



**Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice**

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MARCH 2019

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

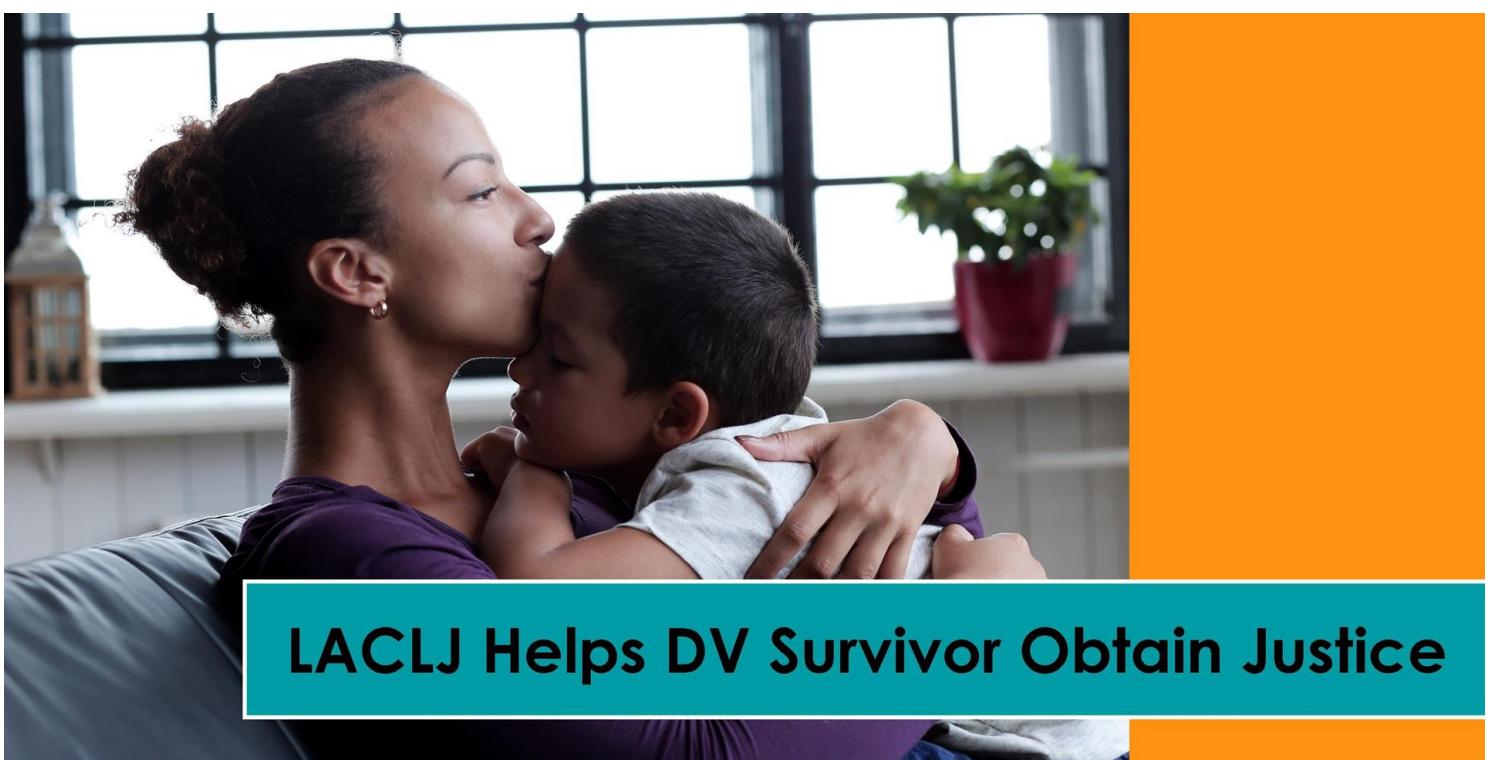
I am super proud to spotlight in this newsletter the work of LACLJ's family law team. LACLJ has long provided family law services to survivors of domestic violence. The practice significantly expanded in 2011 when LACLJ secured funding, under the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act, to provide free legal services to families in custody disputes.

Today, LACLJ has one of the largest nonprofit family law practices in Los Angeles. Through a holistic and client-centered model, LACLJ attorneys provide rigorous representation at both the trial and appellate level. We also are fortunate to work alongside a team of **over 50 pro bono attorneys**, who take on representation of our clients at their permanent restraining order hearings. We know how important an attorney can be when you are worried about the safety and stability of your family. **When survivors of domestic or sexual violence come to LACLJ, they meet a team that has their back.**

Thank you for all you do to support LACLJ and our clients!

Warmly,

Matt Stricker
Executive Director



Alicia is a young and savvy entrepreneur. In her 20s, she started her own business and was doing well for herself. Alicia soon met Carlos and fell in love. They moved in together and had a son, Isaiah, but Carlos became controlling and abusive. **He would call her useless, physically assault her, and demand sex when Alicia protested.** Alicia was able to escape with her son, but Carlos continued to stalk her, threatened to take away Isaiah, and even trashed her shop. **Then, Carlos hired an attorney to fight for custody.**

Fearing for her and her son's safety, Alicia came to LACLJ to seek legal representation. **We knew we needed to get justice for Alicia.** LACLJ Family Law attorneys represented her in multiple court appearances and supported her through a long, emotional process. We were able to secure **sole physical and legal custody** for Alicia, as well as a **three-year domestic violence restraining order** against Carlos.

For low-income clients like Alicia, **LACLJ's free legal representation can be the difference between keeping or losing their children to their abusers**. Alicia now lives with a greater sense of safety and can focus on her business and building a future with her son.

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LACLJ has a new addition to its Family Law team!

Jimena Vasquez has been working with domestic violence survivors for over fifteen years. Read Jimena's interview below to learn more about her work and interests.

LACLJ Welcomes New Attorney



What is something you wish people knew about domestic violence?

Domestic Violence is not a low-income issue. It crosses all economic boundaries and class lines and can affect anyone.

Why did you decide to work at LACLJ?

I was attracted by the focus on gender-based violence and the agency's innovative work in Family Law. LACLJ has a service model to provide client representation, not just clinics or workshops. LACLJ really tries to be there for the clients throughout the entire process.

What do you love most about your work?

I see my community in our client population and can see how much of an impact we can make in their lives. Survivors are resilient and their transformations are inspiring. I love helping them find their voice and using the legal system to empower them further.

Could you share a fun fact about yourself?

I love salsa music, cooking Peruvian food and reading with my daughters. They're into the young adult genre and it's been so fun sharing that with them.



Family Law Coalition

Last month, LACLJ hosted the first Family Law Coalition meeting of the year. The Family Law Coalition is comprised of non-profit Family Law attorneys in Los Angeles who meet quarterly to discuss local issues and keep abreast of new developments in the law. This past meeting featured a presentation by a dependency court attorney who talked about the intersections of dependency law (which involves cases in which children have been abused or neglected) with family law and how Family Law attorneys can help prepare their clients for dependency court.

Pictured above are just a few of the Family Law Coalition members present. Left to right: Jimena Vasquez (LACLJ), Paula Cohen (Legal Aid Foundation of LA), Thien Nguyen (Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles), Hadar Swerdlow (Community Legal Aid - SoCal), and Marci Fukuroda (Rainbow Services, Ltd.).



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