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## Introducing: FVAP's newest team members

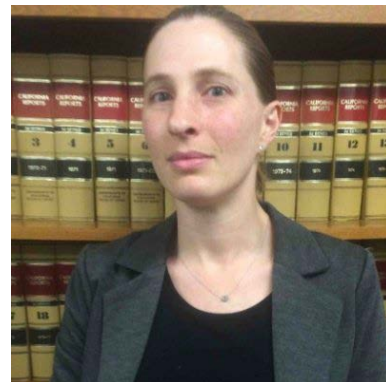
Please join us in welcoming 3 new outstanding team members to FVAP! We could not be more thrilled to have Anya, Cathy, and Meg join us, and we hope you have a chance to meet them soon.

### **Anya Emerson, Staff Attorney**

Anya has 10 years of appellate experience, specializing in domestic violence and juvenile dependency law in both New York and California. She comes to FVAP from the First District Appellate Project, where she represented parents and children in juvenile dependency appeals in the First District Court of Appeal.

Before moving to California, Anya worked as an Equal Justice Works Fellow and, later, as a Staff Attorney, at the New York Legal Assistance Group's Family Law Unit and Appellate Representation Project, where she took on both trial and appellate domestic violence-related family law and matrimonial matters.

A graduate of Columbia Law School, Anya served as an editor for the Human Rights Law Review and received the Dean's Public Interest Fellowship. She later clerked for Judge Jack B. Weinstein, of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.



### **Cathy Ongiri, Staff Attorney**

Cathy has been practicing family law for the past 10 years. Prior to joining FVAP, she handled statewide appeals and

interjurisdictional child support issues as a Deputy Attorney General in the Health, Education and Welfare Section of the Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Cathy was an attorney with the Alameda County Department of Child Support Services. She began her career as an Assistant Family Law Facilitator for the Contra Costa County Superior Court.

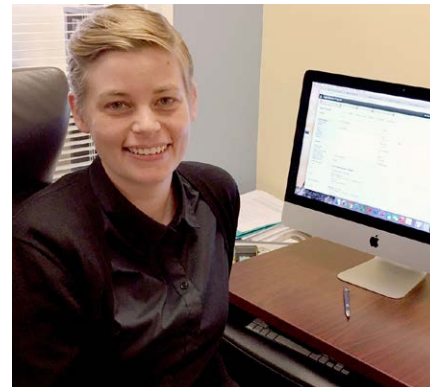


In 2016, Cathy was selected as an American Bar Fellow, a distinction extended to only one percent of the attorney population in each state or jurisdiction. In 2012, she was recognized by the National Bar Association and IMPACT as one of “40 Lawyers under 40: Nation’s Best Advocates,” and she received individual distinction for Excellence in Service.

Cathy serves as an Advisor on the Board of the Charles Houston Bar Association (CHBA), and in 2014, she received the Minority Bar Coalition’s Unity Award on behalf of CHBA. She is a barrister member of the Anthony M. Kennedy Inn of Court and serves on the American Inns of Court’s National Selection Committee for the Pegasus Scholars program. In 2011, she was named one of two 2011 Pegasus Scholars nationwide. Cathy received her Juris Doctorate from the University of California Hastings College of the Law in 2006.

#### **Meg Bay, Office Manager**

Before joining FVAP, Meg was the Office Manager at La Selva Residential, a nonprofit Residential Mental Health Facility. Prior to that, she served as Volunteer Case Manager and Co-Head of the Fundraising Committee at Friends Outside, an organization providing support and resources to incarcerated individuals and their families. Meg holds a B.A. in Feminist Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.



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## **New on-demand training videos**

***MCLE credit available***

FVAP presents two new on-demand training videos available through our online Training Portal:

- [“Statements of Decision: What They Are and How to Request Them,”](#) and
- [“2016 California Family Law, Juvenile, Criminal, and U.S. Supreme Court Decisions Involving Domestic Violence.”](#)



One hour of **MCLE credit** is available for each training. (California attorneys only).

The MCLE deadline for California State Bar Compliance **Group 3** (last names beginning with N-Z) has been extended to **March 1** (formerly Feb. 1). [Click here](#) to register for access to the training portal and complete MCLE training on your own time.

For the full list of available trainings, [click here](#).

Training videos are **FREE** to members of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV); members of Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC); nonprofit and legal aid employees; and private attorneys currently representing a survivor of domestic violence pro bono.

For all others, including private attorneys, on-demand trainings cost \$35 each.



## Central Valley Project update

In September, FVAP launched our Central Valley Project with the goal of addressing the most pressing legal needs of domestic violence survivors living in the underserved central part of our state. Based on the results of our landmark [2016 survey of California domestic violence service providers](#), we were able to determine the region's most pressing needs and are making efforts to address them.

With full-time Legal Fellow Eliza Duggan dedicated to this Project, we have implemented a **targeted outreach approach** to concentrate on the Central Valley's greatest unmet needs by working closely with area shelters, community organizations, service providers, advocates, and attorneys.



FVAP has begun developing unique trainings and materials specifically tailored to the region's needs, including materials on how advocates can help DV survivors involved in litigation to obtain the reasons for a judge's decision. This resource is significant for survivors of abuse because it will help them understand why the court made certain decisions in their case, which is crucial to their ability to appeal an unfavorable decision.



## Lawyers who rock: Banding Together to End Domestic Violence

Rock out for a good cause at FVAP's 5th annual battle-of-the-bands fundraiser!

Coming to [San Francisco on June 14](#), and [Los Angeles on July 13](#), "Banding Together to End Domestic Violence" features bands from California's top law firms and corporate legal teams who compete in an epic musical battle for the coveted titles: Best Lawyer Band in The Bay, and Best Lawyer Band in LA.

Though the competition is fierce, these rockstar attorneys will band together to **raise over \$175,000 to help end domestic violence** in California. All proceeds are donated to FVAP.

**Sponsor this event:** Sponsors reach a highly desirable demographic while they're having a memorable, fun night out with co-workers. The Banding Together audience includes professionals and decision makers from some of California's most powerful law firms and tech companies. By sponsoring Banding Together, you tell the world that your firm or company cares about issues affecting your community, and you believe in giving back. [Click here](#) for more information.

**Enter a band:** Are you and your colleagues rock stars in disguise? Apply to compete in our San Francisco or Los Angeles battle of the bands. Bands should consist of at least 50% attorneys or employees from a law firm, law office, or corporate legal team. [Click here](#) for more information.

**Celebrity guest judges:** We are also accepting applications for celebrity guest judges to serve on the Judges' Panel in either city. Nominate someone by emailing [jeagle@fvaplaw.org](mailto:jeagle@fvaplaw.org).

For more event information, visit [fvapbotb.com](http://fvapbotb.com).

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## February announcements

- The U.C. Berkeley School of Law Women of Color Collective will present its annual production of **The Vagina Monologues** next Friday, **Feb. 24**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at Boalt Hall. The WOCC will generously donate **all ticket sale proceeds to FVAP** again this year. Get your tickets [here](#).
  - FVAP Executive Director Erin Smith, along with former law clerks Cory Hernandez and Helen Wang, wrote an article for the December 2016 edition of **Family Law News**, published by the State Bar of California. The article, "**Recent Developments in California Domestic Violence Case Law**," describes particularly notable developments in the areas of domestic violence restraining order renewals, non-physical abuse being a recognized form of abuse, and a parent's role in protecting children from abuse. Read it [here](#).
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