



Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice

A Letter from LACLJ's New Executive Director

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

I am beyond honored to become the next Executive Director for the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice and to continue to lead the agency in our mission to secure justice for survivors. A huge thank you to Norayma Cabot who led us through a pandemic, helped strengthen our organization, and personally provided three years of direct mentorship to me. I am truly grateful.

I have worked at LACLJ for ten years and in the nonprofit sector my entire legal career. As the daughter of refugees from Cuba, I often see my family's experiences reflected in our clients' stories. I grew up understanding what it meant to have a dictator take away every right - to vote, to free speech, to a free press, to own a business, and more. My parents came to the U.S. for freedom, and taught me and my siblings that without justice, we are not free. This worldview led me to law school and to a career seeking freedom for everyone.

I have carried this personal mission with me and through my work, from college when I was in Student Government and helped organize student voters, to my work at legal aid representing survivors, to overseeing the expansion of LACLJ's programs and building our community of generous partners and supporters. It is a privilege to continue to lead the fabulous team of advocates at LACLJ, and I am thrilled to lead our important work of securing justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.



At LACLJ, we pride ourselves on taking the hardest cases because we know those survivors have the least amount of resources and support available to them. A survivor carries the entire burden of seeking justice, healing from trauma and rebuilding their life. LACLJ stands with survivors to be that critical source of support and help them become free to create their own futures. We know that empowerment is what will lead to true justice and safety and will help the entire family thrive.

Our fight for survivors does not stop with direct services. We must continue to effect change at the state and national level through our appellate work, policy advocacy and coalition building. Our vision for a safe and strong community requires equitable access to justice and the removal of barriers that prevent survivors of systemically marginalized groups from achieving safety and justice.



My goal is to work closely with you – our donors, volunteers, and partners – to carry on our mission and expand our impact so that every survivor can be empowered to lead flourishing lives free from violence and trauma. This is going to be a team effort and I am deeply grateful for your partnership.

Thank you to the entire team at LACLJ – our Board President, Randall Jackson, the Search Committee, our Board of Directors and team of dedicated staff – for their support and confidence. I look forward to working with each of you and making a difference for immigrant survivors in our community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carmen McDonald'.

Carmen McDonald, Esq.
Executive Director

