

2015
ANNUAL
REPORT

You make our
life-saving work possible





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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What a year! Thanks to your dedicated support, we added 9 new published appellate court decisions to California's domestic violence laws in 2015. Behind each case was a survivor of domestic abuse devoted to finding safety — a survivor seeking a second chance at justice.

Because appellate decisions are binding law in trial courts all across the state, it is no exaggeration to say that these cases will help tens of thousands of domestic violence survivors and children with court cases in California.

FVAP is changing the legal landscape of California one appeal at a time, transforming the court system into a source of empowerment for abuse survivors — where they can get the safety and justice they deserve — rather than a system that endangers their lives and their children by ruling in favor of abusers.



You make this life-saving work possible.

With sincere appreciation,



Our Mission and Vision

The Problem. Decisions reached by trial courts in domestic violence cases are leaving abuse survivors and their children in danger of ongoing abuse. At least half of people who abuse their spouses also abuse their children, yet one study found that abusers are granted custody in 54% of custody cases involving documented domestic violence.

Many survivors in this situation, who may have had no legal representation in the trial court, either do not know they can appeal their cases or lack the financial resources to appeal. As a result, there is little appellate precedent for trial courts to follow, and they are not rigorously enforcing key statutes designed to protect children.

Our Mission is to ensure the safety and well-being of domestic violence survivors and their children through the court system, so that they can live in safe environments, free from abuse. We work toward this one family at a time, while building up a body of precedential case law that will help families across California.



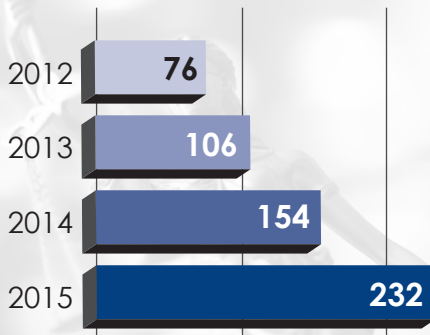


Second Chance at Justice

Far too often, trial courts deny protection to abuse survivors and grant custody of children to abusers. We appeal these cases, for free, giving survivors a second chance at justice. We are the only organization in California dedicated to this work.

Since our inception in 2012, the demand for our services has been growing substantially.

Requests for Assistance

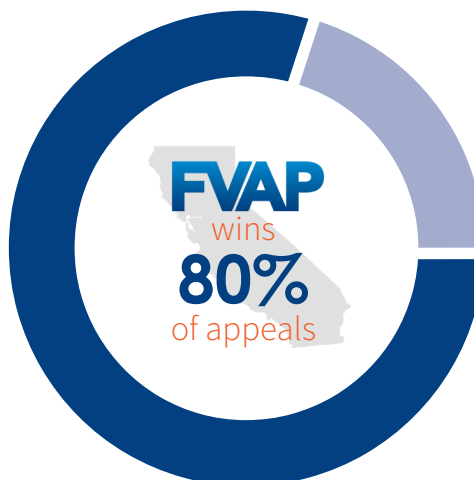
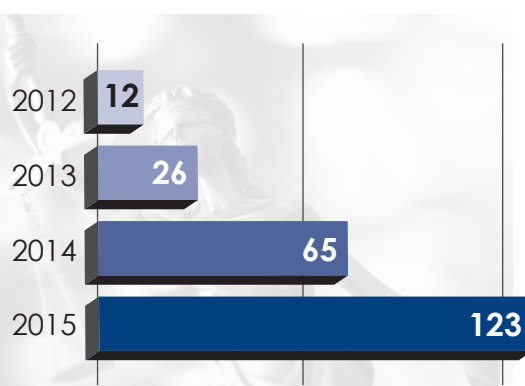


Real-Time Legal Assistance

For our laws to have an impact, domestic violence survivors, their lawyers, and advocates need help to present the laws to the trial courts and argue their cases as best as possible. We provide real-time answers and strategic assistance so California's domestic violence laws have the greatest impact possible, and so survivors have the best chance of winning their cases the first time.

This is our fastest-growing service to the community.

Technical Assistance Provided



By the numbers



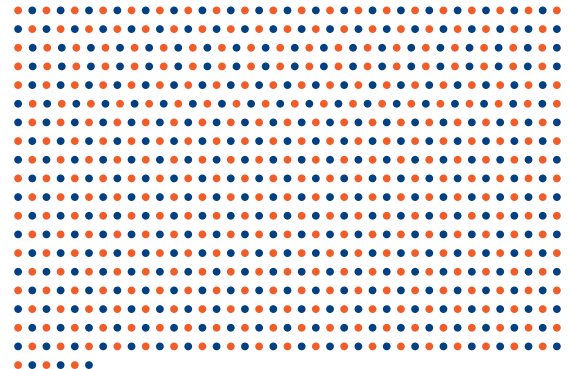
FVAP's 2015 accomplishments



9 Cases

Cases published which help reshape the law by setting new legal precedent to make California a safer place for abuse survivors and children.

745 Attorneys, Judges, Law Students, Domestic Violence Advocates



Trained by FVAP on important issues that will help survivors throughout the state (This number is more than double last year's, and up from 90 in 2013)



13 Survivors

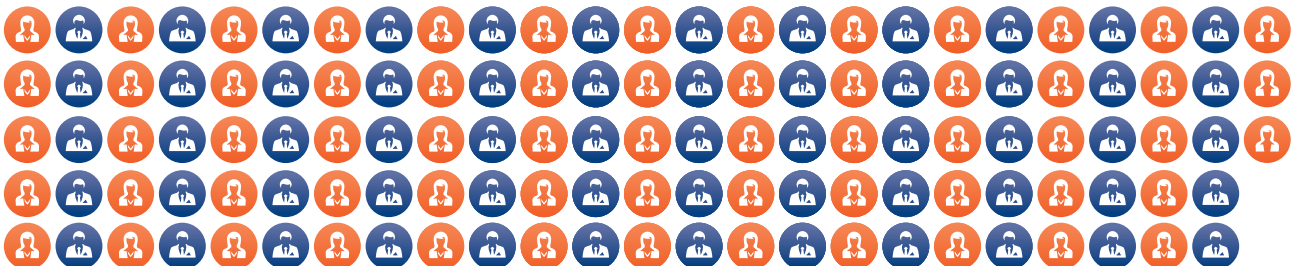
Domestic violence survivors FVAP represented in appeals, pro bono

10 Interns and Volunteers



Law student interns and volunteer attorneys trained through our Next Generation Program to become California's new passionate, successful domestic violence advocates

123 Attorneys



Domestic violence attorneys, advocates, and individuals we've assisted through our technical services program, providing legal help to ensure their cases can be appealed later if necessary (Nearly double last year's number, and almost 5 times that of 2013)



Client Story

BEVERLY WAS A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR when her boyfriend began abusing her. Like most abusers, he started out sweet, but quickly became jealous and controlling. He eventually isolated her from her friends, and began to physically abuse her. When she started college, he made her call him at the beginning of a class and keep the call active the whole time so he could monitor who she talked to. Eventually, this phone surveillance extended to other parts of the day until he was monitoring her 24/7, listening even as she slept at night.

After a few months of dating, Beverly found out she was pregnant. Her abuser promised he would change, but he did not; the abuse continued even though he was aware that the pregnancy was high-risk and Beverly had been advised to avoid all stress. Not surprisingly, Beverly ended up in the hospital. She worked up the nerve to leave him the next day. But unfortunately, she still ended up giving birth prematurely.

A few months later, Beverly found out that he and his friends were posting violent threats about her on social media. Fearing for her safety, she applied for a restraining order. The court refused to give Beverly long-term protection because by the time there was a hearing on her restraining order application, over 5 months had passed since the last instance of physical abuse. The court also refused to consider the mental

abuse Beverly suffered, and incorrectly stated that domestic violence restraining orders cannot extend to survivors of non-physical abuse.

But Beverly didn't give up. She and her attorneys at Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice reached out to Family Violence Appellate Project to work together to appeal the decision and get Beverly the protection she needed. FVAP won the case, together with LACLJ and the law firm Gibson Dunn, and the Court

of Appeal overturned the ruling, ordering the trial court to give Beverly a restraining order. The appellate court declared that the amount of time that has passed since abuse occurred is never a reason to deny a restraining order, and that mental abuse qualifies for protection under the law. As a result, the trial court gave Beverly a 5-year restraining order against her abuser, the longest amount of time possible under the law.



Beverly's legal team from FVAP, Los Angeles Center for Law & Justice, and Gibson Dunn

This case is not just significant for Beverly, but for abuse survivors throughout California. Far too many California courts base their restraining order decisions on how much time has passed since physical abuse occurred, limiting the passage of time to only 2 weeks in some counties. But this case set a new, binding legal precedent that can be used by abuse survivors and their attorneys throughout the state, making California safer for all survivors and children.



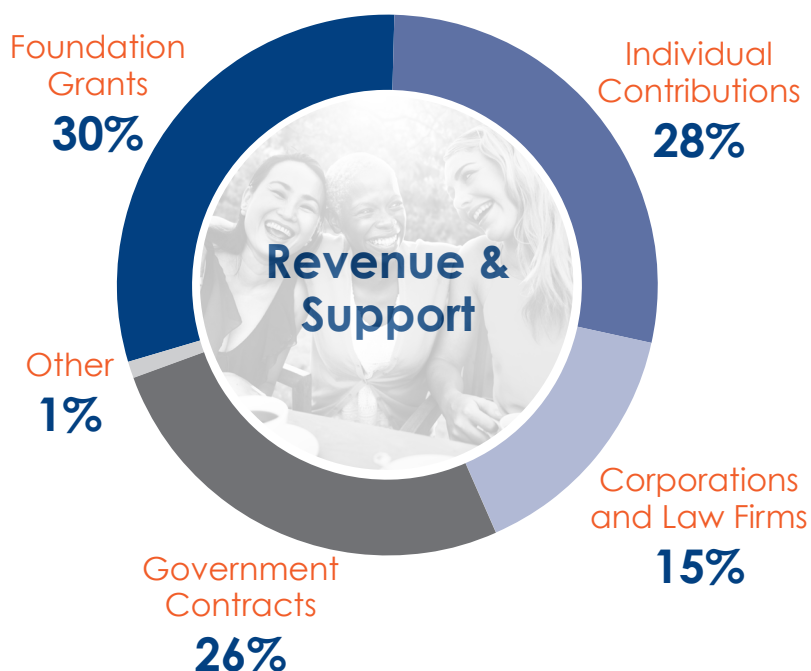
Statement of Activities

Revenue & Support	2015	2014
Foundation Grants	\$176,426	\$164,490
Individual Contributions	\$160,761	\$155,087
Corporate/Law Firm Contributions	\$89,445	\$173,179
Government Contracts	\$147,683	\$55,598
Contributions In-Kind	\$1,653,501	\$1,565,406
Other	\$3,347	\$1,595
Total Revenue & Support	\$2,231,163	\$2,115,355
Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$1,930,736	\$1,707,505
Admin, General, & Fundraising	\$176,753	\$151,755
Total Expenses	\$2,107,489	\$1,859,260
Increase in net assets	\$123,674	\$256,095



Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Assets	2015	2014
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 741,788.00	\$ 564,802.00
Grants & pledges receivable	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 24,238.00
Other assets	\$ 9,622.00	\$ 4,831.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 801,410.00	\$ 593,871.00
Liabilities		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$ 16,653.00	\$ 10,230.00
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 16,653.00	\$ 10,230.00
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 693,605.00	\$ 569,931.00
Temporarily restricted	\$ 91,152.00	\$ 13,710.00
Total net assets	\$ 784,757.00	\$ 583,641.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 801,410.00	\$ 593,871.00





Volunteerism

Leveraging Pro Bono Services



FVAP Impact
including
Pro Bono
\$2,107,489

FVAP Direct
Expenditures
\$453,988

We didn't do this alone!

112 volunteers donated over 6,600 hours of free, pro bono legal assistance to FVAP and our clients.

The value of this pro bono help was over \$1.65 million, almost 4 times what FVAP spent on expenses in 2015. This means our spending had 4 times greater impact than if we were doing this work alone.

On behalf of the survivors and children we were able to help this year because of your generous contributions of time and expertise,
Thank You!



FVAP's staff, law student interns, and volunteer attorney at a 2015 luncheon celebrating our volunteers



Join us in this life-saving movement!



Since our founding in 2012, FVAP's success has been due to the efforts and contributions of many people like you. Without community support, we could not have started a legal aid nonprofit from scratch in such a short time, or helped nearly as many survivors and children find safety.



You can be part of this movement to end domestic violence!

- Join our Board of Directors
- Join our Advisory Board
- Join our New Leadership Council
- Volunteer
- [Donate](#)

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in any of these opportunities. We can't wait to welcome you into the FVAP family!



Learn more about our work at www.fvaplaw.org



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