



In this issue:

- FVAP's Latest Legal Victories Simplify Restraining Order Renewals
- Next Tues: Webinar on New Domestic Violence Laws in CA
- FVAP Trains Judges on Domestic Violence Family Issues
- You Gave a Lot! Dec. Fundraising Update
- 2018 Budget: More for Legal Aid, Not Enough for DV
- Get Ready for Banding Together to End Domestic Violence 2018
- Now Hiring Summer Law Clerks & Post-Graduate Fellows



FVAP's Latest Legal Victories Simplify Restraining Order Renewals

Our latest successful appeal makes it easier for domestic violence survivors to renew their restraining orders by eliminating an unnecessary bureaucratic barrier. *Priscila N. v. Leonardo G.*, decided December 1, and another recent FVAP legal victory, *Garcia v. Escobar*, are the first California cases to clarify that family courts can renew restraining orders issued by juvenile courts. The Court of Appeal published these opinions, so they are now binding legal precedent for all trial courts across California.

These decisions mean **better, longer-lasting protection for domestic violence survivors**: Where new restraining orders are issued for 1-5 years, renewed restraining orders last either 5 years or permanently. This means going to court less often, which is especially important for California survivors, 80% of whom must represent themselves in court without an attorney, usually because they can't afford one.

Before these decisions, survivors who received Domestic Violence Restraining Orders from a juvenile court would have to go through the same process in family court a few years later. This put an **unnecessary burden on survivors** and risked the possibility that the new court would reach a wrong conclusion and deny the survivor protection they needed. It also put survivors in the traumatic position of once again facing their abusers in court, and being forced to retell painful stories of abuse.

In its groundbreaking *Priscila N. opinion*, the 2nd District Court of Appeal stressed that **all family and juvenile courts** in California should work together to broadly apply domestic violence laws in ways that best protect survivors.

Together, *Priscila N.* and *Garcia* will help countless survivors more quickly and more assuredly get the protection they need for themselves and their children.

Many thanks to our co-counsel in this case, **Manatt, Phelps & Phillips**, especially arguing attorney **Joanna McCallum**, and **Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law**. Thanks also to **California Women's Law Center** and **Pepper Hamilton LLP** for submitting a compelling amicus (friend-of-the-court) brief about the legislative issues and implications of this decision.

Next Tuesday: Webinar on New Domestic Violence Laws in California

Recent California Family Law Appellate Cases Involving Domestic Violence

Tuesday, January 16

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Presented by: Nancy K.D. Lemon, FVAP Legal Director

Register: <http://bit.ly/2AHdA6l>

Hosted by **California Partnership to End Domestic Violence**. Partnership members save \$20 on registration.

Join us Tuesday afternoon for our popular annual webinar on new domestic violence laws in California. The webinar will review 2017 appellate decisions -- including many FVAP cases - - that will affect California survivors and their children. Both attorneys and advocates are encouraged to attend.



FVAP Trains Judges on Domestic Violence Family Issues

FVAP Staff Attorney Anya Emerson and Judge Leonard Edwards (ret.) presented a training to nearly 200 attendees at last month's **Beyond the Bench** conference in San Diego. The training, "**Domestic Violence in Dependency Court: What Judges and Attorneys Should Know,**" reviewed important juvenile dependency cases that address domestic violence as a basis for jurisdiction and removal, reasonable efforts to prevent removal of children from their parents, reasonable services, restraining orders issued under the Welfare and Institutions Code, and related issues. The course also addressed advocacy and trial strategies when representing survivors of domestic violence in a dependency case.

Anya and Judge Edwards will present this same training for the **San Francisco Juvenile Dependency Panel of Trial Attorneys** next Weds., Jan. 17 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

You Gave a Lot! December Fundraising Update

Last month, FVAP supporters far and wide came together to prove just how passionate you are about empowering survivors and protecting children from domestic violence. You donated a total of **\$90,836** in the final 6 weeks of 2017 -- **our most successful year-end fundraising campaign ever.**

Special thanks to **Scott and Julie Johnston**, who matched all donations after Dec. 20, and ended up donating a generous **\$25,000** to advance FVAP's mission of giving domestic violence survivors a second chance at justice.

We could not do this work without you -- thank you!

CA's 2018 Budget: More for Legal Aid, Not Enough for DV

While FVAP is encouraged that Governor Brown's 2018 draft budget includes a significant amount of legal aid funding, and much-needed additional funding for courts, we are equally disappointed that the budget does not include any increases to the inadequate funding allocated for domestic violence services across the state. **California's domestic violence funding hasn't increased in 10 years.**

According to estimates from the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, California domestic violence service providers statewide need an **additional \$25 million** to adequately serve the 5.8 million Californians who experience intimate partner violence each year. An average of **1,086 requests for domestic violence assistance go unmet every day** in California, due to limited resources and insufficient funding. Read more [here](#).



Get Ready: Banding Together to End Domestic Violence 2018

Banding Together to End Domestic Violence fans, get ready for exciting news: Dates and locations of our 2018 attorney battle-of-the-bands fundraisers will be announced **next week!** Keep an eye on your inbox, or check fvapbotb.com for updates.

Now Hiring: Summer Law Clerks and Post-Graduate Fellows

FVAP is seeking 1-3 part- or full-time law clerks

to join our dynamic team in our Oakland, California, office for Summer, 2018. Law students interested in making a big impact for domestic violence survivors in California, please apply now.

FVAP is also seeking post-graduate fellowship candidates to begin in either Fall 2018 or 2019.

Full job descriptions available [here](#).



The ALL Are Welcome Here poster was created by the Pennsylvania Cross-Systems Advocacy Coalition, supported by Grant No. 2007-FW-AI-K0068, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.