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## Domestic Violence Survivor and Her Kids Evicted Because of Abuse



**FVAP is working on a housing appeal**, representing a survivor of domestic violence who, along with her children, was evicted from her home of over a decade because of acts of abuse. Despite zealous representation, **FVAP** and our co-counsel at **Jones Day** and **BASTA, Inc.** were unable to stay the eviction for our client, which would have allowed her to remain in her home while the appeal goes through the courts. As a result, our client is struggling to secure safe, stable housing for herself and her family. We are currently waiting for an official transcript of the court's electronic recording of the trial court proceedings that we will use in the appeal. Like most appeals, eviction appeals take time, but **FVAP** is hopeful that we will be able to provide relief to our client and that an appellate court decision will help prevent other survivors from being evicted because of abuse.

Safe housing has been reported as the number one unmet need among domestic violence survivors.

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## FVAP Urges California Supreme Court to Protect Survivors



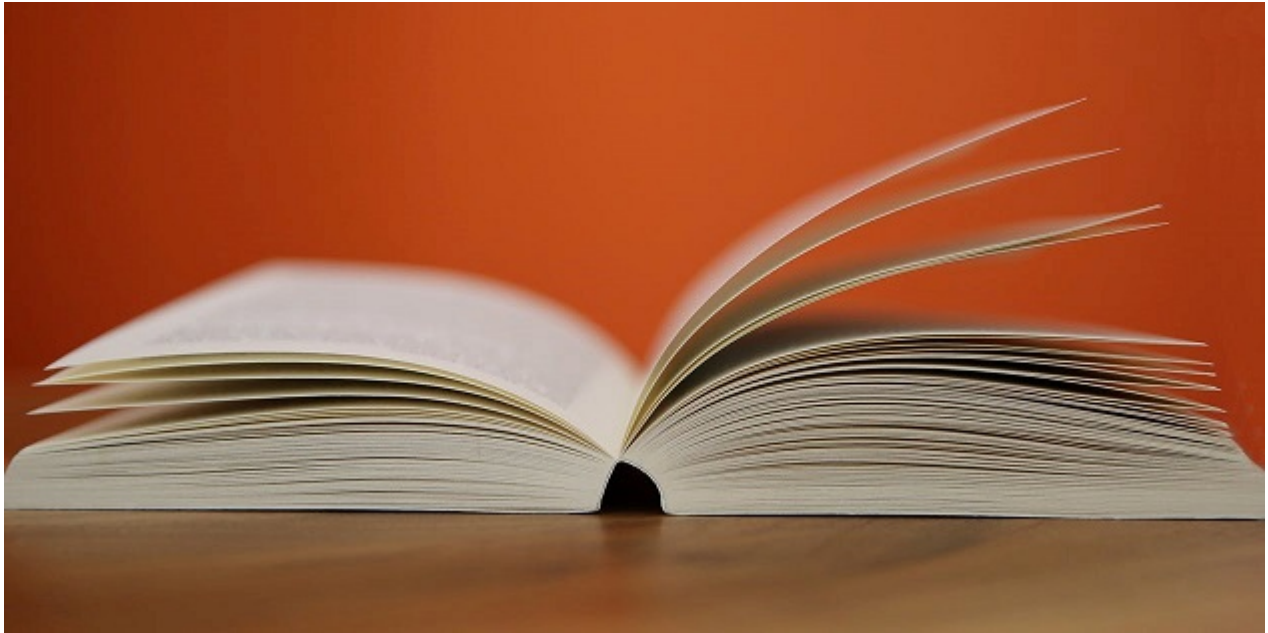
It's been a busy week for [FVAP](#) in the California Supreme Court.

On December 9, [FVAP](#), along with co-signers from domestic violence organizations across the state and our counsel at **Mayer Brown**, filed a **friend-of-the-court letter to the California Supreme Court**. The letter supports a request for the Court to review the case of a limited-English-proficient, unrepresented survivor of domestic violence who was denied a restraining order after the trial court engaged in classic victim-blaming by questioning the survivor about her behavior, and minimizing her physical injuries by saying they were not abuse. Unfortunately, this is not a unique situation but a very common occurrence for unrepresented domestic violence survivors seeking protection.

On December 10, [FVAP](#) and several other organizations, with the assistance of our co-counsel, **Covington and Burling LLP**, submitted another friend-of-the-court letter to the California Supreme Court, which urges the Court to address an issue of statewide importance impacting survivors of domestic violence who become involved in juvenile dependency proceedings. Survivors who come to the attention of child-welfare departments as a result of domestic violence **risk losing custody of their children** on the basis that they failed to protect their children from being exposed to the abuse the survivors themselves suffered. These "failure-to-protect" findings are often made, even when the trial court acknowledges that the non-abusive parent has taken the appropriate steps to protect their child. What's worse is that failure-to-protect findings can lead to immediate and long-term harm to survivor-parents and their children, even when the child is eventually returned to a parent's custody. Our letter encourages the California Supreme Court to take action to **prevent trial courts from reaching these unjust and damaging decisions** against survivors of domestic violence.

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## FVAP Requests Publication to Refine Restraining Order Renewal Process



On December 9, [FVAP](#) submitted a letter requesting publication of a case involving a **long-term restraining order renewal** in which the Court of Appeal explained for the first time that a restrained party's ongoing refusal to acknowledge and address their own abusive behavior may justify an abuse survivor's fear of future abuse. The opinion also provides guidance to trial courts on the role a party's geographical relocation plays in evaluating renewal of a long-term restraining order, as well as clarifying that additional protected persons need not possess their own fear of future abuse in order to remain protected by the renewed order.

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## Survivors of Domestic Violence Are Counting on Us - Can You Help?



We are excited to share that our generous supporters, **Scott and Julie Johnston**, have agreed to **match all of your donations** throughout the month of December dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000. This is a great opportunity for anyone who missed the chance to double their impact during our Board match last week.

Survivors of domestic violence and their kids count on us to help them secure protection from abuse in court and get justice. Your support allows us to continue this necessary work day after day, for free. You can help us do the best we can for survivors by donating today.

**Double My  
Donation**

## Volunteer Spotlight: Alexis Noel



Today we're featuring, **Alexis Noel**, who is supporting domestic violence survivors by volunteering as a law clerk at [FVAP](#).

Alexis is a second-year law student at Golden Gate University, School of Law. Currently, she is part of the Honors Lawyering Program and on the board of the Women's Law Association at GGU. Prior to attending law school, Alexis worked at the Butte County District Attorney's Office, where she worked with special victims attorneys on sexual assault and child abuse cases. Alexis is passionate about helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and plans to continue this important work after finishing law school.

**Thank you**, Alexis, for supporting domestic violence survivors, their children, and [FVAP](#).

## FVAP is a 2019 Top-rated Nonprofit



We are excited to share that not only have we been rated a **Top-rated Nonprofit in 2019**, but [we were also just featured in a blog](#) written by [Great Nonprofits](#) as a **favorite charity among volunteers**

in **Oakland, CA**. We are so glad that our volunteers have enjoyed working with us to improve the lives of domestic violence survivors through the legal system and thankful to them for sharing their positive experiences with the community.

Be sure to read and share the blog, [Top 10 Volunteer Opportunities in Oakland in 2019](#), with anyone you know who is interested in supporting domestic violence survivors and [FVAP](#)—we can always use your help.

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## Save the Date: Banding Together to End Domestic Violence is June 18, 2020



Mark your calendars--[Banding Together to End Domestic Violence](#) 2020 is booked for **Thursday, June 18**. Banding Together is our epic battle-of-the-bands fundraiser held every summer in San Francisco that features bands from California's most philanthropic law firms and corporate legal teams. Bands compete for the coveted title, **Best Lawyer Band in the Bay**, while also competing to raise the most money for domestic violence survivors and their kids.

Stay tuned for more information about the event—we can't wait to rock out with you in 2020.

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*December 2019*

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