



In This Issue:

- [Daily Journal Names FVAP’s Executive Director Top Family Law Lawyer](#)
- [Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month](#)
- [FVAP Program & Resource Updates](#)
- [Law Clerks & Volunteer Spotlight](#)
- [Washington Corner: Coercive Control May Soon Be Added to the Legal Definition of Domestic Violence](#)

Daily Journal Names FVAP’s Executive Director Top Family Law Lawyer



FVAP’s Executive Director, [Erin Smith](#), was just named a **Top Family Law Lawyer of 2022** by the Daily Journal for her many successes in family law. Among them is leading FVAP on the path to change the legal landscape for survivors of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based abuse.

FVAP’s unique approach of appealing and publishing cases to create legal precedent to benefit all survivors, while also offering legal support to the broader legal field, is one that has changed thousands of lives for the better.

“This award really belongs to the entire FVAP staff for the work we do for survivors every day.”
–Erin

The FVAP team is proud of the progress we have made and the lives we have been able to help change.

Thank you for leading us, Erin, and congratulations!

[Read the profile of Erin in the Daily Journal here](#) (subscription required).

Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month

Wear Your Orange Day
Raise Awareness



Caption: FVAP staff sporting our orange to raise awareness on February 8

Teen dating violence affects a significant number of youth in the U.S. In a study looking at 158 schools across the country, researchers found an estimated **1.5 million teens experienced physical dating violence in a single year**. Statistics like that one are why every February is designated Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (TDVAPM).

This TDVAPM, our team got together to sport orange—the month’s awareness color—for February 8, Wear Orange Day, as part of our awareness raising efforts. Join us in raising awareness this month by sharing the great resources below with the teens and adult advocates in your life. Together, we can help end teen dating violence.

TDVAPM Resources

- [Ujima, Inc., the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community](#), is getting teens involved in TDVAPM by holding a youth poetry contest for teens to write about teen dating violence and healthy relationships. Share the winning poems, which will be featured on Ujima’s website February 25, with a teen in your life.

- Adult preventionists can learn from youth about how to stop teen dating violence in the [Youth in the Lead Outreach Toolkit](#) developed by youth leaders in partnership with California Partnership to End Domestic Violence.
- Encourage teens to follow [Love is Respect](#). Love is Respect's theme for TDVAPM is #TalkAboutIt, encouraging open and honest conversations about relationships and what makes for healthy and abusive ones.

FVAP Program & Resource Updates



Here are some exciting updates from our Housing & Employment Justice and Legal Support Programs.

Housing & Employment Justice Program

Last year was an exciting time for our Housing & Employment Justice Program with our [first win of an eviction appeal for a survivor followed by publication of the case](#). With the success of this case, we have started offering free representation and legal supports for survivors of domestic violence and other gender-based abuse in **all types of housing and employment appeals in California**, even if the judgment was not a result of abuse. It is our hope that survivors who come to us for help will have a better experience navigating legal processes having our trauma-informed team on their side. [Learn more about FVAP's Housing & Employment Justice Program here](#) and [on our website](#).

Resource Update: Court Preparation Checklist

A favorite FVAP resource among survivor advocates has been updated and added to our Legal Resource Library—the **Court Preparation Checklist**.

The checklist provides suggestions on how advocates can help survivors prepare themselves and their witnesses for court.

Visit our [Legal Resource Library](#).

Law Clerks & Volunteer Spotlight

In January, we welcomed our **Spring 2022 law clerks**. They have been working diligently on our case screenings, written materials, trainings, and other projects while participating in staff meetings and case review meetings. We are thrilled to have the talents and perspectives of these students as a part of our FVAP team. They are an integral part of our work and are a part of our commitment to **supporting the next generation of lawyers**.

We also want to spotlight **Andrea Chase**, who we are so fortunate to be working with since last fall. Andrea is volunteering with us as a provisionally licensed lawyer. She brings her considerable expertise and experience in the areas of domestic violence and child custody to our work. She has been working on case screenings, trainings, and written materials.



Ashley Beeman (she/her) is a third-year law student at Seattle University School of Law. Ashley has a passion for working with survivors of domestic violence having spent nine years at Northwest Justice Project before going to law school. During law school, Ashley has interned with Legal Voice and clerked for an Appellate Court Judge. Ashley is grateful for the opportunity to be [FVAP Washington's](#) first law clerk and is excited to learn more about strengthening protections for survivors through appellate advocacy.



Timothy Bott (he/him) is a third-year law student at Berkeley Law. He hopes to work as a legal aid attorney after law school and hopes to advocate for the preservation of housing, employment, and healthcare for all. He is excited and grateful to work on domestic violence and family law appeals at FVAP this semester.

Tara Branine (she/her) is a third-year law student at UC Berkeley School of



Law. Tara is a returning FVAP law clerk and is so excited to be back! Tara is planning to pursue a career working with survivors of domestic violence, and is excited to get the opportunity to work with FVAP's wonderful team again.



Elissa Gray (she/her) is a second-year law student at UC Berkeley School of Law. Elissa hopes to dedicate her career to advocating for survivors of interpersonal violence and is grateful for the opportunity to do so on the appellate level with FVAP this semester.



Andrea Chase (she/her) is a volunteer provisionally licensed attorney at FVAP and is passionate about helping parents, children, and families impacted by domestic violence and child abuse. Andrea graduated cum laude from San Diego State University with a BA in Psychology. She has a MS in Educational Counseling from National University in La Jolla, CA and graduated from Concord Law School with a JD. She is currently a PhD doctoral candidate at Walden University where she is studying Forensic Psychology with an emphasis in victimology. In addition to her educational work, Andrea is also the co-founder and continues to provide executive management for Solomon Family Solutions (SFS), a nonprofit child and family welfare organization in rural Southeast Tennessee. SFS provides income-based, sliding-scale services including supervised visitation, safe exchange, family mediation, and adoption home studies.

Washington Corner
Coercive Control and the Legal Definition of Domestic Violence



In 2021, the Washington Legislature enacted [E2SHB 1320](#) which established a new chapter of law to govern all six types of protection orders available in Washington state. The state court’s Gender and Justice Commission was tasked with studying and making recommendations on additional provisions to the new law, including how to address “coercive control.” Trailer bill 1901 is a result of those recommendations. If passed, [SHB 1901](#) will add **coercive control to the definition of domestic violence**, legally acknowledging the economic control, emotional and psychological abuse, intimidation, isolation, and threats against loved ones that FVAP’s clients so often experience. [Learn more about coercive control.](#)

The bill has passed the state house and is now in the state senate. [Watch the replay of the latest hearing on the bill here.](#) You may also [submit public comment](#) on the bill, as FVAP’s Washington program did.

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}

Donate

February 2022

