

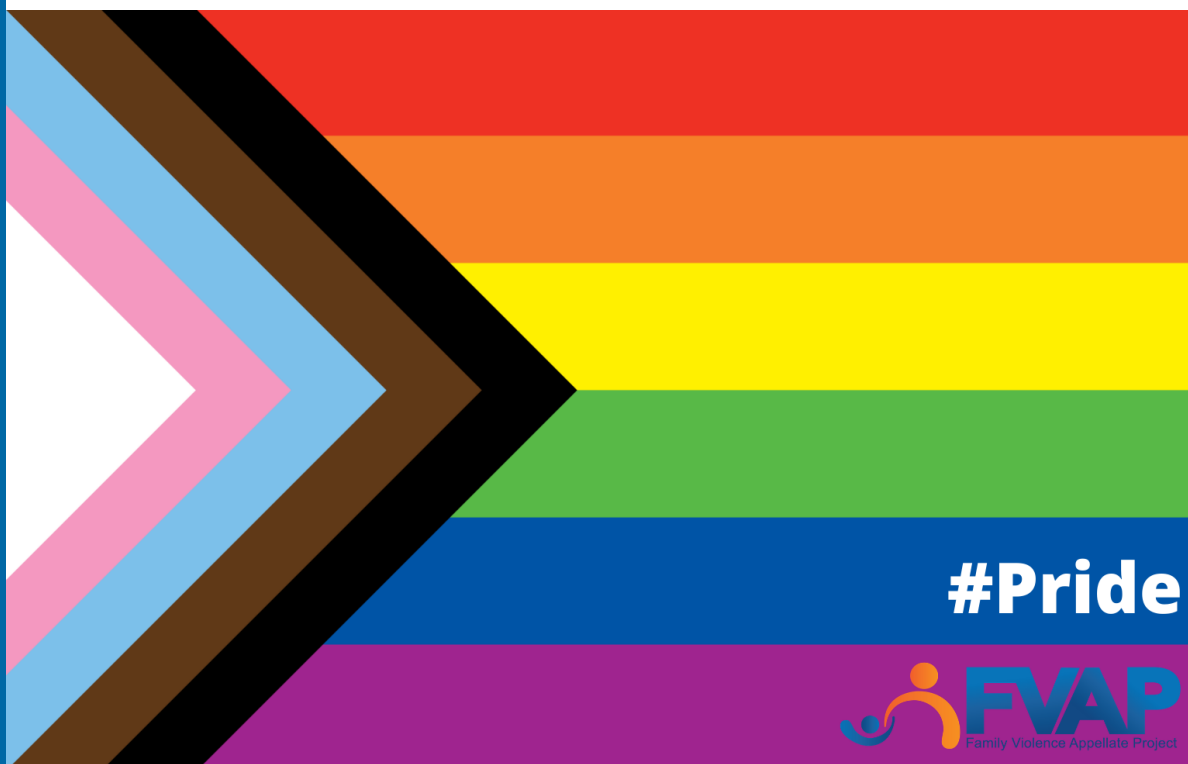


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### Happy Pride Month



**Happy Pride Month!** FVAP is proud to support LGBTQI+\* survivors of domestic violence and their kids through free legal representation and [tailored resources](#) addressing some of their unique needs.

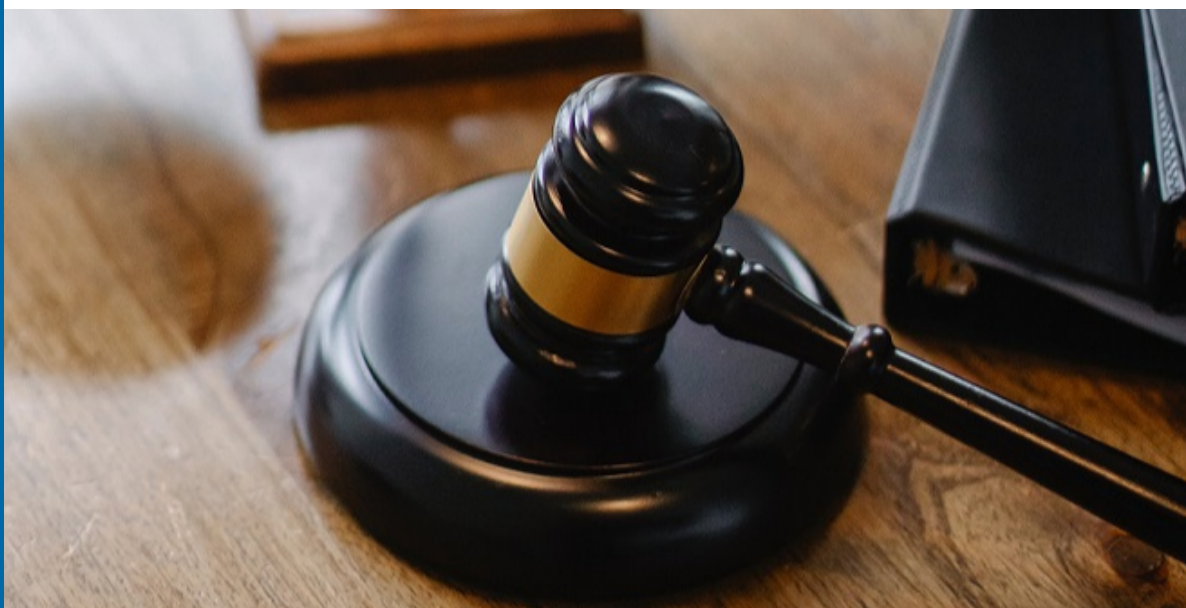
One such resource is our LGBTQI+ Custody and Visitation Toolkit, for which we are excited to announce **we will be releasing an updated version in August 2021**. The Toolkit includes template trial court briefs and custody mediator/evaluator letters that explain some common issues faced by different sexual and gender minority (LGBTQI+) parents. The updates include more recent research, improved content, and simplified instructions.

Please join us in raising awareness and sharing resources for LGBTQI+ survivors by forwarding this email to your contacts and heading over to our social media channels to share our [posts](#) and [tweets](#) about Pride Month, with resources to help LGBTQI+ survivors.

\*LGBTQI+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and other sexual and gender minority identities.

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### Legal Victory: Case Win & Publication Affirms Survivors' Rights



[FVAP](#) successfully appealed a trial court's denial of a domestic violence restraining order on behalf of our client, a survivor who was left homeless with their children after being pressured by her abuser to leave her home. The Court of Appeal agreed with us that the trial court made multiple errors by denying our client the restraining order. The Court of Appeal reversed the trial court's decision and agreed to publish the decision, [In re Marriage of F.M. v. M.M.](#), citing the issues in the case as ones of "public importance." The decision says several important things: 1) Evidence of abuse, including violations of a temporary restraining order, is relevant to whether domestic violence occurred and a restraining order should be issued; 2) the Domestic Violence Prevention Act does not require people to show a higher level of specific details than other laws; 3) there is no requirement that a survivor's testimony must have additional evidence to corroborate their account; and 4) physical separation is not a replacement for the protection of a domestic violence restraining order and cannot be used as a basis for determining that a restraining order is not necessary.

Since the case is published, it is **binding legal precedent throughout California**. Survivors across the state can use the decision to hopefully get the protection they need and avoid having the same experience our client had in trial court.

## Legal Victory: Putting Child Safety First When Victims Flee Abuse



[FVAP](#) successfully requested publication of [In Re Marriage of Emilie D.L.M. and Carlos C.](#) Under the Hague Convention, when a parent flees to the United States because of domestic violence, it is almost certain their children will be ordered to return to the other parent in the foreign country, the children's "home country," for that country to make custody orders. The exception to this rule is if the fleeing parent can show the child will be at risk of harm because of the abuse. But, if the abusive parent can show the child can be protected in the home country, return will still be ordered.

**This important case establishes that if the abusive parent is in denial of their domestic violence problem, then it cannot be safe to return the child,** no matter whether the home country has strong laws about domestic violence or otherwise. These cases can be brought in California state court as well as federal courts, so it is important that California have strong case law explaining what is and is not a safe return for a child.

**We were joined in our request by 22 domestic violence organizations and academics.** For nearly the past year, [FVAP](#) has relied on excellent pro bono assistance from a team at [Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher](#) to identify and analyze potential cases for publication and to provide research and drafting assistance to make these requests. Thank you to this outstanding team for helping to make this legal victory possible.

## FVAP in Court: Arguing for Survivors' Rights to Protection



[FVAP](#) will be in court at oral argument on June 22 and June 25.

In the first case, we're representing a survivor of domestic violence who was granted a **five-year extension of her restraining order**. Her abuser is appealing the extension, arguing that the trial court made mistakes in extending the order. FVAP and our client believe the trial court was correct in its decision to extend the restraining order, as the abuser had violated court orders and still presented a risk of harm to our client,



especially since they are still co-parenting. Our co-counsel from [Horvitz & Levy LLP](#) will be arguing in court on our client's behalf.

In the second case, a survivor of domestic violence represented by [Holstrom, Block & Parke, APLC](#), is asking the Court of Appeal to reverse the trial court's decision granting the parties joint custody of their children because the **the court had not yet properly determined, under the law, its decision would be in the children's best interest.** [California Women's Law Center](#) and [FVAP](#) filed a friend-of-the-court (amicus) brief with other organizations supporting the survivor, co-counseled by [King & Spalding](#), outlining how important it is for courts to properly follow the law when it comes to parents who have committed abuse, including taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and making a decision that keeps the children safe.

### Banding Together: New Multi-Year Sponsorship Opportunity



FVAP's annual rock show and fundraiser [Banding Together to End Domestic Violence](#) is sporting a new opportunity for sponsors to maximize their benefits, their reach, and their dollars with multi-year sponsorships. **For the first time ever, sponsors have the opportunity to sponsor two events** when they commit at our Rock 'N' Roll Idol\* or Rock 'N' Roll Legend levels. Sponsor this year's virtual rock show on October 21, 2021 and **next year's live in person show** in June 2022 at The Chapel in San Francisco.

With the close proximity of these two events, sponsors who commit to two-year sponsorship will have continued promotion from October of this year to June 2022; not to mention, committing to sponsor this year and next year means big discounts. Sponsors who commit at the Rock 'N' Roll Legend level for 2021-2022 will save \$5,000 compared to those who wait to sponsor at this level in 2022, and the lucky sponsor who commits at the Rock 'N' Roll Idol level for 2021-2022 will save **\$20,000 and be the sole sponsor of this level and beneficiary of all the perks that come with it.**

Sponsorship perks for this year's virtual show include lots of promotion on social media, our website, and from the emcee on the virtual stage. New this year are meal tickets from DoorDash for your team to enjoy a meal while they watch the show.

Sponsor Now!

Only one sponsor permitted at this level\*

### Pro Bono Spotlight: Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher



This month we're putting a spotlight on [Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher](#) for all the great work their team has done to help us with our Case Publication Program. A shout out to team members Samantha Abrams-Widdicombe, Iman Charania, Phuntso Wangdra, Lindsey Young, former [FVAP](#) law clerk Chelsea Thomas, and their supervisor Ben Wagner for their incredible work.

The team has been a huge support to [FVAP](#) by monitoring completed civil law cases involving domestic violence daily to find cases that are good candidates for publication. Good published case law has the potential to help hundreds of thousands of survivors get the justice they deserve in court every year by providing guidance to trial courts deciding similar cases.

In addition to daily monitoring of cases involving domestic violence, **Gibson drafted three letters requesting publication in June, which is a tremendous amount of work.** We had their support on the successful publication request of [In Re Marriage of Emilie D.L.M. and Carlos C.](#), which can help survivor-parents and their children who are fleeing abuse from other countries stay together and safe from further harm.

Thank you again to the Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher team!

## In Case You Missed It: 2020 Annual Report



In case you missed it, our [2020 Annual Report](#) is out and with a new look - we hope you enjoy it.

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### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
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June, 2021



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