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Black Lives Matter



Our hearts are broken by the horrific murder of George Floyd and the many other Black people who have lost their lives to racism at the hands of law enforcement. Our hearts go out to the Black community and other communities of color that have been forced to experience and witness these acts time and time again. We know that many of you, like us, are deeply hurt and still trying to process.

Working on the appellate side of legal aid, FVAP knows all too well that while our justice system can be used for good, it is deeply flawed. We can't even begin to express how sad, disappointed, and angry we are at the fact that what we saw had any space to occur at the hands of someone whose job was to enforce justice and keep people safe. With that said, we know that the death of George Floyd and others is a result of the racism baked into the fabric of our country. This systemic issue continues to thrive because policymakers implement slight, gradual changes rather than significant, meaningful progress that would truly respect and protect the lives of Black people and people of color.

At the heart of FVAP's work is helping marginalized people overcome barriers brought on by systemic injustice. We work, and will continue to work, to support survivors of domestic violence who have the fewest resources to take legal action so that they and their children can get justice and stay safe.

New Legal Victory: Helping Survivors Return to Their Homes

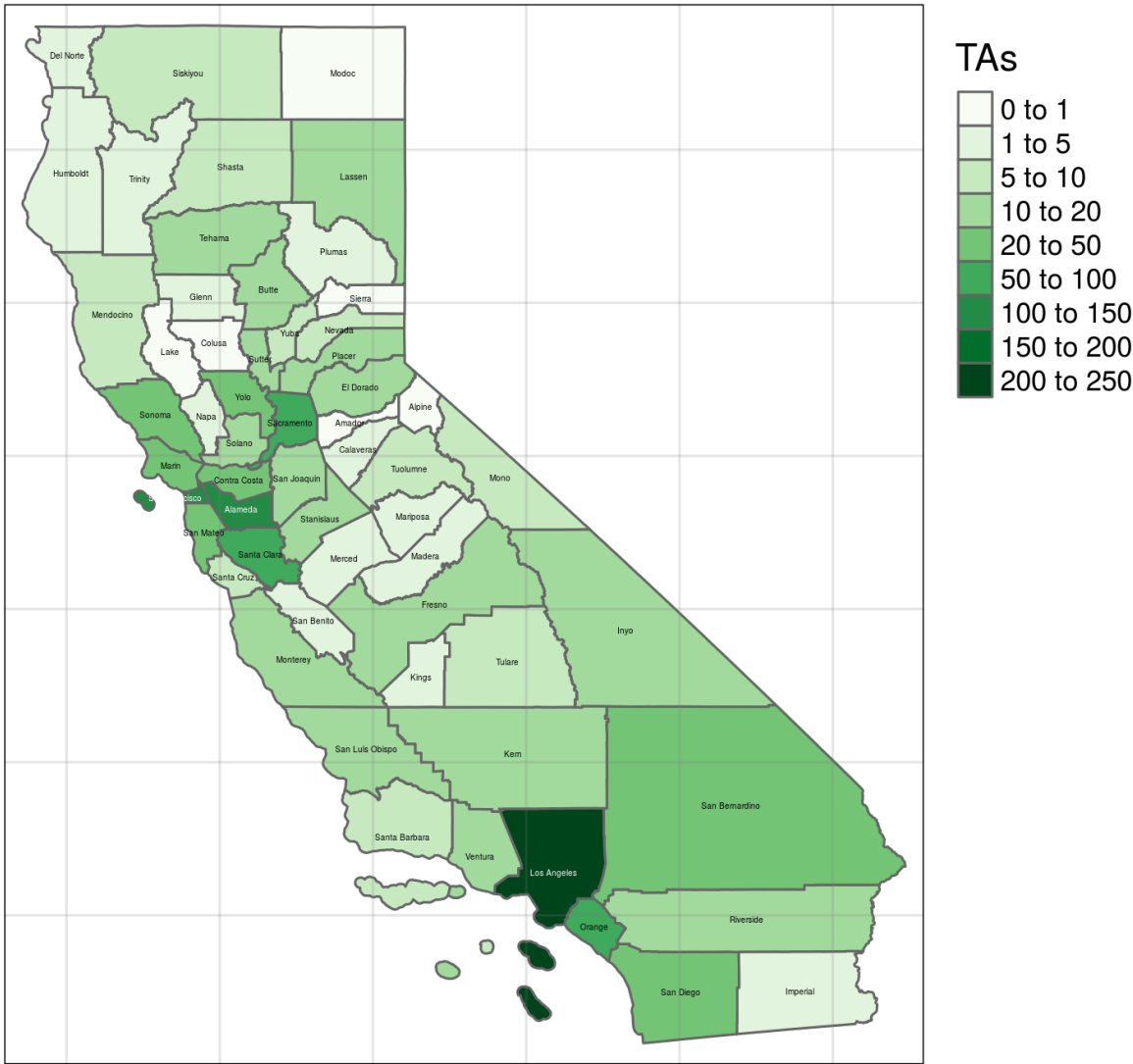


We are excited to announce that [FVAP's](#) request for publication of a case that helps **survivors facing homelessness** as a result of domestic violence was granted and is now binding legal precedent that all trial courts in California must follow. In this case, [Nicole G. v. Braithwaite](#), the survivor moved out of the joint residence she shared with her abuser for her safety. She then requested that her abuser move out as part of her domestic violence restraining order request, but her **abuser argued that he should not have to move out** because the survivor had already moved.

This case affirms that abuse survivors should not have to permanently vacate their homes

simply because they moved out previously. This is important because if a survivor is living with an abuser, temporarily **moving out is a matter of staying safe**.

How FVAP is Helping Survivors in Rural California & Statewide



At the start of this year, **we expanded the housing arm of our Housing & Employment Justice Program** to reach more survivors facing homelessness because of abuse. We’ve been paying particular attention to **under-resourced rural areas** where it is often harder for survivors and their kids to get justice and stay safe. By broadening our reach in the state, it is our hope that all survivors, and those who support them, will know they can reach out to [FVAP](#) for help on domestic violence housing-related appeals, as well as legal support for housing issues like evictions or subsidized housing. [We recently introduced you to attorney Carolyn Walker, who lives in rural Tehama County.](#) [Carolyn](#) is leading [FVAP](#)’s rural housing outreach.

FVAP is committed to evaluating the impact of our work, including our rural outreach. [We introduced you to Program Associate Katharina Grimm last month](#), who analyzed our data and created the map above, which shows **we have provided some form of legal support and technical assistance to survivors or those who support them in nearly every county in California to date**. We are using Kat’s analysis to target the counties we have not yet reached to make sure abuse survivors in those communities get the legal supports they need. [Learn more about FVAP’s Legal Support and Housing & Employment Justice Programs](#) on our website.

Urging Trump to Keep Borders Open to Asylum Seekers Fleeing Abuse



Since COVID-19 started spreading early this year, the Trump administration began restricting asylum seekers’ access into the United States with a **blanket policy to turn back refugees**. Unfortunately, this is a time when survivors of domestic violence are experiencing [more abuse on a](#)

[global scale](#) as a side effect of the pandemic, so those survivors trying to flee abuse from their home countries and seek asylum in the United States are being turned away in a great time of need.

[FVAP](#) and over 180 other national, state, and local organizations signed on to a letter urging the Trump administration to roll back this decision that is keeping survivors of abuse from safety.

Since late March, over 20,000 people have been sent back across the border, and just 2 have been allowed to seek asylum, according to an [article published by The Nation](#).

Welcome to Our Newest Attorney

We are thrilled to announce that [Cory Hernandez](#), who previously worked for [FVAP](#) as a Law Clerk, is back on the team as a Staff Attorney. With a Bachelor’s of Science degree in political science and American studies from MIT, a Master’s of Science degree in political science from MIT, and a law degree from UC Berkeley, Cory is excited to return to [FVAP](#) as a Staff Attorney. Cory has previously worked as a Staff Attorney at Family Violence Law Center (FVLC), and as a Legal Fellow and Law Clerk for [FVAP](#). During law school, Cory clerked for Justice Jon B. Streeter of the California First District Court of Appeal, FVLC, and East Bay Community Law Center. Cory is currently serving on the Judicial Council’s Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, and volunteers as a peer manuscript reviewer for the international journal, Violence Against Women. A biracial, queer, trans, and intersex survivor of domestic and sexual violence, Cory looks forward to a day where no one is harmed because of who they are.

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