

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Through the Survivor Justice Center, the California Legal Access for Survivors Partnership (CLASP) Project **expands statewide access to legal services** for domestic violence survivors filing for a restraining order.

Pro Bono Attorneys review and provide feedback on Requests for Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, which are prepared by non-attorney victim service providers, to ensure the petitions are ready for submission to the survivor's local courthouse and to increase the likelihood that a Temporary Restraining Order is issued at the time of filing.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN CLASP

Rewarding Experience – 34.9 % of California women and 31.1% of California men

experience domestic violence in their lifetime. In 2018, domestic violence homicides

comprised 10.7% of all California homicides. This project gives you the opportunity to

combat this overwhelming problem by supporting survivors of domestic violence in seeking safety and crucial orders to protect themselves and their family and to prevent further abuse.



Flexible time commitment – for attorneys looking to get involved and make an impact but unable to commit to representation at this time, this project seeks commitment for only one day at a time to be a point-person to receive and review petitions. There is a 24-hour window to review and provide feedback on petitions, which allows attorneys the flexibility to review petitions during times that work for them. There are usually no more than 3 petitions submitted in a given day, so actual time spent in a given day is usually less than 1.5 hours, but the impact of having an attorney available is enormous!

MCLE Training — the Survivor Justice Center will provide training on the nuts and bolts of domestic violence and reviewing a domestic violence restraining order petition. We offer 90 minutes of California participatory MCLE credit to attorneys who attend this training live.

Ongoing support – the Survivor Justice Center will provide continued technical support and share resources and information to assist you in reviewing your petitions and providing legal services.

Gateway to other opportunities – become familiar with Domestic Violence Restraining Order law to be better prepared to take a case for representation later! Restraining order cases provide invaluable courtroom experience and the opportunity to put on a “mini-trial” at the hearing, including making an opening statement, introducing evidence, conducting direct and cross examinations, making objections, and making a closing argument. And we will still provide a family law expert attorney to provide technical assistance throughout your case representation!

VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

- ✓ Receive any petitions completed during your volunteer day
- ✓ Respond to participating victim service providers with your feedback as soon as possible but within 24 hours of receiving the petition
- ✓ If applicable, answer any follow up questions from victim service providers

For more information or to volunteer, please contact the Center's pro bono team at probono@survivorjusticecenter.org.