Dear Supporter,

We're at a critical moment—and we need your help to keep Washington survivors safe.

For the past three years, FVAP has been fighting to ensure that domestic violence survivors in Washington can access justice, safety, and long-term protection. In that time, we've achieved remarkable success—winning 100% of the direct appeals we've worked on, elevating survivors' experiences in matters of statewide importance, and shaping case law that will protect survivors and their children for generations to come.

However, we are now facing an urgent challenge. While we have two pending grant applications, **if neither is secured, we will be forced to make an incredibly difficult decision to close our Washington office**. Without us, survivors will be left without the crucial legal aid they need, at a time when they need it most.

"...We have had so little hope for so many years and your kindness means so much to our family. Thank you seems inadequate for what you've done. The motion is incredible! ...Please share my gratitude with your team. I appreciate you so very much." -Survivor-Client

We cannot let our Washington Office close!



Staff, Board, Supporters, and Volunteers at
FVAP Washington fundraiser (May 2024)

We need your help to raise $411,000 by January 2025 to continue helping survivors like Victoria (pictured) access justice and safety for their children.

With support from individuals like you – who believe no one should endure abuse and want a better world for future generations – we can meet our goal and ensure that survivors across Washington continue to have access to life-saving legal representation. Your gift will directly help survivors, provide online legal resources, train local attorneys, and advance justice for domestic violence survivors.

Why Your Support Matters Now More Than Ever

FVAP is the only legal aid organization in Washington solely dedicated to overturning trial court decisions for domestic violence survivors. Without FVAP, survivors could lose their chance at justice when facing devastating court rulings. Our work directly impacts families' ability to secure safe housing, protect their children, and rebuild their lives after abuse.

"Evangeline and FVAP – Thank you, as always, for the work that you do! FVAP is instrumental for Washington survivors of domestic violence by setting vital legal precedents and ensuring that their rights are held up in appellate courts. We are proud to be your partner." - Vivian Lee, Legal Director, Eastside Legal Assistance Program

"...Washington is fortunate that FVAP opened an office here and you were recruited to run it. ...I also hope that more civil legal aid lawyers will follow FVAP's courageous example of accountability to domestic violence survivors. Thank you for your honorable and inspiring service." - Monte Jewell, Project DVORA Attorney, Jewish Family Service

The cost of closing our doors goes beyond dollars—it's measured in lives.

Here's what's at stake if we don't act:

- **Safety for Survivors and Children:** Kim* and her children are free from the grip of abuse because FVAP stood by her in court. Without our office, survivors like Kim could face impossible odds alone, and children may be forced to grow up in dangerous, unstable homes.
- **Health and Healing for Survivors:** Clients like Victoria tell us that FVAP's support is the first time they've felt truly seen. This validation is a lifeline—translating to improved mental and physical well-being. If FVAP closes, Washington loses this trauma-informed support, leaving many to navigate trauma recovery without crucial resources.
- **State Laws that Protect Survivors:** Beginning in 2021, FVAP Washington's office has focused on advocacy to better protect survivors. FVAP successfully overhauled Washington's protection order statutes through written testimony and legislative advocacy! And, in 2022, we collaborated with community partners to stop a harmful bill (SB 5920) related to parenting plan modifications by drafting an opposition letter and providing testimony. In 2023, we led stakeholders to halt two bills that would negatively impact survivor parents: HB 1121 (regarding child abduction) and SB 5205, which could worsen the family court crisis concerning domestic abuse. The proposed **SB 5205** faced significant criticism for potentially allowing judges to remove children

from protective parents and share decision-making with abusers! Thanks to FVAP and community-led alliances of organizations, survivors, and professionals, we successfully opposed this bill and called for comprehensive family court reform that prioritizes survivor safety.



FVAP Staff with Former Client Victoria

- **Hope for Future Generations:** Every legal precedent FVAP establishes is a shield for the women and children of Washington, securing their rights and safety. Without FVAP, this legal progress halts, leaving future survivors vulnerable and without advocates when laws fail to protect them.
- **A Stronger Community:** We provide thousands of hours in meaningful volunteer opportunities, allowing attorneys, law students, and survivors to build the capacity needed to help those facing abuse. If we close, Washington loses a critical avenue for legal volunteering, weakening the very community that survivors rely on for hope and support.

Ready to help? There are 4 things you can do:

1. **Donate now.**
    - **Make an online gift at this link**. There are many ways you can give but this is the simplest.
    - **Write a check or initiate a gift from your donor-advised fund** payable to Family Violence Appellate Project (Tax ID 45-4726212). Mail to our Oakland address:

        Family Violence Appellate Project
        449 15th St., Suite 104
        Oakland, CA 94612

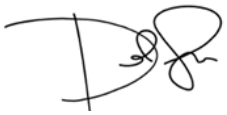
    - If you wish to donate gifts of appreciated stock, cryptocurrency, or are 72+ and want to give directly from your IRA, contact dev@fvaplaw.org
2. **Leverage employer matching.** If you work for a business with an employer matching program, submit your donation receipt and any other required documentation to your employer to magnify the impact of your gift!

3. **Spread the word.** Share this letter with friends, family, and colleagues who care about justice for survivors. By sharing this with just 2 or 3 new supporters, you will help us get closer to our goal.
4. **Host a fundraiser.** Raise awareness and funds to sustain our work. Whether in-person or online, we can help you get started! See our Q&A document for more details.

This is a pivotal moment. With your help, we can keep our Washington office open in 2025, continue our life-saving work, and ensure that survivors in Washington receive the protections they deserve.

Thank you for standing with us during this critical time. Together, we can ensure that survivors in Washington continue to receive the life-saving legal protections they deserve.

With gratitude,



Deborah Son
Executive Director

p.s. If you have questions about how we got here or other ways you can help, we have prepared a question and answer or Q&A document here.