



SURVIVOR JUSTICE CENTER PRO BONO PROGRAM

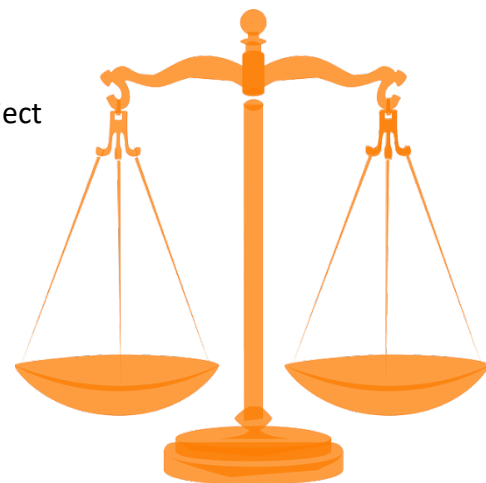
Representing Survivors in Restraining Order Hearings

SURVIVOR JUSTICE CENTER'S MISSION

The mission of the Survivor Justice Center is to secure justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and to empower them to create their own futures. We provide holistic legal services in the areas of Family Law, Immigration, and Criminal Justice Advocacy primarily to immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or human trafficking.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Survivor Justice Center's Pro Bono Restraining Order Representation Project is an innovative program that partners with attorney volunteers to offer free legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The effect of this program is to decrease the recurrence of domestic violence and other abuse while simultaneously increasing awareness and access to legal services. Volunteers are provided with training, resources, and ongoing support from the Survivor Justice Center during their representation. Cases typically last 3-6 weeks, and attorneys spend an average of 30-40 hours on a case.



BENEFITS OF TAKING A CASE WITH THE SURVIVOR JUSTICE CENTER

Training and Resources — The Survivor Justice Center offers live or pre-recorded trainings on domestic violence and how to represent a survivor in a restraining order hearing. We offer 90 minutes of California participatory MCLE credit to attorneys who attend a live training. We also have a resource library with form samples, sample direct and cross examinations, and other helpful tools and resources for representing a survivor at a restraining order hearing.

Ongoing support and technical assistance — The Survivor Justice Center will provide continued technical support and share resources, information, and guidance to assist you in representing our mutual clients. Each client will also be assigned a Community Advocate, who is a social worker or social work student who can provide emotional support, connect the client with needed resources, and support the client in completing any follow up for the attorney.

Extensive Experience, Limited Scope — With only a 3-6 week average commitment, cases provide invaluable courtroom experience and the opportunity to put on a "mini-trial" at the restraining order hearing, including opening and closing statements, introducing evidence, conducting direct and cross examinations, making objections, and ensuring a clear and complete record.

Impact — Nearly 1 in 2 women experience domestic violence, and over 1 in 3 women experience sexual assault in their lifetime. It is estimated that nearly 90% of restraining order cases involve a self-represented litigant, but studies show that survivors with an attorney have a much higher rate of success in getting a restraining order. Help bridge the justice gap by providing critical, life-saving legal services to survivors in need of protection!

GET INVOLVED

Please contact the Survivor Justice Center's pro bono team at probono@survivorjusticecenter.org for more information!