



2024 BATTLE OF THE BANDS

BANDING TOGETHER TO
END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



[Photo Courtesy of Cathy Breslow/Breslow Imaging](#)

CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF IMPACT

Family Violence Appellate Project hosted the 12th Annual Battle of the Bands, Banding Together to End Domestic Violence Event on Thursday, September 26 at The Chapel (SF). FVAP is committed to providing free, high-quality legal representation to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence to reverse dangerous court rulings.

FVAP was created in 2012 to fix a legal system that fails survivors of domestic violence. At that time, the number of California's published domestic violence-related cases could be counted on just one hand. Fast forward 12 years and FVAP replicated its successful California model and expanded into Washington state. Now there are an additional 51 published family law cases in California and 5 in Washington relating to positively supporting domestic violence survivors due to FVAP's work.

This year we brought together lawyers and other supporters for another electrifying fundraiser unlike anything else to help raise awareness and funds to end domestic violence. Six bands were made up of staff from major California law firms including Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Covington & Burling LLP, Cooley, Schaerr Jaffe, Latham Watkins, Hanson Bridgett, Peter Logan Law, and Morgan Lewis & Bockius.

2024 Winners Are:

- First Place, for the second year in a row, Best Lawyer Band in the Bay: Papa Gibson & the Writs of Replevin
- Second Place: The R23's
- Third Place: Cov'R Band
- Judges' Choice Award: Morgan Lewis & ROCKius



THE LINEUP of rockstar lawyers



Left: The R23s (Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP)
Below: Cov'R Band (Covington & Burling LLP)



Above: Papa Gibson & the Writs of Replevin (Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP)



Left: Soul Practitioners (Cooley, Schaerr Jaffe, Latham Watkins)



Above: 12th Root of Two Hanson Bridgett, Peter Logan Law Offices



Above: Morgan Lewis & ROCKius (Morgan Lewis & Bockius)

Left: Battle of the Bands, Banding Together to End Domestic Violence



THE WINNERS



BEST LAWYER BAND IN THE BAY

Papa Gibson & the Writs of Replevin

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

2nd
place

The R23's

Lieff Cabraser
Heimann & Bernstein

3rd
place

Cov'R Band

Covington &
Burling LLP

Judges'
Choice

**Morgan Lewis
& ROCKius**

Morgan Lewis
& Bockius

Total Raised: \$97,044

Donors: 2,115

Tickets Sold: 283

Sponsors: 17

Bands: 6



Inaugural Honorees

In this 12th year of service to survivors, FVAP wanted to honor three survivor advocates who made all the difference to our work, the appellate profession, and our shared community who help survivors of domestic violence by righting wrongs and ensuring laws made to protect survivors do just that – protect survivors.



Advocacy Champion of the Year Betty Nordwind

Betty Nordwind received FVAP's Advocacy Champion of the Year award. Betty's life's work encompasses everything that makes her an inspiring individual who has worked tirelessly to center the needs of low-income domestic violence survivors. Throughout her 37-year tenure as Executive Director of the Los Angeles Harriett Buhai Family Law Center, she's been dedicated to advancing the legal interests of low and moderate-income survivors. Her focus on ensuring that low-income litigants are not impeded from accessing the judicial system due to court fees has been crucial and inspiring.



Pro Bono Cup Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Pictured: Dylan Alexander Noceda, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

The recipient of this award is a fearless law firm, among many others, that stands with FVAP in its mission to end domestic violence through high quality litigation, social impact, and pro bono collaborations.

Since 2015, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher staff have collectively provided **over 4,900 hours of pro bono legal assistance to secure protections for survivors and their children**. Each year, Gibson Dunn staff co-counsels multiple appellate cases with FVAP, working to overturn adverse trial court decisions. But that's not all—Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher staff also review unpublished opinions daily to help FVAP identify cases that, if published, could significantly advance survivor safety in the courts.



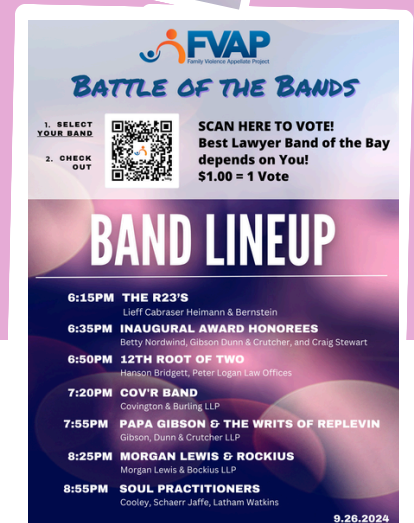
Volunteer of the Year Craig Stewart, Jones Day

For over a decade, Craig Stewart has been FVAP's "go-to" appellate lawyer, taking on challenging cases, mentoring FVAP's attorneys and legal aid partners, and offering invaluable guidance as FVAP built a robust appellate practice. But his impact doesn't stop there. He also serves on our advisory board, promoted FVAP at pro bono volunteer recruitment events, and inspired his colleagues at Jones Day to join him in providing **over 2,400 hours of pro bono legal assistance**.

Sponsor Recognition



At the event, FVAP recognized our sponsors on print materials, social media, and by displaying sponsor logos on the screen behind the stage.



Thank You

To our amazing event team



Vendors

- Deirdre Hallman Events
- Lightbox Creative
- The Chapel

Board

- Edie Zusman
- Maricela Rios-Faust
- Michael Holecek
- Michelle Osborne
- Nora Puckett
- Scott Johnston

Staff

- Arati Vasan
- Cory Hernandez
- Deborah Son
- Elissa Gray
- Jennafer Wagner
- Renee Boman
- Lucia Romo
- Lupe Sanchez
- Tammi Relyea
- Taylor Campion
- Thao Weldy

Volunteers

- Amber Garay
- Anissa Hall
- Cathy Breslow
- DeMarkus Foster
- Jimmie Tran
- Liz Stone
- Myrna Melgar
- Nancy Lemon
- Nichol e Davis
- Osazee Edebiri
- Sofia Romo
- Tyrisha Romo
- Yoichi Nakagawa

Sept. 26



Pictured: Arati Vasan and Craig Stewart



Pictured: Elissa Gray and Thao Weldy



Pictured: Nichole Davis and Yoichi Nakagawa



Pictured: Sofia Romo



Thank you to our guest judges:

Board of Supervisors (Dist 7), Myrna Melgar; FVAP Co-founder, Nancy Lemon; and Real Estate Investor, Ozazee Edebiri.