



Women Trailblazers:

Marla Spindel

Co-founder, Executive Director, DC KinCare Alliance

Q: The National Women's History Alliance has declared this year's theme for [Women's History Month](#) is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope." What does this theme mean to you?

A: *Women have always been instrumental in healing and providing nurturing to our families and society and, when doing so, promote hope for better days ahead.*

Q: What motivates/drives you to continue in public service?

A: *Helping others is my passion, and I will not rest until there is equity and justice for all underserved and under-resourced communities in our country.*

Q: What would you consider your proudest moment – professional, academic, personal or otherwise?

A: *My proudest moment was when I co-founded DC KinCare Alliance to help heroic relative caregivers who step up every day to raise children in their extended families who have nowhere else to go.*

Q: Who are the women who inspire you?

A: *The relative caregivers, the vast majority of whom are women, who give up everything to save at-risk DC children from homelessness, abuse and neglect, and trauma and provide them with a safe and loving home.*



Marla Spindel

is the co-founder and executive director of DC KinCare Alliance, which provides legal representation, education, and advocacy for relative caregivers raising at-risk D.C. children. Prior to starting DC KinCare Alliance, Spindel co-founded the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, where she managed its Child Advocacy Practice for 10 years and then acted as special counsel, focusing on national and D.C. child welfare policy. She has practiced family law in D.C. for over 15 years. Currently, Spindel is spearheading federal impact litigation on behalf of kinship caregivers and the children they raise against the DC Child and Family Services Agency, challenging DC's discriminatory and illegal practice of hidden foster care. In 2020, Spindel was chosen as one of 100 Child Welfare League of America Champions for Children. She earned a J.D., with honors, from George Washington University Law School and a B.A. in government from Cornell University.

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