



LACLJ Expands Protections for Immigrant Survivors

We are excited to share Governor Newsom recently signed into law AB 2169, which protects immigrant survivors from adverse immigration consequences due to legally invalid arrests and convictions on their records.

Over the past 5 years, California law advanced the rights of survivors through *vacatur*, a legal process to allow survivors to clear the criminal histories they incurred due to abuse and/or exploitation.

However, the law was not clear about its effect in immigration court or by USCIS.

As a result, immigrant survivors could still have their arrests and convictions used against them. This uncertainty left survivors vulnerable to deportation and at risk of not obtaining lawful status and the life-changing stability that comes with it.

LACLJ collaborated with the Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Loyola Law School, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and Free to Thrive to clarify the law. AB 2169 provides the same full set of protections for undocumented and noncitizen survivors as we have for citizen survivors. Now, all California immigrant survivors have full protection under our *vacatur* laws.

Most importantly, it provides immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault a safe and secure journey to remain safely in the U.S., obtain lawful status, keep their families together (reducing further trauma), and build more stable, hopeful futures.

Thank you to our partners and State Assemblymember Gipson's Office for ensuring equitable access to justice for immigrant survivors! You can [read the bill here](#) for more details.

"We celebrate AB 2169 as a new law that recognizes the unique risks immigrant survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and human trafficking face.

We thank Gov. Newsom for signing this bill and ensuring that immigrant survivors will suffer no harm from legally invalid arrests and convictions that should never have been on their records in the first place."

- Michelle Carey, LACLJ Directing Attorney of Immigration

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Help domestic violence survivors break barriers to accessing justice and safety with your support! You can end violence with your gift during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

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