



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Signs of DV
- Live Now: Legal Resource Library
- Legal Victories
- In The News
- Staff Spotlight
- The Next Generation
- Giving Corner

End-of-year festivities are meant to be *the most wonderful time of the year*, but for people experiencing domestic abuse, this can be far from true and can not only be frightening but also isolating.

Let's all give the gift of listening, compassion, and love to survivors this season.

Let's extend our hearts to those facing challenges, especially individuals affected by domestic abuse. By staying aware and offering support, we can make a difference. Remember, the smallest gesture of kindness can spark hope in someone's life.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful holiday season. Thank you for your continued support in helping us end domestic violence and foster safe communities for all.

**Warmly,
Deborah**



SIGNS OF Domestic Violence

Be aware of the possible signs of abuse when visiting family and friends:

Visible Signs:

- Wearing clothing to cover up that seems inconsistent with the weather
- Bruises or cuts that cannot be explained or worse than their explanations merit

Less Visible Signs:

- Partner insults, humiliates, blames or shows accusatory behavior
- Being unusually quiet, withdrawn or even fearful
- Anxiety or apprehension when being away from their partner
- Depression or discussion of suicidal thoughts
- Development of a drug or alcohol problem

Even Less Visible:

- Restricted access to money or resources because the partner has control of it
- Avoiding parties or activities they usually enjoy
- Being late or canceling last minute more often than usual

If you notice these signs, encourage your friend or family member to talk with someone they trust about their situation. It's important to counter isolation by connecting with people other than the abusive partner. Even if they do not share what is happening with you they may contact the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](https://www.safe.org/) at 800-799-7233 (SAFE) or text "Start" to 88788.

FVAP's mission is to ensure the safety and well-being of survivors and to end domestic violence. As always, all our programs and services are provided FREE of charge to the families we serve.

Live and online now!

We are THRILLED to announce that after more than a YEAR of behind-the-scenes work our new, improved Legal Resource Library is **LIVE!**

This revamped resource offers **thousands of legal documents** through **easy-to-sort** categories and a search option that **improves user access** to helpful toolkits, samples, writs, opinions, trainings and articles.

FVAP is proud to provide this important resource as one of the many ways we improve access to justice and information for survivors everywhere. [Read more about the Legal Resource Library and how to access it here.](#)



Legal Resource Library

FOR SURVIVORS, ADVOCATES, AND PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

www.fvaplaw.org

FVAP's new Legal Resource Library was funded by the California Access to Justice Commission's Infrastructure and Innovation Grant Program.

FVAP



FVAP is dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse and creating a world that is better for future generations. We accomplish this by overturning dangerous trial court decisions and setting new legal standards when we win appeals for our clients.

*Successfully appealing and publishing a family law case in California or Washington creates a ripple effect, much like dropping a stone in an ocean. **This precedent-setting act becomes a guiding light for countless similar cases, shaping how justice is served and rights are upheld for families statewide.***

Below are our latest victories. **Click on each case name to learn how we helped each survivor access the protection they deserve.**

<u>Zachary H. and Teri A</u>	<u>In re Marriage of Hannah v McAdams</u>	<u>DeSean v Sanger</u>	<u>Prussak v Prussak</u>
California Published October 2023	Washington Published September 2023	Washington Published October 2023	Washington Published October 2023

Daily Journal names FVAP as one of California’s Top Boutique Law Firms of 2023!

The Top Boutique honors firms that focus on at least 90% of their resources on a specialty and are based in California. FVAP was recognized for our **appellate litigation expertise in family law for domestic violence survivors**. We were one of only 20 firms throughout the state honored for 2023. [Read FVAP's feature here \(subscription required\).](#)



Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Sexual Assault Survivors

FVAP celebrates the decision of the Washington State Supreme Court in the case of [DeSean v Sanger](#). The amicus brief filed by FVAP Washington with co-counsel Gordon Thomas Honeywell, LLP, argued against allowing a **criminal** defense in cases involving **civil** Sexual Assault Protection Orders. The Supreme Court agreed these civil remedies are aimed at providing quick relief for sexual assault survivors, independent of the criminal process and that trial courts must focus on a sexual assault survivor's capacity to consent.

A special thank you to our co-counsel Richard Lumley of [Gordon Thomas Honeywell, LLP](#).

FVAP would also like to thank the following partners who co-signed our amicus brief: King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, SU School of Law Family Law Center, National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, The Network for Victim Recovery of DC, and Sexual Violence Law Center.



Staff Spotlight

The California Lawyers Association (CLA) has appointed FVAP Senior Managing Attorney **Shuray Ghorishi** to the [Committee on Appellate Courts](#).

FVAP is proud that Shuray will contribute to helping ensure the voices of low-income litigants, the legal aid community, and gender-abuse (including domestic violence) survivors are at the forefront of committee projects, providing quality continuing education, commenting on proposed rule changes, and supporting pro bono appellate practice.

The Next Generation

FVAP was founded by law students and honors this history by continuing to mentor students each year.

Our investments in the next generation of attorneys translate to greater capacity to advocate for survivors of DV and to champion the rights of other marginalized communities disproportionately affected by systemic injustice. By professionally supporting the next generation of change makers, we are that much closer to ending DV.

FVAP hosts law clerks in California and Washington. Learn more on [our website](#).

Law Clerk TESTIMONIAL

I wanted to share some exciting news about my FVAP internship.

Entering this program, my hope was to gain experience applying what I learned in school to real-world situations and practicing my legal writing skills. I got to do all of that with the memos I worked on, and the two motions published this past month!

I would recommend FVAP to someone interested in appeals, family law or domestic violence work. There is no better place to gain this level of legal experience. Everyone I worked with was dedicated and invested in my success.

I recently wrote a news brief assignment for my Criminal Procedure class, focusing on 4th Amendment Rights and Search and Seizure issues. The cases I discussed were *US v. Rahimi* and *State of Washington v. Bell*, which involved DVPOs and the confiscation of firearms from individuals in abusive relationships. My research at FVAP and the casework I undertook over the summer significantly informed this project.

My professor loved my work, particularly my discussion regarding the importance of integrating contemporary realities and evolving social safeguards into the analysis of firearm laws and their alignment with judicial protections. The assignment made me reflect on the value of my experience this summer. Even if I don't pursue family law, I'm grateful to have worked with FVAP.

-Michael Savell, JD Student
University of Washington School of Law
Summer Law Clerk, WA Office





LAW CLERK & FELLOW PROGRAM
INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

LEARN MORE @
WWW.FVAPLAW.ORG/CLERKS-FELLOWS

GIVING TUESDAY

**Giving Tuesday is just around the corner -
November 28!**

Don't forget to include FVAP in your Giving Tuesday plans!
On Giving Tuesday the whole world comes together to give
back in many different ways: through acts of kindness, gifts
of voice, [time](#), [talent](#), and [treasure](#).

**Your gifts will help FVAP end the cycle of domestic
violence and create a safer, brighter future.**

Donate to FVAP Today

Your gift enables us to continue the fight to end domestic
violence.



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