



FVAP gears up for 3 big cases, celebrates another win

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FVAP named a 2015 Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits.org!

The Top-Rated Awards are the only people's-choice awards in the nonprofit sector, and the Great Nonprofits seal is one of the most trusted rating seals in the industry.

We are honored to be featured on Great Nonprofits' 2015 Top-Rated Nonprofits List. Thank you to all who voted for FVAP to receive this award!



FVAP wins another case!



We are thrilled about our latest legal victory! California's Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento upheld our client's domestic violence restraining order, concluding that unwanted and harassing contacts, even without allegations of threats or violence, are sufficient to support issuing a restraining order under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, and that the opposing party failed to properly challenge the trial court's exercise of jurisdiction over him. Read the opinion [here](#).

We hope this case will help many survivors throughout California who experience non-physical forms of domestic abuse to obtain restraining orders and find the peace they deserve.

Congratulations to **FVAP Staff Attorney Shuray Ghorishi** for arguing this case, and to our co-counsel, **Sucherman Insalaco LLP**.

FVAP also argued at the Fourth District Court of Appeal (Orange County) last month in an international child abduction case. Stay tuned for results! Thanks to **O'Melveny & Myers LLP** for presenting oral argument.

**All donations before Dec. 1 #GivingTuesday
will be DOUBLED**

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 1, 2015

On Tuesday, December 1, FVAP will be participating in [#GivingTuesday](#), the global movement that encourages generosity and selflessness following Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

This year, our very generous Board of Directors will DOUBLE all donations given to FVAP leading up to #GivingTuesday, up to \$5,000!

This means every dollar you give to FVAP between today (Nov. 19) and the end of #GivingTuesday (Dec. 1) will come to us doubled in value; If you give \$20, FVAP will receive \$40; If you give \$100, FVAP will receive \$200. [Click here to donate today!](#)

This matching donation means that now is the best time to give to FVAP in 2015, so in addition to making your own contribution, please encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same! We'll even send you images to share on social media to let your friends know why you're supporting FVAP on #GivingTuesday, and why they should, too.

3 upcoming oral arguments

Our case pipeline is full-steam ahead this December! We have 3 oral arguments next month:

- *Rodriguez v. Menjivar*, Dec. 4, 2nd District Court of Appeal (Los Angeles)

This case is an appeal of the trial court's decision that "significant physical abuse" – including abuse during pregnancy that allegedly led to a pre-term birth – was "not sufficient" to issue a domestic violence restraining order because the last act of physical abuse had occurred five months before the temporary restraining order was issued.

The appeal also challenges the trial court's refusal to consider whether mental abuse provides a basis for a restraining order under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. We argue mental abuse is plainly covered under the DVPA's statutory definition of abuse.

We are co-counseling this appeal with the **Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice** and **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, LLP**.

- *In Re the Marriage of Solari*, Dec. 9, 1st District Court of Appeal (San Francisco)

This appeal raises an important issue in domestic violence custody cases: how trial courts should apply the legal presumption against awarding child custody to a perpetrator of domestic violence, and how they should explain their reasoning to the parties. We are co-counseling this appeal with **Morgan Lewis & Bockius, LLP**.

- *McIntyre v. Minkey*, Dec. 10, 1st District Court of Appeal (San Francisco)

This appeal argues that the trial court abused its discretion by denying the request to renew a restraining order on the grounds that our client had, during previous attempts to leave her abuser,

allowed him to violate a prior restraining order.

If allowed to stand, this ruling could effectively deny many victims the protection of a restraining order, since studies show most victims of abuse will temporarily leave several times before finally being able to permanently separate from their abuser. We are co-counseling this appeal with **Bay Area Legal Aid** and **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, LLP**.

For updates on the outcomes of these cases, follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).



To prepare our lead counsel for our three upcoming oral arguments, we'll be hosting moot (mock) court sessions in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and **we need volunteers to attend and act as mock judges, peppering the lawyers with questions.**

We also need remote volunteers who can think like judges to review the briefs, spot issues, and derive questions to be used by our moot panels.

These are fun and highly valuable ways to support FVAP's work! For more information or to volunteer, email info@fvaplaw.org.

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supported Amazon Smile organization by clicking [this link](#), log into your Amazon account normally, and continue shopping normally. When you check out, Amazon will automatically donate a portion of your total purchase to FVAP at no extra cost to you.

Go to smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com in order to donate to FVAP every time you shop online. (Adding a bookmark to your browser bar is a great way to remember!) Donating to FVAP for free while you shop: It's a win-win!

Thanks to all who made "Changing the Legal Landscape, L.A." a great success!



On October 22, FVAP held our first informational event in Los Angeles, "Changing the Legal Landscape, L.A." Generously hosted by **O'Melveny & Myers**, the highlight of the event was speeches by former FVAP client Mashid Vafai (shown above, proudly displaying the restraining order that FVAP helped her retain against her abuser) and FVAP Executive Director Erin Smith.
