinar series for our college & university members on safety planning and understanding Protection from Abuse Orders (PFAs).
- Director of Economic Impact, Megan Rose, is participating in the PA Workforce Development Association (PAWDA) fellowship for advocacy & policy.
- Program Associate, Karen Sellers, supports the Level Up Greater Pittsburgh Pay Equity Campaign as a member of the planning committee
    - As we look forward in 2025, we're looking for your personal experiences (specifically AAPI, Black, Native, & Latina women). Click here to share your story.
- The STANDING FIRM team supports Paid Family Medical Leave as members of the Family Care Act coalition
    - The coalition will be sponsoring an advocacy day on March 25 at the capital in Harrisburg. WC&S survivors have been invited to speak on their experience. It is important to let your state representatives know that you support the Family Care Act.
    - PA House Bill 200
    - PA Senate Bill 580
    - Need help finding your representative?
- The STANDING FIRM team supports the National Disabilities Institute as members of the Alliance for Access & Assets (Pittsburgh) steering committee.
    - The Alliance held a fantastic event on March 4th at CLASS (hybrid event) and will be preparing for our next event soon. Visit the Alliance website above to learn more and to become a member.
- Consider becoming a member of STANDING FIRM and invite a colleague to join as well. To learn more, schedule an information session with our director here.
- STANDING FIRM Information Sheets

Women's History Month

Domestically, the National Woman's History Alliance selected the theme for 2025 as **"Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations."** Globally, International Women's Day set the theme for International Women's Day as **"Accelerate Action."**

Growing from a weeklong celebration that began in 1978, Women's History Month is dedicated to reflecting, honoring, and celebrating the oft-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history. In 1987, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the weeklong event (started in 1980 by President Carter) to the month of March.

Trailblazers, Warriors, and Barrier-Breakers

While we know the stories of many, it's important to take a moment to remember those who have made significant contributions but may not be as well known:

1. **Ellen Berliner & Anne Steytler** — founders of Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
2. **Ada Lovelace** – born in London in 1815, she created a program for a prototype of a digital computer and made predictions about how future computers might be used beyond mathematics.
3. **Victoria Woodhull** -- although too young, she was the first woman to run for president in 1879.
4. **Belva Ann Lockwood** – in the 1880s, before any women had the right to vote, she was first woman to officially appear on ballots for presidential elections (1884 & 1888). Amid doubt and backlash, she obtained her law degree, was the first woman admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court bar, fought for women's rights/equality, and launched her campaign (she stated she might not be able to vote, but nothing was keeping men from voting for her).
5. **Lois Jenson** – the first woman to win a class action lawsuit for sexual harassment in the U.S. What's remarkable is that this win came just 34 years ago in 1991.
6. **Recy Taylor** – although she didn't receive justice, her case kindled the civil rights movement and inspired other black women to speak out about their assaults.
7. **Rep. Patsy Takemoto Mink** – the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman elected to the House of Representative, she devoted her life to advocating for gender equality & educational reform. In 2002, Title IX was renamed the Patsy T. Fink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.
8. **Lindy Boggs** – won her husband's seat after a special election. Boggs tweaked an amendment to a bill that would have banned discrimination in lending, she noticed it didn't include sex & marital status. In addition to this win, she pushed for equal pay for government jobs & access to government business contracts. Boggs helped American women win new economic independence—power not as wives, but as people.

Read. Listen. Learn.

An Introduction to Women's History Month

Women's History Month

Carnegie Library Celebrates Women's History Month

The History Chicks Podcast

Watch on WQED

Thank You to Renewing Members

Dollar Bank Howmet Aerospace PITT OHIO PJ Dick Trumbull Lindy Group