

September 2020 Newsletter: Board-Led Compassion & Dedication



**Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice**

September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Supporter,

When I joined LACLJ a year ago, I knew I was becoming a part of an incredible and passionate team. And I was overjoyed to learn that same dedication and compassion was felt all the way at the Board level.

I am happy to highlight a few of these board members who are leading us in our mission to empower survivors. **Collin Wedel** joined LACLJ the same day I did and he has brought great energy, knowledge and creativity to our governance. I am also excited to introduce you to two of our newest members, **Clarissa Park** and **Elliot Harvey Schatmeier**.

Read more about their contributions to the community below and check out the latest update from our **Survivor Care Packages** campaign.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norayma Cabot".

Norayma Cabot
Executive Director



SURVIVOR CARE PACKAGES

Thank you to our amazing supporters for purchasing supplies for our Survivor Care Packages! Low-income families need our support now more than ever and **every donation counts** for a family who is struggling to make ends meet.

You still have time to shop for survivors via our AmazonSmile list:

[Check out our Shopping List](#)

Clients are asking for masks, back-to-school supplies for their kids, and tablets to connect to resources online. Items are as low as \$5 and will help families impacted by COVID-19.

P.S. Remember to sign up for AmazonSmile and select LACLJ as your charity of choice. For every purchase you make, Amazon will donate 0.5% to our mission! [Learn More](#)

AN INTERVIEW WITH...

COLLIN P. WEDEL, J.D.



Celebrating his one-year anniversary serving on the LACLJ Board of Directors, Collin

Why did you join the LACLJ Board?

I believe strongly in LACLJ's mission of empowering survivors of domestic violence and giving them a voice in the justice system. It is unfortunate that most people have been impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault in some way. I am proud to be part of an organization that is doing something about it.

What has struck you the most in your year of Board service?

It has been eye-opening to learn how many lives are impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault, and how wide-ranging and long-lasting the legal, personal, professional, familial, and communal consequences can be. It is even more shocking how few resources exist to help survivors navigate that thicket.

LACLJ has a long partnership with your firm, Sidley Austin. How has their commitment to community service impacted you?

Being at a firm, like Sidley Austin, that values pro bono work and meaningful community investment means everything to me. There is so much unmet need for legal services, and it is essential that the legal profession do its utmost to meet those needs. Sidley lives up to that calling, and has encouraged me to maintain a robust pro bono practice throughout my career at the firm.

I have done a lot of pro bono work in the capital punishment space and I am currently on a team representing a survivor before the California Supreme Court. We are arguing that domestic violence survivors do not automatically waive their litigation rights when they resolve restraining order disputes through mediated agreements. The experience has been deeply meaningful and challenging.

Thank you so much, Collin, for your service and dedication to empowering survivors! For more information about Collin, [click here to learn more](#).



CLARISSA PARK, Esq. M.S.W.

We are excited to welcome Clarissa Park to the LACLJ Board of Directors! Clarissa Park is a family law and business law mediator fluent in Korean. She has been practicing law since 2003 in Southern California handling litigations in business and family law.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, she earned her Masters Degree in Social Work, and worked as a social worker and a therapist. She was also a professional actress/singer/dancer and made appearances in major motion pictures, television and theater.

Combining her skills as a therapist, family lawyer and actor, Clarissa began her mediation practice by serving on the Family Law Court as a mediator, and volunteering as a mediator at non-profit organizations including CA Lawyers for the Arts. Clarissa brings her unique background and experience to successfully resolve difficult business and family law cases.

[Learn More](#)

ELLIOT C. HARVEY SCHATMEIER, J.D.



We are proud to welcome Elliot Harvey Schatmeier to the LACLJ Board of Directors!

Elliot is an attorney at Bird Marella. His practice focuses on complex business disputes, including breach of contract and business tort cases, commercial fraud, and claims arising from the False Claims Act. He has represented Fortune 500 companies and large private companies in the technology, banking, healthcare, entertainment, and manufacturing industries.

Elliot is a graduate of Columbia Law School. While in law school, Elliot externed at the Queens County District Attorney's Office where he prosecuted several dozen domestic violence cases. [Learn More](#)

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