



Welcome Back to School Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice



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Staff Spotlight



TIFFANY SHIVERS
Development Associate

Why did you join the LACLJ team?

I really love the mission of the organization. I believe that for under-resourced individuals navigating the law is very difficult, but I believe everyone is entitled to justice.

What have you found most enjoyable about your work so far?

I have really enjoyed working with the staff at LACLJ. They are very committed to supporting their clients in the best way possible.

What is your favorite quote?

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet then you must write it" -Toni Morrison.

Since you moved from Chicago, what has been your favorite part about LA?

I love that there are so many events to attend. My favorite event so far has been the downtown art walk.

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Survivor Reunited with Her Child

Aniyah* was exposed to violence in her home and community from a very young age. At 18, she began dating a man whom she believed would serve as a refuge from her violent surroundings. Unfortunately, after meeting, their relationship quickly took a turn for the worse. He became physically and emotionally abusive. Twice her age, he often exercised his authority by threatening her life and the life of her son. The abuse came to a climax when her abuser unexpectedly disappeared with their child. That same day, Aniyah discovered her abuser filed a temporary restraining order against her that left her only able to see her son through expensive monitored visitation.

Aniyah came to LACLJ's doors confused about her rights and desperate to see her son regularly. LACLJ's staff attorney Arianne met with her to determine strategies for her upcoming hearing. Due to the complexities of the case, LACLJ enlisted the support of one of our long time pro bono partners, Jones Day. Alex Fries and Fred Freidman of Jones day worked tirelessly with Arianne to present the best case for our client. After a lengthy four day trial, the team was able to secure Aniyah with full custody of her son and a five year restraining order against her abuser. Jones Day attorney Alex stated, "This was a real battle and it was a privilege and an honor to fight for Aniyah. We were so impressed by her courage and strength and so happy that we were able to vindicate her rights."

Aniyah's strength and courage will allow her to begin her new life free from violence.

**Name has been changed to protect client's identity.*

LACLJ'S 43rd Anniversary Awards Gala

LACLJ held its 43rd Anniversary Awards Gala on June 16, 2016 at The L.A. Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The dinner program included the heartfelt testimonies of two LACLJ clients and the presentation of this year's Justice Award to Renee Tajima-Peña and Virginia Espino for their work on the film No Más Bebés. Pacific Western Bank received Corporation of the Year award, and Hueston Hennigan LLP received Pro Bono Partner of the Year award. Congratulations again to this year's awardees and thank you to everyone who came out to support LACLJ at this year's record-breaking event – we look forward to seeing you again next year!



LACLJ Appellate Victory Reduces Barriers for Children Requesting Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

Over 100,000 children have come to the United States in the last three years fleeing some of the most violent countries in the world. Many of these children, some of whom are as young as three years old, come to the United States to be reunited with a parent or other family member living here. Federal immigration law offers some protection to these children through the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) program, if the child has been abused, abandoned or neglected by one or both parents and when it is not in the child's best interest to be sent back and reunified with the abusive or neglectful parent in the home country. Procedural hurdles in state court, however, have prevented many from benefitting from this protection.

To address one of these hurdles LACLJ and its pro bono partner Latham & Watkins filed a writ on behalf of a 11 year old client challenging the trial court's requirement of notice to his abusive parent in his home country, before a guardian can be appointed by the law. The Court of Appeals agreed, holding that our client and all unaccompanied minors do not have to provide such notice. This crucial ruling will streamline the SIJS application process for all unaccompanied minors in California and make it easier for them to remain safe with their California families.

Congratulations to LACLJ attorney, Sarah Reisman, Latham Watkins attorney, TJ Findley, and everyone else who worked on the case for this landmark victory!

Immigration Training at AILA conference

On June 21st, Supervising Attorney Michelle Carey shared her expertise on immigration law at the American Immigrant Lawyers Association (AILA) conference held in Las Vegas, NV. As part of the conference, Advanced Special Immigrant Survivors Technical Assistance (ASISTA) held a training "U Visas: Advanced Topics & Emerging Issues" to provide advanced training to legal advocates and lawyers who face complex legal problems in advocating for immigrant survivors of violence.

At the training, Michelle trained 80 attorneys and legal advocates from across the country on issues those immigrants face today. Michelle discussed federal litigation LACLJ recently pursued with pro bono partner Kirkland & Ellis regarding the inexcusable two year delay that clients with pending U-Visa applications are currently being forced to wait before receiving their work permits.



LACLJ Supervising Attorney, Michelle, presenting at the ASISTA conference on June 21st in Las Vegas, NV

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