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Legal Victory for Survivors Seeking a Long-Term Domestic Violence Restraining Order



FVAP represented a survivor in a recently published case, [N.T. v H.T. \(2019\) 34 Cal.App.5th 595](#), in which the Court of Appeal overturned the trial court's denial of a domestic violence restraining order request. In doing so, the Court of Appeal ruled that a violation of a temporary restraining order constitutes abuse under Family Code section 6203(a)(4). The Court of Appeal also held that the conduct underlying the violations constituted abuse under Family Code section 6320.

We are grateful to **UC Irvine Domestic Violence Clinic** and **Jones Day** for co-counseling this important case and to the **21 legal and domestic violence organizations** that joined our publication request!

A Step in the Right Direction for Limited-English-Proficient Survivors



In 2014, long before we met our client, she went to trial court hoping to resolve a custody matter, but the hearing was actually for a domestic violence restraining order, which she needed but did not know that she was supposed to discuss at that time. Our client didn't know this because she is limited-English-proficient. Even so, she was not granted an interpreter. Because of this lack of support, it has taken 5 years for her to get a proper domestic violence restraining order hearing, which will now be held in the trial court.

Although an unpublished opinion, we are happy to share that [FVAP](#) was able to represent this survivor and help her appeal a ruling that would have kept her from presenting the details of her abuse in court to get a fair chance at protection. [FVAP](#) also helped in securing a trial court attorney for this survivor.

Extreme thanks to [Jenner Block](#) for co-counseling this appeal with [FVAP](#).

Legal Victory for Family and Household Members Who May Experience Abuse



In the recent published opinion, [Tanguilig v. Valdez \(2019\) ___ Cal.App. ___](#), the **Court of Appeal for the first time established what is “good cause”** for adding family and household members to a protective order stating that this “includes reasons that are fair, honest, in good faith, not trivial, arbitrary, capricious, or pretextual, and reasonably related to legitimate needs, goals, and purposes.”

Although this case involved an elder abuse restraining order, this ruling can still be helpful to survivors who want to protect their family and household members as part of their restraining order. Because the laws are very similar, this makes it appropriate to ask a judge to look to an elder abuse case when making a decision about a domestic violence restraining order.

FVAP Sponsored Bill Moves to Senate



We’re happy to share that **Assembly Bill 925**, a bill [FVAP](#) is sponsoring, has moved to the Senate. This bill addresses an issue concerning minors’ confidential information in protective orders. Currently, if a minor, or their parent or guardian, want to keep information about the minor contained in a restraining order matter confidential, the confidential information can only legally be disclosed to the abuser and law enforcement. If the minor or their legal guardian share the confidential information with other individuals, then the court must impose a \$1,000 sanction against the minor or the legal guardian. This is the case even if the other individuals need the information to keep the minor safe, for example, child-care providers, schools, and medical professionals. If the Senate agrees to pass this bill, minors and their parents would no longer be liable for voluntarily disclosing this information to people who need to know it to keep the minor safe from domestic violence.

And this Year’s Best Lawyer Band in the Bay is...



Photo by [Cathy Breslow/Breslow Imaging](#)

The **R-23s** from **Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein** rocked the house for this year's [Banding Together to End Domestic Violence](#) Fundraiser bringing in \$11,365 for survivors. **Morgan Lewis & Bockius'** band, **ROCKius**, came in a close 2nd, with \$10,414, followed by **Attractive Nuisance** of **Greenberg Traurig**, who brought in \$7,946. **Mayer Brown's Unfair Competition** blew away this year's guest judges with their musical talent and stage presence, winning the Judges' Choice Award.

Many thanks to all of the talented bands who participated in this year's event and a shout-out to this year's newbies, **Cov'r Band** of **Covington & Burling** and the **Western Nephews** from **Logikcull**, who did a fantastic job playing the event. Also thank you to our generous sponsors, dedicated Wells Fargo volunteers, supportive [Board](#) and [New Leadership Council](#), and to the Chapel in San Francisco for hosting us. With this collective support, [Banding Together 2019](#) brought in \$186,687 for abuse survivors and their children.

[Check out more photos from the event here.](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Chris Becker



Today we're putting the spotlight on [FVAP](#) volunteer, **Chris Becker**, who has been helping [FVAP](#) and survivors by adding captioning to our training videos. Having been a child in a home where there was domestic violence, Chris came to [FVAP](#) with an understanding of the damage domestic abuse can inflict on survivors and children. He is also familiar with legal terminology and acronyms because his partner is a lawyer, making him uniquely qualified to help with captioning [FVAP's](#) trainings. In addition, Chris has a deep appreciation for those who need captioning and has volunteered as an American Sign Language interpreter.

Chris has also volunteered at [FVAP's Banding Together to End Domestic Violence](#) fundraiser for the past 3 years, helping make the event a success for survivors. **Thank you**, Chris, for all that you have done and continue to do to improve supports for survivors of domestic violence and their children!

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