



FVAP Comes to Southern California

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month 5 ways you can help



October is national Domestic Violence Awareness Month! This year, help us turn the Golden State purple by raising awareness in your own community. Here are five ways you can help:

1. Spread the word about FVAP. We are a small nonprofit, founded only three years ago by two U.C. Berkeley law students, an alumna, and their professor. While we have already begun making a big difference in California by setting legal precedent that favors survivors and their children rather than abusers, we want to do more!

Help FVAP grow so that we can help more survivors by telling your friends and colleagues about us,

directing them to our website and social media pages ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)), and asking them to [donate](#).

2. Come to our Oct. 22 event in Los Angeles. See the article below for more details!

3. Wear purple on Purple Thursday. Join advocates across the country in raising awareness by donning purple garb on Oct. 22.

4. Shop with Amazon Smile and Amazon will automatically donate a portion of your purchase to FVAP at no cost to you! Just click this [link](#) and continue shopping normally. Why shop any other way?

5. Give to FVAP. Every donation goes to helping domestic violence survivors appeal dangerous court decisions that put them and their children at risk of ongoing abuse. FVAP is there for domestic violence survivors when they have nowhere else to turn. Click here [donate](#).



FVAP comes to L.A.!

Join us in Los Angeles on Thursday, Oct. 22 for [Changing the Legal Landscape, L.A.](#), an informational reception hosted by **O'Melveny & Myers LLP**.

This early-evening cocktail reception will give you the opportunity to learn about what FVAP is doing to change the legal landscape of California. Hear firsthand about the importance of our work from one of our former clients, a domestic violence survivor who was able to turn to FVAP when she thought she was out of options. FVAP Executive Director Erin Smith will also be there to provide updates on our current work and answer questions. Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres will be served.

This event launches FVAP's further expansion in Southern California, which will help us achieve our ultimate goal of setting legal precedent in favor of survivors throughout the state. We encourage our L.A. supporters to invite your colleagues and friends to this event to learn about FVAP's unique work.

We also encourage anyone who is interested in becoming an FVAP L.A. [Board of Directors](#) member, [Advisory Board](#) member, or [New Leadership Council](#) member to attend this event. If you know a good candidate for any of these positions, please invite them.

All interested attendees should **RSVP by emailing jeagle@fvapl原因.org**.

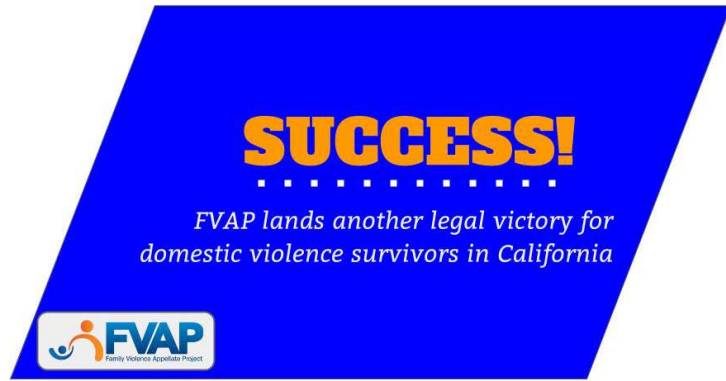
Our September Legal Victory

We are thrilled to announce our [latest legal victory!](#)

FVAP helped another domestic violence survivor renew a restraining order against her abuser by successfully appealing a trial court decision that originally denied her renewal. (*Cueto v Dozier*)

With co-counsel **Cooley LLP**, FVAP put forward that the trial court abused its discretion in denying a restraining order renewal based on its finding that the survivor had no reasonable apprehension for further abuse. This decision was unfair because the original restraining order was precipitated by a "violent incident," and because no circumstances had changed to diminish the opportunity or likelihood of further abuse. Thanks to **Domestic Violence Collaborative of San Mateo County** for referring this case to us!

Another notable accomplishment this month is a first for FVAP: On Sept. 29, the California Court of Appeal directly quoted [FVAP's amicus curiae brief](#), expressing agreement with our argument that the trial court was wrong to say that, because the domestic violence survivor had not attended therapy, her fear of abuse must not be genuine or reasonable. The Court of Appeal credits FVAP by name while stating that, in order to renew a restraining order, a DV survivor need not go to therapy in order to prove that she is indeed afraid of future abuse. [Read the full quote here](#). A big thank you to **Covington & Burling LLP** for co-counseling on this brief!



Berkeley Law celebrates Nancy Lemon



Join the Berkeley Law community on **Tuesday, Oct. 27** to celebrate the career, service, and achievements of FVAP co-founder and Legal Director Nancy K. D. Lemon.

This event, "A Celebration of Nancy Lemon," commemorates the 25th anniversary of Nancy's founding of the Domestic Violence Practicum at U.C. Berkeley School of Law, and honors her 28+ years of teaching there. Nancy was the first person in the U.S. to teach a Domestic Violence Law course at a university on a regular basis, and she is a national leading authority on domestic violence law.

Fellow FVAP co-founder Sonya Passi, a former student of Nancy's, will speak at event, which will be followed by a reception. All are invited, and Nancy's current and former students are encouraged to attend. [Register here](#).

Welcome to our newest Board members

FVAP warmly welcomes Kelly Shindell to our Board of Directors, and Don Falk and Ann Fallon to our Advisory Board!

Kelly Shindell is a Partner at Sideman & Bancroft, as well as a dedicated domestic violence advocate

and an experienced Board member.

Don Falk is a Partner at Mayer Brown with extensive appellate and trial court experience, including in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ann Fallon is a distinguished and experienced family law attorney in Contra Costa County, and a named Partner at Whiting, Fallon, Ross & Abel.

We are honored to have these distinguished attorneys and generous advocates join the FVAP family. See our website for a full list of our [Board of Directors](#) and [Advisory Board](#) members.

Upcoming oral arguments

FVAP has two oral arguments in the Court of Appeal next week, including one that will be argued by **FVAP Staff Attorney Shuray Ghorishi!** Read more about these cases and our other upcoming events on our [website](#).
