



**Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice**

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January 2020

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

Thank you for supporting our mission to empower survivors. This month, I'm proud to share a client success that would not have been possible without the generous support from donors and partners like you.

I am also excited to share that we are expanding our restraining order work for survivors. LACLJ Supervising Attorney, Sarah Reisman, was recently featured on Spectrum News' Inside the Issues to build awareness on survivors' experience obtaining restraining orders. We were also recently awarded a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women to expand restraining order services for survivors of domestic violence.

Check out the Spectrum News video link and more below.

Warmly,

Norayma Cabot
Executive Director

At 30 years old, Gianna was trapped working for a man who wouldn't let her leave.

Trafficked Mother Finds Freedom



After losing a child to illness in her home country, Gianna's* partner promised her a good life in America. They started a business together in the States and for a while, their new life was going well. Then, her circumstances took a turn.

For a year, **Gianna's partner forced her to work twelve-hour days in the factory and threatened her with deportation and homelessness.** He never paid her and said he'd take her children away from her if she refused to work. **She felt trapped.**

When she found the opportunity to escape with her children, Gianna was referred to LACLJ for help. **Attorneys at LACLJ recognized that Gianna was a survivor of human trafficking.** We helped her make a report to law enforcement, apply for a T-Visa and connected her with partner organizations for other services and support.

Last month, Gianna received the best holiday gift - her T-Visa was approved! Gianna can live and work legally in the U.S., free from her trafficker and **free from fear.**



New Project Supporting Survivors' Access to Justice

LACLJ is proud to begin its newest program: the **California Legal Access for Survivors Project (CLASP)**. In partnership with the [Judicial Council of California](#) and the Domestic Abuse Center, LACLJ will be creating a replicable community intake center model to deliver self-help legal services for survivors of domestic violence.

We will be working closely with victim service providers to assist survivors with their restraining order requests and recruit pro bono attorneys to review forms utilizing an online program.

Through this program, **we're hoping to improve access to restraining orders for underserved victims via a culturally-responsive and trauma-informed model** that brings community resources together in support of low-income survivors.



LACLJ on Spectrum Inside the Issues

LACLJ Supervising Attorney, Sarah Reisman, recently went on Spectrum News 1 to talk about the challenges domestic violence survivors face when accessing the justice system.

"It's very difficult [for survivors of domestic violence to get a restraining order], especially since most of them don't have attorneys to guide them through the process," shared Sarah with Inside the Issues host Alex Cohen.

"At LACLJ, we work with our clients to prepare them to testify, because it's hard. [At the hearing], the victim has to go into a court setting, has to tell a judge, a stranger who they've never met, some of the most difficult things that they've ever gone through in their life with the abuser sitting right there."

Our segment begins at the 30:23 mark, but watch the entire video to learn about our partners at Peace Over Violence and hear from L.A. Times journalists who are helping to bring awareness to the issues. [Click Here for Video](#)

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

