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FVAP in Court All September for Survivors



In our last newsletter, we gave you a short run down of some of the cases we'll be working on this month, but we wanted to share a little more detail about our three cases in oral argument this month.

Today - September 8 - Ventura, CA

Today we are representing a **survivor who we believe was pressured into allowing temporary guardianship for her baby**. Six years later she still has not been reunited with her child. After years of delays the trial court gave permanent guardianship to the child's grandparents and would not give an explanation for this decision.

FVAP believes the trial court used the wrong criteria and stale evidence to make its order and should have explained decision.

FVAP asked state and national organizations to write a friend-of-the-court (amicus) brief on the impact of trauma, the ability of survivors to heal, and the failure of courts to take these issues into account appropriately when making their decisions. Our co-counsel at [Mayer Brown](#) will be arguing on our client's behalf at approximately 4pm this afternoon.

September 16 - Fresno, CA

In this case, going to court next week, FVAP is representing a survivor where the other side is challenging an order dismissing his lawsuit against the survivor. The other side filed a **lawsuit against the survivor for defamation** and other alleged civil wrongs after she reported her assault to the police. The trial court correctly dismissed the lawsuit since California has a law that protects survivors from being sued because they report the assault to the police. This case is important to uphold a survivor's right to make a good-faith report to the police without fear of retaliation. Our co-counsel at [Jones Day](#) will be arguing on our client's behalf.

September 24 - Orange County, CA

In the third case, **FVAP is representing a survivor who the court found had experienced severe abuse by her former partner**. The survivor had used bad language in response to his repeated threats and refusal to cooperate with co-parenting their child. The court issued restraining orders against both the survivor and the other parent. FVAP believes the trial court did not follow the requirements under the law for issuing mutual restraining orders. The law is designed to make mutual restraining orders rare and to prevent making false equivalences between two people where one is clearly the primary aggressor. The court also did not go through the required factors to determine if it was safe to award custody to either parent where there was a finding of domestic violence because it said it did not have enough time.

FVAP asked [California Women's Law Center \(CWLC\)](#) and the [Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality](#) to each write a friend-of-the-court (amicus) brief. CWLC wrote about the dangers of mutual restraining orders and the harm when courts do not follow the process. The Korematsu Center wrote about the particular harms that black women face in these circumstances. FVAP's own attorney, [Arati Vasan](#), will be arguing the case on behalf of the client with support from our co-counsels [Community Legal Aid SoCal](#), [Sheppard Mullin](#) and [UC Irvine School of Law, Domestic Violence Clinic](#).

Covering 2 States: FVAP's Upcoming Trainings



FVAP is also busy this month providing trainings in two states -- California and Washington -- to provide information about survivors' rights on important topics like housing and employment rights and advocacy for survivors. Learn more about what's coming up below.

September 8: Move-Out Orders and Orders to Pay Rent presented by FVAP Housing Attorney [Gloria Carolina Chong](#) to various domestic violence organizations in the California Central Valley.

September 8: Confidentiality, Privilege, & Information Release presented by FVAP Senior Managing Attorney [Arati Vasan](#) to members of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (statewide).

September 15 & 23: Rural Housing and Survivors' Rights presented by FVAP Housing Attorney [Gloria Carolina Chong](#) to volunteers and staff of Lumina Alliance in San Luis Obispo, CA.

September 21: Family Law Legal Advocacy for Advocates co-presented by FVAP Senior Managing Attorney of the Washington Program, [Evangeline Stratton](#), and Jill Jackson of [Our Sisters' House](#), at the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference (September 20-22, statewide).

September 24: FVAP's Housing and Employment Resources presented by FVAP Senior Managing Attorney of the Housing & Employment Justice Program, [Taylor Campion](#), to Court Self-Help Centers throughout California.

October 5: Survivors' and Housing Rights training presented by FVAP Housing Attorney [Gloria Carolina Chong](#) to Sierra Community House in North Tahoe/Truckee, CA.

All trainings continue to be held virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Banding Together: Check Out the Lineup

Banding Together to End Domestic Violence

A Virtual Rock Show

October 21, 2021 @ 6pm

An epic virtual [battle-of-the-bands is coming your way on October 21, 2021 at 6pm pst](#). This year's competition includes a lineup of returning rockstars ready to bring some sweet tunes and a fierce competition. Check out the lineup below. Click any band's name to make a donation/vote in their name.

[Cov'r Band](#)

Covington & Burling

[Flight Risk](#)

Baker Botts

[Morgan Lewis & ROCKius](#)

Morgan Lewis & Bockius

[Papa Gibson](#)

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

[The R-23s](#)

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein

Thank you so much to our [generous sponsors](#) of the event so far. If you'd like to [sponsor Banding Together](#), it's not too late.

Get your tickets now -- they are free with a suggested donation of \$22.

GET TICKETS

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
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September, 2021

