

Narrative Bio for Patrice Lenowitz

E-Mail: patrice@nurturedparent.org

Phone: (201) 849-3000 / **Fax:** (201) 849-3166

On the web: www.nurturedparent.org

Patrice is a domestic violence survivor, victims' rights advocate, activist, public speaker and playwright. Of paramount importance to her work is advocating for victims' rights, and to unravel why our courts routinely fail the most vulnerable in our society, women and children in crisis seeking a life free from abuse. Her passion and leadership have led to new child protection legislation in New Jersey, and it is built upon the premise that the rights, safety, health and wellbeing of our nation's women and children must become our top priority in law and society.

The following is a brief narrative of her work.

- **Founder & Executive Director: The Nurtured Parent Support Group for Survivors of Domestic Abuse.** Entering their 8th year, the Nurtured Parent is a free weekly peer-to-peer support group empowering survivors of domestic abuse.
- **Playwright:** Co-written with author and domestic violence expert Lundy Bancroft, **FORBIDDEN TO PROTECT** is a theatrical production that tells the true stories of family court victims, and raises questions about the improper court response to domestic violence and child abuse. **FORBIDDEN TO PROTECT** is expected to open widely to audiences in 2017.
- **Activism:** Patrice co-founded the **Children's Justice Campaign** with actress Kelly Rutherford. The CJC is a national organization that seeks to protect children's constitutional rights and promote their health and wellbeing in law and society.
- **Community Educator/Center for Hope and Safety:** Patrice is passionate about her work, and speaks publically to a wide range of audiences on the dynamics of domestic violence and human trafficking, and their palpable threat to our nation's women and children. To pull it all together, Patrice includes for her audiences' information about the **CDC's ACE study (Adverse Childhood Experiences)**, which is the largest medical research of its kind ever conducted to examine the health and social effects of adverse childhood experiences over the lifespan. Science helps audiences understand the profound threat of toxic stress on children, and how they can help by taking action to prevent ACE.
- **New Jersey Grassroots Activism and Legislation:** To further address these issues in her home state, Patrice has teamed up with crime victims' rights attorney Rich Pompelio, Executive Director/NJ Crime Victims Law Center, to form a statewide grassroots project that calls for family court and child protective services reform. WE THE CHILDREN is a revolutionary movement in the area of child victims' rights and made up of members from every county in the state of New Jersey. In September of 2016, they successfully championed a bill that was unanimously passed through the Senate Budget Committee. Bill S1210 requires that certain employees and candidates for public school employment or service and youth camp employees to undergo a child abuse record information check.
- **Producer:** Patrice produced a domestic violence webinar series for internationally renowned domestic violence and child maltreatment author and expert Lundy Bancroft. Their first webinar based off his best-selling book is entitled, "Why Does He Do That? Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men," will be released in early 2017.