



July 2019

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

Knowledge is power. At LACLJ, we know that the communities we serve are often not aware of their rights or options when it comes to legal services, public benefits or ICE enforcement. As a result, we conduct outreach and provide trainings and presentations to help raise awareness among community members and partners.

I am happy to share with you a recent success story of how one such presentation helped to protect an immigrant family. We've also featured two fellows who are working to educate the community and support immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Read more about their stories below.

Warmly,

Gladys La Torre
Interim Executive Director

After participating in one of our trainings, Lydia was empowered to exercise her rights when ICE came to her door.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

LACLJ Helps Parent Avoid Detention

LACLJ provides trainings to raise awareness about issues impacting the community, including domestic violence, human trafficking and Know Your Rights. At a recent training, LACLJ shared Know Your Rights tips to parents of middle school children. Some of these tips include your **right to speak with a lawyer** before signing or saying anything, your right to remain silent and not open your door if ICE comes to your home, and to plan ahead and **make a family preparedness plan** with your loved ones.

Lydia* was one of those parents who attended the training. A few days later, ICE came knocking on her door. They said they had an arrest warrant for her. **Lydia stayed calm and remembered the tips we shared. She asked to see the warrant through the window and saw that it was not signed by a judge.** Lydia refused to open the door and the ICE agents left her property.

For many families, ICE showing up is a terribly scary situation. Knowing their rights and options can help survivors decide how to respond in a way that it is as safe for them as possible. For more tips, [visit the ILRC Know Your Rights Resource Page](#).



WLALA Fellow/Law Clerk Immigration Project

Alexandra Fuxa is a recipient of the [Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Fran Kandel Public Interest Fellowship](#). As a summer law clerk, Alex has been supporting LACLJ's immigration team drafting motions and petitions for various forms of survivor-based immigration relief, as well as supporting clients and providing interpretation & translation services (she speaks Spanish & Portuguese!). In addition, Alex has been working on an **educational brochure** to help inform survivors on what public benefits they're eligible for based on their immigration relief and how to apply for them.

As a rising 3L from Indiana University who also works at an immigration law firm in Indiana, Alex saw that many immigrant survivors were not aware of the public benefits that they could receive and/or were afraid of accessing them. Through this project, she hopes to raise awareness in the community and provide a tool for LACLJ and others to educate immigrant survivors.

The brochure will be published in the next couple of weeks, but in the meantime, we thank you Alex for your work on this project!



Meet Our Equal Justice Works Fellow

Marissa Mowery joined the LACLJ team last year as part of her two-year fellowship with [Equal Justice Works](#), funded by the Department of Justice. Marissa's work is focused on providing legal services for **immigrant survivors of trafficking** and helping to enforce **civil legal rights for victims of crime**.

What is the EJW Fellowship?

I am one of 60 fellows working under EJW's Crime Victims Justice Corps. We are placed across the nation to help close the gaps crime victims face in accessing their legal rights and receiving legal services.

What have you learned in your first year of fellowship?

Collaborating with partners is crucial to providing comprehensive services for survivors. It's been great to work not only with the LACLJ team, but also LACLJ's partners such as [Bet Tzedek](#), [CAST](#) and [Jenesse Center](#).

What do you love most about your work?

I have worked with survivors in the past. I love being able to work closely with clients and work in the nonprofit sector. It's great that LACLJ is able to host EJW Fellows and bring new attorneys into the nonprofit space.

Could you share a fun fact about yourself?

Since I'm new to LA, I've been trying to experience the outdoors more. I recently hiked Mount Baldy, which we can see from our office windows!

*Name changed to protect privacy.

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