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Save the Date

LACLJ is celebrating its 40th anniversary! We invite you to join us at our Annual Gala on **June 3, 2013** at the Omni Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles.

Visit our site:

- [About Us](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Success Stories](#)

Message from the Executive Director

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Women's Foundation of California is hosting a contest for nonprofit organizations that make meaningful differences in the lives of women and families. You can help LACLJ by voting for us to win the People's Momentum Award to receive a \$10,000 grant!

At LACLJ, 82% of our clients are women trying to achieve safety and stability for their families. We provide representation and education to victims of domestic violence, teen parents, and immigrant families, which allows them to better navigate the court system and make meaningful changes in their lives!

Please take a second to cast your ballot for Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice at <http://peoplesmomentumaward.org/vote.php>. Help us continue to provide high-quality legal services to low-income women and families facing the greatest barriers to justice!

Success Story: Creative Interventions

Gina, 23 years old, came to LACLJ for help to protect her 7 year old daughter, Iris, from her abusive father. Gina had complained to the Department of Children and Family Services after Iris told her she was scared because her father would hit her and forcibly cut her hair. Gina believed her daughter and noticed a change in her attitude and performance at school. But without more evidence than Iris' statements, the Department of Children and Family Services said they could not do anything.

LACLJ's Teen Attorney, Sharon Balmer-Cartagena, was able to use her creative legal skills to subpoena Iris' therapist to court and have visitation rights for Iris' father temporarily suspended. Iris' father must now undergo therapy before he can have any contact with his daughter. LACLJ hopes that the reunification therapy will help Iris' father to eventually build a safe relationship with his daughter, and in the meantime is happy to report that Iris' behavior has improved, she is doing better in school and enjoying being a kid!

It does not always take a full trial or long-term litigation to find solutions to improve conditions for families. Congratulations to Sharon for finding a quick resolution to a problem and helping Gina and Iris remain safe!

LACLJ Awarded Taproot Foundation's Key Messages Grant

LACLJ is a new grantee selected for an exclusive Key Messages and Branding Grant from the Taproot Foundation. A team of consultants will volunteer over \$50,000 worth of marketing services and work with LACLJ to revamp our brand identity. The Taproot team will provide concrete suggestions and strategies for fundraising, visual identity, key messages and communication materials. This will help extend LACLJ's reach to new supporters and inspire our current network to be more effective champions of our commitment to justice! If you are interested in learning more about Taproot consultation, visit <http://www.taprootfoundation.org/do-probono>.



LACLJ's UCLA MBA Team Wins Net Impact Consulting Challenge!



UCLA's MBA Team Alisa Sommer, Ana Peña, Kiara Barrett and Diana Lin with Executive Director Hellen Hong.

In December 2012, LACLJ was selected to be one of 17 organizations for the UCLA Anderson School of Management Net Impact Consulting Challenge (NICC). NICC is a blend of a consulting challenge and case competition in which a team of 4-6 MBA students work with a nonprofit to consult on a strategic issue the organization is facing. In just two weeks, LACLJ's incredible team conducted interviews, secondary research, data analysis, and a survey to donors. With their thoughtful presentation of their findings, LACLJ's team won the competition! In addition, the team members are generously donating 10% of their prize money to LACLJ and will volunteer to help implement their recommendations in the spring. The team's suggestions will assist LACLJ in its ongoing efforts to improve donor outreach and fundraising. On behalf of LACLJ's Board of Directors, staff, and the clients that we serve, thank you to Kiara Barrett, Diana Lin, Ana Peña and Alisa Sommer for all the hard work, dedication and insightful findings that went into this project!

To learn more about the insights gained from LACLJ's experience with NICC, check out Hellen's blog post: <http://givinginla.org/nonprofit-solutions-mba-nonprofit-case-challenges-everyone-wins/>.

Also, congratulations to Naomi Kobayashi for winning a \$50 American Express Gift Card as a result of her participation in the team's LACLJ Donor Survey!

New Development Associate

After almost two years, Hyla Vershbow will be leaving LACLJ to focus on raising her new baby boy - congratulations and best wishes to Hyla!

Although we are sad to see her go, we are excited to announce that Linda Reyes will be starting as the new Development Associate.

Linda graduated from UCLA with a Bachelors Degree in International Development Studies and Political Science with a minor in Southeast Asian Studies. Linda comes to LACLJ with experience in planning events, conducting research and volunteering at legal clinics. She is passionate about using her skills to build stronger infrastructure for nonprofit organizations that work to benefit low-income, marginalized communities, and we are excited to welcome her to the LACLJ team!

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