

- battered women defendants to cope, heal, and grow during and after the trial process;
- * new opportunities for currently and formerly battered women to use their own experience in helping and supporting other battered women.

GOAL 4. To heighten public awareness and understanding about the victimization process experienced by battered women, and to build broad-based community support for battered women defendants.

Objectives:

- * expanded media coverage about domestic violence and battered women's defense issues;
- * increased community action in support of battered women (i.e., local defense committees, bail funds, etc.);
- * increased awareness among public officials at the state and national levels about needed policy changes affecting battered women defendants.

PROJECT AREAS

In order to achieve the goals and objectives outlined above, the National Clearinghouse has developed five major Project areas, as follows:

- 1) The **Technical Assistance Unit** provides direct information, resources, and consultation to battered women defendants and their families, battered women's advocates, defense attorneys, expert witnesses, judges, legislators, members of the media, students, prison officials, jury trial consultants, and others. Clearinghouse staff responds to a wide variety of inquiries. For example, the staff offers defense attorneys information about relevant case law, defense and sentencing strategies, jury selection and clemency applications; to legislators the staff offers social and legal background information on domestic violence and battered women defendants, and to advocates the National Clearinghouse offers "how-to" information and referrals to help them in their support of battered women facing trial or in prison.
- 2) The **Resource Unit** collects, analyzes and disseminates legal and programmatic information to those working with battered women defendants, as well as to battered women themselves. Resource Unit components include: a) A comprehensive, computerized Annotated Bibliography, which currently contains over 2100 law-review articles, state and federal cases involving battered women defendants, and relevant psychological literature organized by topic; b) Resource Packets on specific subject areas pertinent to defense issues and strategies; and, c) a Resource Manual (work in progress) to assist battered women's programs considering working with, or who are currently working with, battered women who are facing trial or who are currently incarcerated.
- 3) The **Training Unit** is geared toward building the knowledge and skills of defense teams, battered women's advocates, and battered women themselves, through ongoing training and seminars at the local, state, regional, and national levels. The National Clearinghouse offers trainings on a variety of topics including, but not limited to: "When Battered Women Become Defendants: Should We Advocate?", "Strategies for Justice: Building Effective Defense Teams?", "The Law and Battered