

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:  
Carrie Moulder  
[news@jlno.org](mailto:news@jlno.org)  
[504-891-5845](tel:504-891-5845)

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS TO SCREEN  
AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY “FIVE AWAKE”**  
*State legislators Helena Moreno and JP Morrell will to speak to members  
and public on advocacy best practices*

January 12, 2017, New Orleans, LA – The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) will screen the award-winning documentary “Five Awake” and host a panel on advocacy on January 24 at 7:00 p.m. The event will be free and open to the public.

**Screening of “Five Awake” and Advocacy Panel  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017  
7:00 p.m.  
Junior League of New Orleans Headquarters  
4319 Carondelet Street**

Directed by Donna Dees and Susan Willis, “Five Awake” follows five women working to strengthen Louisiana’s domestic violence laws. Rep. Helena Moreno, who sponsored the legislative package, worked with Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Director Beth Meeks, Chief Operating Officer of United Way of Southeast Louisiana Charmaine Cacciopi, attorney for United Way of Southeast Louisiana Kim Sport, and Director of the New Orleans Family Justice Center Mary Claire Landry.

All six bills proposed by the team of women were passed unanimously during the 2014 regular legislative session and signed into law within a year.

Following the 35-minute documentary, the film’s featured legislators Rep. Moreno and Sen. JP Morrell will share best practices for partnering with lawmakers to reach public policy goals.

“The strength of women working together is limitless, and the tenacious and driven team of women featured in ‘Five Awake’ is truly inspiring,” said JLNO President Maria Pardo Huete. “We’re excited to share this film with anyone interested in seeing the power of advocacy in action.”

JLNO’s focus of Advancing the Wellbeing of Women includes advocating for issues that affect women. “By gaining a clearer understanding of the advocacy process, we can become better equipped to Advance the Wellbeing of Women in the New Orleans Metropolitan area,” added Huete.

The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by visiting [www.jlno.org/fiveawakescreening](http://www.jlno.org/fiveawakescreening).

**About Rep. Moreno:**

Helena Moreno began her career in New Orleans as an award-winning investigative reporter for NBC affiliate, WDSU-TV. She was part of a team awarded an Emmy for outstanding coverage during Hurricane Katrina. Too often, however, her reports turned up problems in the political system. In 2008, she decided to not just report, but do something about it. Setting aside her promising broadcast career, Helena entered public service.

In May of 2010, she was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. As the voice of District 93, she now serves as an advocate for a richly diverse area that includes neighborhoods such as Treme, the Garden District, Central City, St. Roch, the French Quarter, Mid City and the CBD.

Rep. Moreno works as a licensed realtor with Talbot Realty Group in New Orleans and resides downtown with her husband Chris Meeks.

**About Sen. Morrell:**

Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. JP was first elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2006, in a special election, to fill the unexpired term of his father, Arthur Morrell, who had previously represented House District 97 for 24 years.

In 2008, JP was elected to the Louisiana State Senate in another special election. After his re-election 2011, he went on to serve as the chairman of the the Senate Judiciary B Committee and, after being re-elected in 2015, he is currently the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, which set all tax policy for the State of Louisiana.

In his time in the legislature, JP has proven to be a capable leader who builds bipartisan coalitions to pass complex and controversial legislation. Outside of the legislature, JP is currently 'of counsel' with the Middleberg Riddle Group Law Firm, a multi-state law firm, located in Louisiana and Texas. JP and his wife, Catherine live in the Gentilly area within New Orleans with their three children; Jude, Fiona and Alexander.

*The Junior League of New Orleans is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.*

###