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When Abusers Appeal Orders Against Them



Appeals are extremely difficult to win -- one reason we are so proud of our 81% success rate in appealing court orders, as compared to the 21% success rate statewide. [FVAP](#) often receives requests for representation from survivors of domestic abuse whose restraining orders, or other court orders, are being **appealed by their abuser**. Based on our extensive experience assessing appeals, we are often in a position to review what the abuser has filed to the Court of Appeal and to **advise the survivor** that it is unlikely the appeal will succeed and they have the option to choose not to participate in the appeal because they will likely still "win" with their abuser's appeal being denied. The survivors are usually very relieved that they have this viable option, and can stop interacting with their abuser over the appeal.

Since the beginning of 2020, we are happy to report that we have already helped 3 survivors maintain their court orders, **without them having to engage** in defending against an appeal.

Banding Together Rescheduled for Fall 2020



Photo credit: [Cathy Breslow/Breslow Imaging](#)

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, [FVAP's annual Banding Together to End Domestic Violence](#) fundraiser has been rescheduled for **October 22, 2020**.

[FVAP](#) is still **accepting sponsorship commitments** from companies and firms interested in the added benefit of a longer lead up to this year's event, which is more exposure over the coming months. For questions about how to maximize sponsorship benefits between now and our new date or any other event-related questions, reach out to [FVAP's Development Manager, Charity Peets](#), at cpeets@fvaplaw.org.

How FVAP is Responding to COVID-19



The COVID-19 crisis has drastically altered the world in a short time, and while California counties' **shelter-in-place** orders were designed to protect citizens, slow the spread of the outbreak, and keep our healthcare system from being overburdened, an order confining people to their homes is terrifying for many domestic violence survivors, given that it could mean they will be **trapped with their abuser**. Across the state, courts are varying in their responses to the crisis and many organizations that serve survivors, such as shelters, are facing unique challenges to protect their clients' health, safety, and privacy. Finally, the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was just quoted stating there has been a "[horrifying global surge in domestic violence](#)," highlighting a common correlation to widespread crises.

We want you to know that [FVAP](#) is working to **keep survivors' protections in place** and resources available by staying open as an essential business, answering questions for service providers so that they can effectively help survivors, working with appellate experts around the state to clarify the impacts on court cases, and coordinating with our allies in legal services to draft communications to law enforcement to make them aware that we are "essential services" so our clients and staff are not prevented from any essential functions. We were especially heartened when our joint efforts led to Emergency Court Rules being adopted this week creating an effective **prohibition of evictions and foreclosures**, and automatically **extending all domestic violence restraining orders** set to expire while the Governor's state of emergency order remains in effect.

Your support allows us to provide these essential services to survivors and those who serve them.

Support FVAP's
Essential Work

Spotlight: Team FVAP

We are pleased to put the spotlight on the newest addition to the [FVAP](#) team, Program Associate, **Katharina Grimm**, and Law Clerk, **Leila Rock**, who has been volunteering her time at [FVAP](#) to support survivors.



Katharina obtained her master's degree in International Policy and Development last year at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. She specialized in human rights, gender and identity and Chinese language. She has extensive experience in evaluation consultancy, data analytics, and in human rights advocacy. While in graduate school, Katharina worked as an evaluation consultant helping the YWCA of Monterey County develop an evaluation design for their youth outreach program, as well as the Women, Food and Agriculture Network to develop a diversity and inclusion plan. She also worked as the lead research coordinator in the Mixed Methods, Evaluation, Analysis and Training Lab through her graduate program where she worked with non-profit community-based

organizations providing data management, analysis, and planning. Katharina also spent a summer doing policy advocacy work in D.C. with Amnesty International USA, including briefing congressional staff on critical international situations for LGBTI+ people.

These projects drew on Katharina's broad skill set that includes designing surveys and program evaluation metrics, working with and analyzing large data sets, and working in diverse settings including with people in crisis and with multilingual partners.

Katharina loves dogs, books, and martial art taekwondo.

Leila is a third-year law student at Berkeley Law. Through practical and clinical experience, she has endeavored to expand her knowledge of domestic violence law and provide direct services to survivors. As a law clerk at the Family Violence Appellate Project ([FVAP](#)) she works closely with attorneys to help survivors who want to appeal trial court decisions.

She is passionate about using her skills and education to provide more equitable access to justice, and excited by the prospect of doing work that directly impacts not just individual survivors, but survivors statewide. Previously Leila worked as a legal intern at the Family Violence Law Center, where she assisted survivors in crisis situations in writing declarations and preparing restraining order requests. Post graduation Leila will clerk in Alaska. She chose Alaska specifically because it is an area of great need for domestic violence survivors. She is eager to understand the complicated issues of domestic violence facing native and rural women, and how those experiences translate at the trial court level.

Huge thanks to Leila for volunteering her time to support domestic violence survivors and their children, and **welcome to the team, Kat**--we are excited to have you on board!



Covering the State: Past and Upcoming Legal Assistance and Trainings



We know survivors, those who support them, attorneys, court staff, and judges need **support and information** more now than ever, which is why we are continuing to hold our regular legal assistance **calls and trainings via webinar**. Here are some of our recent calls and trainings and what is coming up soon.

Feb 5: [FVAP](#) held our bi-monthly legal assistance statewide call on our Confidentiality and Mandated Reporting Toolkit for domestic violence advocates who are [CPEDV](#) members

Feb 7: We teamed up with Judge, Tara Flanagan, and Social Science Professor, Mindy Mechanic, to conduct a workshop on New Appellate Cases from 2019 and Decoding Domestic Abuse for the [California Association of Family and Conciliation Courts](#)

March 9: [Legal Aid Association of California](#) held their 3rd Annual Civil Legal Aid Day, where [FVAP](#) and other legal aid nonprofits gathered to talk to legislatures and their aids about the importance of legal aid. This year, we emphasized the importance of our [Housing & Employment Program](#)

April 1: We held our bi-monthly statewide legal assistance call on Confidentiality and Mandated Reporting with a focus on COVID-19

April 9: [FVAP](#) held our [Housing and Employment Program](#) training for [Stand Up Placer](#) via webinar

April 29: [FVAP](#) will be participating in [CPEDV](#)’s 2020 Virtual Policy Day advocating for funding to support the work that keeps survivors and their children safe

May 15: We will be presenting our Housing & Employment Justice training for [Contra Costa Family Justice Center](#)

June 12: [FVAP](#) will be training on appellate access to justice for appellate judges

April 2020

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