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Your Support Makes Victories for Survivors Possible



You make the victories you see in this month's newsletter possible. And thanks to our generous supporters **Scott and Julie Johnston**, all gifts made throughout the month of December will be **matched dollar-for-dollar (up to \$25,000)**, making it possible for you to **double your impact** this month.

Donate to the [Herma Hill Kay Memorial Fund](#) to honor the legacy of this legal trailblazer and founding [FVAP](#) Board member, or make a [general donation](#).

DOUBLE MY DONATION

Thank you for keeping survivors and their children safe.

[FVAP](#) accepts donations of stock as well as bequests. [Contact us](#) for information. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

New Legal Victory: FVAP Obtains Publication of Case Protecting Survivors



Survivors who may not be able to recite all of the specific details in their written request for a domestic violence restraining order as a result of trauma or the expedited nature of restraining order proceedings will be better protected thanks to the recent publication of *In Re Marriage of Davila*. In this case, the survivor's husband appealed the issuance of the domestic violence restraining order against him, arguing that the trial court improperly admitted his wife's testimony about his holding a gun to her head because that specific allegation was not in her written domestic violence restraining order application.

But the wife had generally described fearing for her and her children's safety and her husband's threats to harm her in her application, which the appellate court ruled gave the husband enough information about her request to proceed to the court hearing. The appellate court ruled that the wife's testimony in court, which gave further details about the abuse she experienced, was admissible.

At FVAP's request, in collaboration with 11 other organizations, the court published the decision, which is now binding legal precedent throughout California.

We are so glad about this **win for survivors** and look forward to contributing to future publications of court outcomes that take survivors' experiences into account.

Protecting Immigrant Women and Children Survivors



FVAP stands with immigrant survivors of abuse. We know that a person's immigration status is often a factor that makes them more vulnerable to abuse and other traumas, and that children are particularly at risk. We recently submitted a [public comment](#) opposing the federal government's proposed rules to change longstanding authorities protecting immigrant children from indefinite immigration detention. In our submission, we expressed that these proposed rules would be particularly harmful to children and women with children fleeing domestic violence in their home countries. It is our hope that the nationwide outpouring of support for these children's well-being will halt these proposed changes and keep survivors safe.

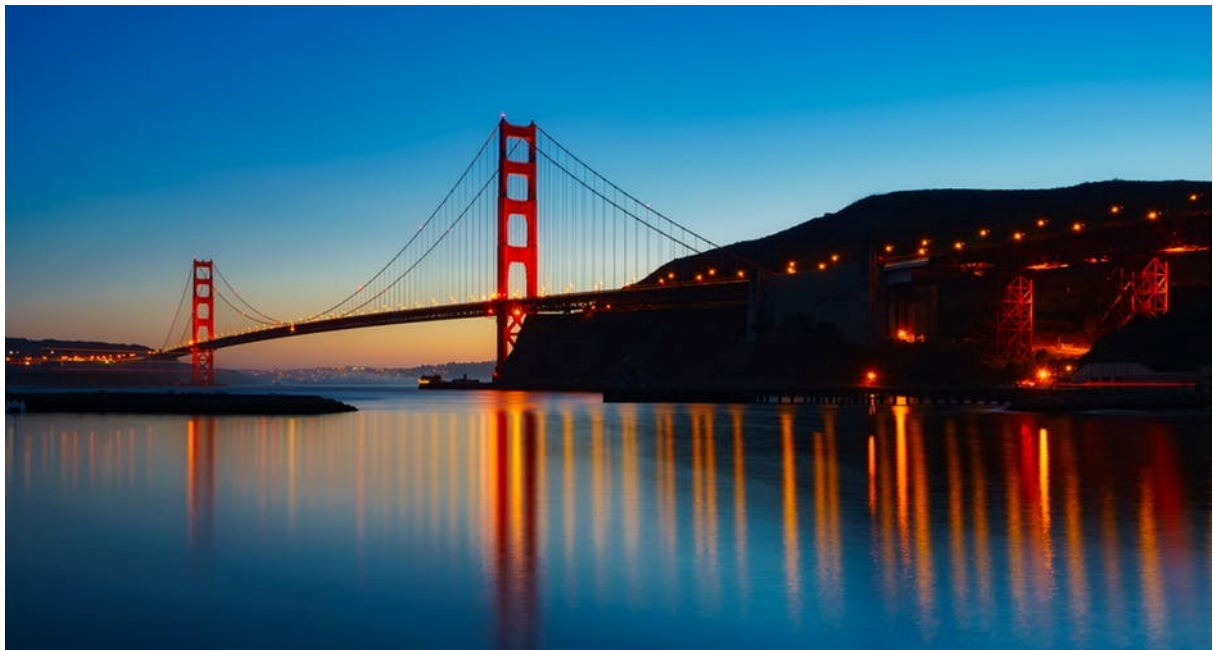
We also submitted a public comment on another proposed rule expanding the range of public assistance programs to be considered in the public charge assessment that would be detrimental to immigrant survivors of domestic violence. In our comment, we expressed that the proposed changes would harm immigrant survivors by discouraging them from seeking key public benefits they need to escape or recover from abuse in order to avoid jeopardizing their ability to obtain lawful status. Stay tuned for more updates.

FVAP and Costa Mesa Pro Bono Attorneys Collaborate on Appeal



Thank you, [FVAP](#) pro bono attorneys! We recently reached out to our pro bono network and found three willing volunteers to act as “judge for a day”, and two more who helped by reviewing the record and sending questions to help [FVAP](#) at a moot court we assembled for Latham & Watkins LLP. Latham is representing a survivor of domestic violence in an appeal of a case where the survivor was denied a domestic violence restraining order and was not provided with a statement of reasons by the court, as required by law. In 2014, [FVAP](#) lobbied to have the statement of reasons

Covering the State: FVAP's Upcoming Trainings



January 30: “California’s Sanctuary State Bill: Key Points in the Attorney General’s Guidance for Shelters and Courts” will be given by FVAP’s Director of Programs, [Jennafer Dorfman Wagner](#), and FVAP’s Legal Fellow, [Michelle Kim](#), to California Partnership to End Domestic Violence members via statewide webinar. This training will summarize and explain the recently released Department of Justice guidance as it pertains to the California Values Act (SB 54), the so-called “sanctuary state” law. This training will also provide guidance for advocates who work in the domestic violence space and domestic violence-related programs to develop policies that will protect the rights of immigrant survivors so that they may safely access courts and shelters.

February 22: “Recent Developments in California Domestic Violence Law Cases and Statutes and the Psychology Behind Them” will be given by FVAP’s Legal Director, [Nancy K.D. Lemon](#). This training is for the California Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and will be held at their annual conference in Costa Mesa, CA. Judge Tara Flanagan of Alameda County and [Dr. Mindy Mechanic](#), FVAP Advisory Board member and domestic violence expert and Professor of Psychology at California State University, Fullerton, are co-presenting.

FVAP Rated 2018 Top Nonprofit



FVAP has once again been named a top-rated nonprofit in 2018. Thank you to all of our supporters who made this possible by submitting reviews to GreatNonprofits, some of which we have highlighted below. You can read other reviews made by FVAP’s supporters by visiting [our GreatNonprofits profile page](#).

“FVAP is doing very important and timely work and has a unique approach by focusing on obtaining appellate decisions that create precedent. FVAP also creates great pro bono opportunities for lawyers in private practice to play a major role in shaping the arguments and being able to really make a difference.” –Joanna

“It is nothing short of impressive that FVAP is producing such results in winning appeals compared to the statewide standard. I also love the fact that so much of their efforts are put towards training and representation in order to help break the cycle and foster a new generation of awareness towards this serious issue. To top it off, they are also the only organization that provides free appellate legal representation to domestic violence survivors in the state. Thank you FVAP for your work on this important issue!” –Clint

“I am proud to volunteer with FVAP. The dedication and skill of the small but mighty staff is truly awe-inspiring. This is the only nonprofit of its kind in California dedicated to ensuring that wrongly-decided cases in a trial court do not leave domestic violence survivors without recourse and the protection they are entitled to under the law.” –Susan

