

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL

# POWER ACT EVENT

HOSTED BY THE CHIEF JUDGES OF  
THE SOUTHERN, EASTERN, AND  
NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF NEW YORK:  
HON COLLEEN MCMAHON (SDNY),  
HON. ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF (EDNY),  
AND HON. GLENN T. SUDDABY (NDNY)

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
JOANNE M. CHERISMA,  
AND GLENNA MCCARTHY

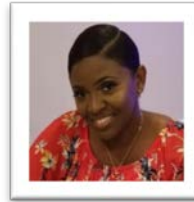
SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 2020

1:00 P.M.

TO REGISTER, CLICK BELOW:

[TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE](#)

The Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 (the “POWER Act”), aims to help victims and survivors of domestic violence gain access to pro bono legal services. Under the Act, the chief judge in each judicial district must host at least one public event annually to promote pro bono services to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In doing so, the chief judge seeks to maximize the local impact and delivery of high-quality pro bono legal services to survivors. This 2020 webinar is an opportunity to connect with lawyers throughout the state and to identify the challenges faced by domestic violence survivors, the legal resources available throughout the district, and the existing and developing pro bono opportunities focused on survivors. Please join us as we hear from authors and survivors, Joanne M. Cherisma and Glenna McCarthy, with introductions from SDNY Chief Judge Colleen McMahon, EDNY Chief Judge Roslynn R. Mauskopf, and NDNY Chief Judge Glenn. T. Suddaby.



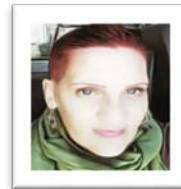
## *Joanne M. Cherisma*

Joanne is a Haitian born writer, a born-again Christian, a mother and a nurse, by profession.

In June 2019, she received the "*Diamonds Among Us Award*" for her strength to overcome adversity and to go on to thrive and help others, and for her courageous, conquering and victorious spirit.

In 2018, she published "*I Never Thought I Would Be A Statistic*" in which she shared her testimony of how she overcame an abusive marriage and is currently working on her second book as well as her book of poetry. Joanne writes poetic prose that speaks to the hearts of many. Her passion for writing embodies her empathetic nature while showcasing inner human vulnerability that sometimes goes unheard. Joanne uses her writing as an outlet and voice for those who can understand the slings and arrows of life. She has a realistic view of situations which allow her readers to go on journeys through her writing.

In 2016, she started "*Beyond the Abuse, Inc.*", to bring awareness on abusive relationship and provide hope, empowerment, support and confidence to the victims. Since then she has had the opportunity to speak at many engagements, events and workshops in the US, CANADA and HAITI.



## *Glenna McCarthy*

Glenna, a survivor of physical and sexual abuse, found out in 1990 that she had contracted HIV from a boyfriend. Feeling as though she were “damaged goods,” she went on a “self-destruct mission” that led to injection drug use, a stint in prison and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. While she was in jail in 1999, she was informed that she had AIDS and HCV.

Several years later, Glenna got arrested again and got sent back to prison for a shorter period. But this time when she came home, she found the Crime Victims Treatment Center in Harlem, which helps people affected by violence.

Glenna also started volunteering at an animal shelter in Spanish Harlem, working with abused and neglected animals, especially pit bulls. “I related to them because nobody likes them and they’ve been discarded,” she says. “I thought they needed love.”

Glenna is the author of two books “*Damaged Goods*”, and “*Recycled Human*”