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Five Years and 1,000+ Legal Matters

In the summer of 2012, Family Violence Appellate Project opened its doors, becoming the first nonprofit in California dedicated to helping domestic violence survivors with civil legal appeals.

At the time, FVAP consisted of 1 attorney and a one-room office in Berkeley. Though our staff, space, and operating budget were small, our determination was not; We saw injustice and decided to fix it.

Five years later, FVAP's staff of 9 is filling a crucial gap in legal aid coverage for California survivors, as the **only statewide legal domestic violence organization** operating in every part of California. We're also the only nonprofit in California dedicated to helping abuse survivors with civil legal appeals, and one of only a handful of organizations in the country doing appellate-level domestic violence work.

On our **5th anniversary**, we are pleased to announce another milestone: **1,000 legal matters**. Between direct representation, real-time legal assistance, and amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs, our legal staff has worked on over 1,000 legal matters on behalf of California domestic violence survivors and their children.

Our work has helped not only the survivors who receive our services, but also thousands of other survivors throughout California who have used FVAP's published cases to achieve the safety, justice, and peace of mind they deserve.

Thank you for supporting FVAP's innovative mission for the past 5 years, and for being part of the movement to end domestic violence in California.



Band Voting + Early-Bird Discount Tickets

5th annual attorney battle-of-the-bands events

Which San Francisco law firm rocks the most? Who are the most generous attorneys in LA? Find out this summer at FVAP's 5th annual attorney battle-of-the-bands fundraiser events, [Banding Together to End Domestic Violence](#).

Reserve your tickets now for a major early-bird discount – just \$18! (Discount available in San Francisco for only one more week.)

SAN FRANCISCO
June 14

LOS ANGELES
July 13

YOU decide the winners of this competition. In [San Francisco](#), will it be Attractive Nuisance from **Greenberg Traurig**; The Disclaimers from **O'Melveny & Myers**; The MoFonics from **Morrison & Foerster**; The R-23s from **Lieff Cabraser**; Strongly Worded Letter from **Kirkland & Ellis**; or reigning champs The Combinations from **Morgan Lewis**?

And in [Los Angeles](#), will you choose Diversion from **Latham & Watkins**; The Doughboys from **Pillsbury**; Down By Law from **Reed Smith and Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete**; MSK / Y2K from **Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp**; MauxFaux from **Praedicat Inc., Strumwasser & Woocher**, and **Faraday Future**; or reigning champs Papa Gibson & The Writs of Replevin from **Gibson Dunn**?

Vote for your favorite San Francisco band now by donating on their fundraising page. [Click here](#). The band with the most fans that raises the most will win the coveted title: Best Lawyer Band in The Bay.

Los Angeles: Get ready to vote starting June 1!

All votes are directly donated to [FVAP](#) and are 100% tax-deductible.

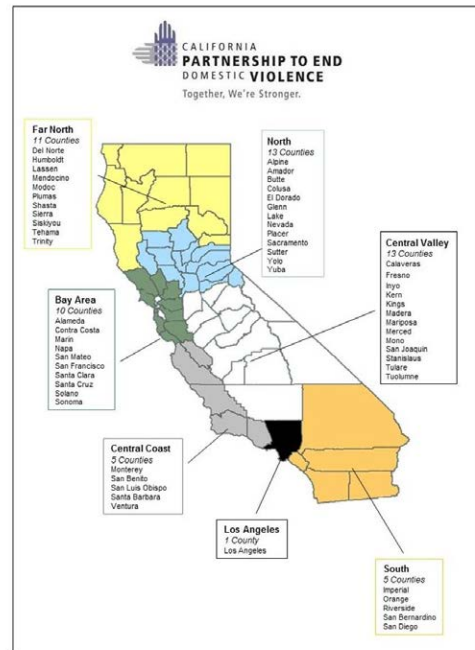
Thanks to our top event sponsors: [Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP](#) and [Mayer Brown LLP](#).

Reaching California's Rural Communities

This spring, FVAP's legal staff is busy meeting with shelter workers and domestic violence advocates across California in an effort to reach and help survivors in the **most marginalized and underserved communities**.

FVAP attorneys are reaching out to advocates from every region of the state, including areas with very limited resources such as the Central Valley and Far North. Survivors living in these rural areas often are less likely to have access to services, including affordable legal representation.

As California's only legal domestic violence organization operating statewide, FVAP is determined to help bridge the gap in service and make sure survivors have access to justice no matter where they live.



Victory in a Fast-Track Case

We're thrilled to announce a legal victory in a fast-tracked case that dealt with the all-too-common scenario of an abuse survivor's restraining order request being postponed over and over again because of a simultaneous ongoing criminal case against an abuser.

In this case, because the opposing party was facing related criminal charges, the family law court had delayed the restraining order case several times. This required our client, represented by pro bono counsel at **DLA Piper**, to return to court repeatedly, each time experiencing trauma because she had to face her abuser without any certainty that her case would be heard. FVAP and DLA Piper filed a writ petition (fast-tracked request) asking the appellate court to order the trial court to hear the case without any more continuances. The appellate court sent a letter requesting an update as to whether intervention would still be necessary following the next court date two days later.

At the next court date, after receiving the appellate court's letter, the trial court reversed course and did not grant another continuance. The parties agreed that a restraining order would be entered, and the trial court determined it should last for 5 years, the longest term possible under the law. We believe that the writ forced the trial court to do the right thing.

Free Webinar Today for Advocates & Non-Attorneys

"How to Help Your Clients Lay Their Record for Appeal and Avoid the Unauthorized Practice of Law" (For DV Advocates and Non-Attorneys)

Location: Online live webinar. [Click here](#) to register.

Date: TODAY, May 24

Time: 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

How can you help your clients who must represent themselves in family court? Join FVAP attorneys Cathy Ongiri and Eliza Duggan for a webinar for non-attorney advocates. We will specifically discuss legal matters involving domestic violence, including restraining orders, custody and visitation, child support, and spousal support.

You will also learn how to assist your clients in "laying a record" for appeal, which helps to protect their ability to appeal their case if they receive an unfavorable outcome.

This training is designed for non-attorneys, and we will spend a lot of time discussing the boundaries of permissible legal assistance by non-lawyers and what activities constitute the unauthorized practice of law.

Other upcoming FVAP trainings

- FVAP Training at Solano County Bar Association's Family Law Committee

Location: Solano County Hall of Justice, First Floor; 600 Union Ave., Fairfield, CA 94533

Date: June 22

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

CLE credit available from Solano County Bar Association's Family Law Committee. More information and registration link forthcoming.

- FVAP Training at Legal Aid Association of California Family Law and Self-Help Conference

Location: Los Angeles

Date: July 24

More information and registration forthcoming.



(From left) FVAP Staff Attorney Anya Emerson, Legal Director Nancy Lemon, and Legal Fellow Eliza Duggan met with legislators during Domestic Violence Policy Advocacy Day at the Capitol Building in Sacramento on May 2, organized by the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. We lobbied for domestic violence awareness, increased funding for domestic violence service providers and DV legal aid, and legislation to increase protections for undocumented immigrant survivors.

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