



**Los Angeles  
Center for  
Law and Justice**

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**November 2019**

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

While our team works tirelessly to help individual survivors and families, we are also proud to be able to impact whole communities through our policy advocacy and impact litigation.

**LACLJ attorneys provide advocacy, help build coalition with partners, and raise awareness of survivors' experiences** so we can create a better system for all.

Most recently, we collaborated with our partners to sue USCIS for failing to process their U visa and employment authorization applications in a timely manner. We also testified to the LA County Board of Supervisors to uphold protections for asylum-seeking survivors.

LACLJ stands committed to protecting survivors' rights and safety, because we see the real impact public policy has on their daily lives. Read more about our work below.

Warmly,

Norayma Cabot  
Executive Director



## **LACLJ Sues U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services**

Earlier this year, LACLJ reached out to its partners [Kirkland & Ellis](#) and [Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#) to address a rising issue for immigrant survivors of domestic violence.

Some immigrant survivors are eligible to apply for a U visa, but because of the time it takes to review the applications, and a long waitlist, they are left for years without lawful permission to work. These delays preventing them from obtaining stability. The government has the authority to issue work permits pending review,

however it's been over a decade and USCIS has refused to issue even one. **The reality is that many of the clients we serve have waited over 4 years and still no word about their work permit.**

"Due to USCIS delay, these survivors continue to feel unsafe. They did the difficult work of coming forward and cooperating with law enforcement. Yet years later they still cannot work lawfully. **Forcing USCIS to do its job is what we owe these brave survivors for making our communities safer**," - LACLJ Directing Attorney Michelle Carey.

Thank you to our partners for taking on this fight with us! [Read More Here](#)



On June 11, 2018, former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a sweeping decision in asylum case Matter of A-B-, 27 I&N Dec. 227 (A.G. 2018), declaring that asylum seekers presenting claims based on domestic violence will "generally" no longer qualify for relief. **The Matter of A-B- decision could force thousands of women, children, and LGBTQ+ migrants back into unsafe and potentially deadly situations.**

On November 19th, 2019, LACLJ attorneys testified in front of the Board of Supervisors in support of a motion to formally condemn Matter of A-B- ([link](#)). LACLJ Directing Attorney, Michelle Carey, and Staff Attorney, Yeison Soto Valdez, **urged the Board of Supervisors to uphold protections for asylum-seeking survivors of domestic violence**. Thankfully, the motion passed unanimously.

We are grateful to our partners at the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, Department of Public Health Executive Office, Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Human Rights First, National Immigration Law Center, and Supervisor Hilda Solis' Office for their collaboration.

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