



Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

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February 2020

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

LACLJ was founded with the belief that low-income people should have access to holistic legal services. We continue that mission with survivors, ensuring they not only have free legal representation, but representation that meets their unique individual needs and priorities.

For some, that means ensuring their rights are protected in court. For others, it means preventing survivors from having to tell their story multiple times, like our client Tori. Read more about her below, as well as the partners and advocates that help to make holistic legal services possible (including a special visit from gymnast Katelyn Ohashi).

Warmly,

Norayma Cabot
Executive Director

When Tori was scared she would have to testify in court twice, LACLJ stepped in to protect her well-being.



LACLJ Helps Teen Navigate Justice System

As a high school student, Tori* should typically be thinking about college applications and the upcoming junior prom. Instead, she is overwhelmed with the fear and stress of testifying in court, having to relive how her stepdad sexually abused her since she was 9 years old.

For many survivors like Tori, the difficulty of having to share their story of sexual abuse with strangers in a courtroom, often in front of their abuser, is traumatic. After living with constant abuse for over 6 years and at such a young age, we knew we had to step in.

Tori had gotten a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and had an upcoming hearing for a restraining order. At

abuse. **Rather than have her testify at both the restraining order hearing and at a criminal hearing, LACLJ attorneys advocated for a continuance that extended the time of the TRO so that she wouldn't have to testify twice.**

Our team continues to work with the police department to advance the investigation so the criminal hearing can occur swiftly. For now, Tori does not have to worry about testifying twice in court and can focus on her life as a high school student.



Partner Spotlight

LACLJ and the [East Los Angeles Women's Center](#) continue to collaborate and provide services for survivors of sexual assault. In addition to cross-trainings on legal remedies and cultural competency, LACLJ has begun co-locating legal services for survivors at the East Los Angeles Women's Center office, helping to eliminate barriers to access such as transportation. We've also been able to refer clients directly to one another ensuring a quick and trauma-informed response for survivors. We're proud to work with an impactful agency and their dedicated team, including their Clinical Coordinator, Zara Espinoza.

"For the past 44 years the mission of the East Los Angeles Women's Center has been to ensure that all women, girls, and their families live in a place of safety, health, and personal well-being, free from violence and abuse," said Zara Espinoza, MSW.

"Throughout [our] history, we have recognized how deeply trauma has affected the lives of survivors and their families who reach out to us seeking safety and healing. **Without legal representation, a survivor's voice often goes ignored. A legal partnership can seek to ensure that survivors can have access to the appropriate legal services they need to secure and maintain their utmost safety.**"

"We are truly honored to have partnered with the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice. **Together we are committed to making sure survivors are heard and have equal access to support.**"



In November, LACLJ had the honor of hosting gymnast star Katelyn Ohashi at our office. Last year, Katelyn captivated the world with her [floor routine that went viral](#) and secured her a perfect 10 score.

During her visit, Katelyn spent time meeting with our team and getting to know the impact of LACLJ's services. She even had the opportunity to meet with one of our families and talk about the challenges survivors experience in finding high quality and free legal representation.

We thank Katelyn for her advocacy for survivors and for spreading her joy to our office with her visit!

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*Actual names and photos are changed to protect the privacy and safety of clients.

