

# 2025 BATTLE OF THE BANDS

## IMPACT REPORT

BANDING  
TOGETHER TO  
END DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE



# CELEBRATING 13 YEARS OF IMPACT

Family Violence Appellate Project hosted the 13th Annual Battle of the Bands, **Banding Together to End Domestic Violence** Event on Thursday, June 26 at The Chapel in San Francisco. 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 often 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 13 years and FVAP took its successful California model and launched a pilot project in Washington state. Now there are an additional **78 published family law cases in California and 9 in Washington** that clarify or strengthen legal protections for domestic violence survivors due to FVAP's work.



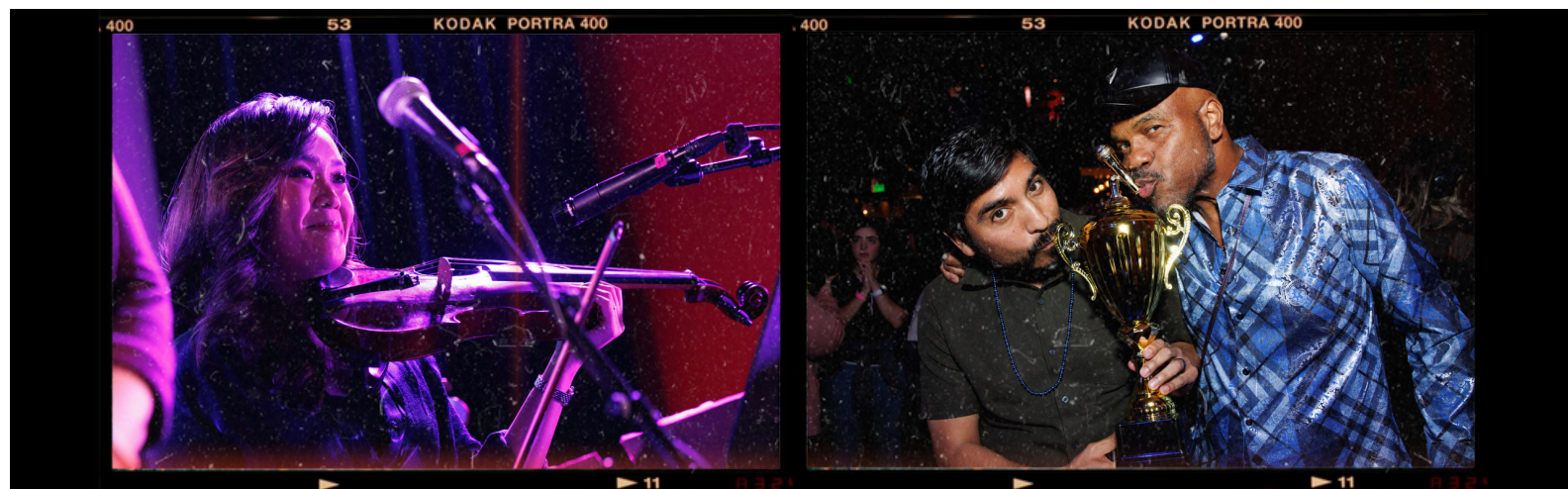
This year, we brought together California's legal powerhouses for **an electrifying fundraiser unlike any other**—a night where justice met rock 'n' roll to raise critical awareness and funds to end domestic violence. **Six incredible bands**, made up of staff, families, and friends from leading law firms—**Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Covington & Burling, Cooley, Schaerr Jaffe, Hanson Bridgett, Peter Logan Law, and Morgan Lewis & Bockius**—took the stage and proved that advocacy doesn't stop in the courtroom. The energy was electric, the crowd was all-in, and the message was powerful: **together, we can end domestic violence.**



# THE LINEUP of rockstar lawyers



**Morgan Lewis & ROCKius** (Morgan Lewis & Bockius) | **The R23s** (Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein)



**Cov'R Band** (Covington)

| **Papa Gibson & the Writs of Replevin** (Gibson Dunn)



**12<sup>th</sup> Root of Two** (Hanson Bridgett, Peter Logan Law) |

**Soul Practitioners** (Cooley, Schaerr Jaffe)



# THE WINNERS



## BEST LAWYER BAND IN THE BAY

**Papa Gibson & the Writs of Replevin**  
Gibson Dunn

2nd  
place

**The R23's**

Lieff Cabraser  
Heimann & Bernstein

3rd  
place

**Cov'R Band**

Covington

Judges'  
Choice

**Soul  
Practitioners**

Cooley and  
Schaerr Jaffe

Total Raised: \$124,448

Donors: 300

Tickets Sold: 430

Sponsors: 12

Bands: 6

Photos Courtesy of Cathy Breslow/Breslow Imaging





# Community Awards

*FVAP is proud to honor three extraordinary advocates whose contributions have made a lasting impact—on our work, on the appellate profession, and on the broader community committed to justice and safety for survivors of domestic violence. Each of these awardees exemplifies what it means to right wrongs, uphold the law, and ensure that legal protections truly protect those they were designed to serve.*



## Advocacy Champion of the Year

**Former Senator Susan Eggman's** leadership on California's 2022 SB 1017 Lease Terminations and 2024 SB 1051 Lock Change bills, both of which FVAP proudly co-sponsored resulted in landmark victories for survivors across the state. Her advocacy exemplifies how **powerful change can happen** when leaders partner with FVAP to advance justice and safety. *(pictured left)*

## Pro Bono Award

Over the past two years, the Pro Bono team at **Covington and Burling** has worked tirelessly to prepare, file, and successfully advocate for the California Supreme Court to accept an original writ petition on FVAP's behalf—an **incredibly rare achievement**. This critical project seeks relief from the ongoing court reporter shortage that is denying survivors meaningful access to the courts. Their work included investigating practices across all 58 California county courts, drafting and processing extensive Public Records Act requests, and conducting thorough legal analysis to identify the appropriate respondents for an original writ proceeding. Covington also led the development of a compelling legal strategy that resulted in the Supreme Court granting review—an **exceptional outcome**. *(pictured right: Breanna Jones, Ellen Choi with FVAP staff Deborah Son, Cory Hernandez)*



## Volunteer of the Year

**Erin Smith's** unwavering dedication, time, and legal expertise have helped transform the landscape of justice for domestic violence survivors. Since stepping down as FVAP Executive Director, she has taken the lead in soliciting and coordinating amicus support, working with over 30 organizations and experts, resulting in 14 powerful briefs filed in support of FVAP's original writ petition. This outcome simply would not have been possible without Erin's leadership, deep relationships, and **unrelenting commitment to justice**. *(pictured left)*



# Event Sponsors



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

## ROCK STARS



**Cooley**

## ROADIES



**Jose A.  
Ramos, Jr.**

**COVINGTON**



**SCHAERR  
JAFFE  
LLP**

## ROCK N' ROLL ROYALTY

**Lieff  
Cabraser  
Heimann &  
Bernstein**

Attorneys at Law

## HEADLINERS

**Folger  
Levin**

**manatt**

**Morgan Lewis**

**GIBSON DUNN**





# Thank You

To our amazing event team

## Vendors

- Craig Relyea
- Lightbox Creative
- The Chapel

## Board

- Michael Holecek
- Michelle Osborne
- Ming Chen
- Scott Johnston

## Staff

- Andrew Seko
- Arati Vasan
- Cory Hernandez
- Deborah Son
- Jennafer Wagner
- Jodi Lewis
- Kim Nydam
- Tammi Relyea
- Thao Weldy

## Volunteers

- Anissa Hall
- Cathy Breslow
- Charles Allwood
- DJ Penny Royal
- Kien Nguyen
- Krishna Umashankar
- Lydia So
- Meredith Sievers
- Misha Safran
- Nichol  Davis
- Oriane Motillon
- Simone Bushard
- Suzanna Sitomer
- Urie Suhr



*Pictured: Anissa Hall, Charles Allwood, Oriane Motillon*



*Deborah Son with Emcee DJ Penny Royal*



*Fans cheering on their favorite band*



**Thank you to our guest judges!**

*Pictured from left: **Suzanna Sitomer** of Harmony Project Oakland; **Simone Bushard** from School of Rock, Berkeley/San Mateo, proxy for **Lydia So**, San Francisco Commissioner*

Photos Courtesy of Cathy Breslow/Breslow Imaging