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February is teenDVmonth!

Did you know that 1 in 3 teens experience dating abuse?

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Join LACLJ in the fight against teen dating abuse by talking to a teen in your life about healthy relationships today.

Visit itstimetotalkday.org or teendvmonth.org for resources.

Intern Spotlight!



Maegan Mattock
2nd year MSW at UCLA

Maegan works with the Associate Director and Executive Director on organization-level projects related to program evaluation, grant writing and non-profit management.

Q: What do you find most challenging about working at LACLJ?

A: It's challenging to see firsthand how many barriers to accessing services exist for communities. It's also a reminder that our clients have incredible strengths that allow them to navigate these challenges on a daily basis.

Q: What has surprised you most about working here?

A: Social workers oftentimes

LACLJ helps 10 recover damages from unsafe conditions



Years after filing a lawsuit against their landlord, tenants (pictured above) from a rundown property in Lincoln Heights finally settled the case this January. The families had been living in squalid conditions that included open ditches, leaking roofs, and unsafe plumbing and electrical service. Lead counsel Manuel Duran (pictured on the far right) of Duran & Cedillo and LACLJ Housing Staff, led by Senior Housing Advocate Maria Aguila, worked to fight for the tenants. Thanks to a dedicated team of advocates, these tenant families finally received the justice they deserved!

Double your impact on family safety with one click!



LACLJ's Expansion Campaign for Safe Families & Strong Communities has already raised \$42,000 of its \$50,000 goal from major donors! The campaign aims to make LACLJ's space larger, more efficient and more family-friendly for clients.

We've made it easier for you to join LACLJ's fight for families by taking our campaign online during the month of February. The one-month campaign has a goal of **\$5,000** to be raised by LACLJ's Associate Board, staff and volunteers.

With only 20 days left, we need your help. [Click here to get involved today!](#) You can make a general donation or donate to any staff member's personal fundraising page. An individual donor has agreed to match the total dollar amount raised by staff (up to \$1,500), which means your gift will be doubled!

>> [Click here](#) to see LACLJ's Expansion Campaign packet and learn more about the impact you can make on our clients and their families today.

New faces join LACLJ's fight for families



deal with crisis situations, and legal services are not usually the first service that comes to mind for clients. Working at LACLJ allowed me to see how legal services can be an effective and important solutions for families in need.

Q: What do you wish other people knew about LACLJ?

A: Everyone on the LACLJ staff has such passion and dedication for serving the community. Even though the work we do is challenging and intense, our personal connection to clients and respect for the community always shines through.

Q: Tell us a random fact that someone might not know about you.

A: I am born and raised in Los Angeles and I love it here. I never want to leave!

Q: What do you do when you aren't working, volunteering or in class?

A: I love cooking and crafts; I'm working on my sewing skills. I'm also currently binge-watching *Dexter*— I'm obsessed!



At an exciting time of growth, LACLJ welcomes several new members to its team! In November, **Holly Hayes** of Pacific Western Bank, was appointed to LACLJ's Board of Directors. We are pleased to introduce four new staff members: **Erika Diaz**, a staff attorney in our Domestic Violence Program who will be working at our satellite office in Southeast Los Angeles; **Angela McNair Turner**, a staff attorney working with sexual assault survivors in our Teen/LA Program; **Monica Ponce De Leon**, a Legal Advocate for the Shriver Family Law Project; and **Sarah Reisman**, a staff attorney in our Domestic Violence Program.

>> Click [here](#) to get to know LACLJ's newest advocates.

Farewell and thanks to a spirited community advocate!



Laura Urias, a three-year LACLJ staff attorney, recently embarked on a new chapter to start her own practice and transition into immigration work. While at LACLJ, Laura helped expand our Immigration Unit in 2012 — assisting a majority of our Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrivals (DACA) clients. We are saddened to see her go but are grateful for Laura's years of dedication and unrelenting advocacy on behalf of LACLJ clients. We know that she will do great things as she continues to fight for the community!

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