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Intern Spotlight!



Ivette Rodriguez
1st year MSW at UCLA

Working with our Teen/LA Attorney, Ivette conducts case management for clients.

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

A: Because many clients are undocumented, it is very difficult to find available resources for them.

Client regains control of career plans and her family's safety

Tammy, the teen parent of a one-year-old boy, sought custody of her son from a physically and emotionally abusive ex-boyfriend. The boyfriend had filed a restraining order against Tammy and asked for sole custody of their son to try to control her through litigation. During the time he was "protected" by the restraining order, he and his new girlfriend constantly followed and harassed Tammy. LACLJ's Teen/LA Attorney represented Tammy in court, presenting evidence of the boyfriend's harassing messages and drug use. The boyfriend's request for a restraining order against Tammy was denied, which allowed her to resume her enrollment in LAPD Academy. She was also granted sole custody of her son, allowing Tammy and her son to move on to a safer, more stable life.



Support LACLJ families while you shop for your own!

Your continuous support allows us to help families like Tammy's so that she and her son can safely enjoy the holiday season together! As you spend time with your family this season, we ask that you also think of LACLJ's families in need. Here are two simple ways you can help:

- **Shop and Support!** - Amazon has made it easy to give to your favorite nonprofit at no extra cost to you! When you shop using [AmazonSmile](#), a portion of your purchase price is donated to the charity of your choice. As you begin holiday shopping for your family, we hope that you'll think of LACLJ's families, too. **It's as easy as clicking this link: [Automatically donate to LACLJ as you shop!](#)**



- **Save the Date to Give!** - December 3rd is [#GivingTuesday](#)! This is a day where individuals and community organizations come together in the spirit of giving. In its second year, Giving Tuesday kicks off the holiday season by celebrating and encouraging charitable activities to support our favorite nonprofits. To give to LACLJ on this day, click [here!](#)



Q: What has surprised you most about working here?

A: I have learned that even the slightest bit of help is greatly appreciated by clients. Many do not have the means to afford a lawyer or any of the other services they get at LACLJ, so they are very grateful when I help them, which makes me feel great, too.

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

A: I wish people knew about all the free services offered here.

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

A: I absolutely love learning about ocean life - sharks in particular!

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

A: I enjoy going to the movies and reading. My favorite book is *The Secret Life of Bees*, and my favorite film is *Pretty in Pink*.

LACLJ Attorney Co-Chairs U-Visa Roundtable



On November 4, LACLJ Senior Attorney [Michelle Carey](#) (pictured third from left) co-chaired the 4th annual U Visa Certifiers Roundtable: "Bringing Law Enforcement and Non-Profits Together to Streamline the U Visa Certification Process" with Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) Senior Staff Attorney Nancy Reyes-Rubi. The LA VAWA Network is a coalition of Los Angeles-based non-profits that provide immigration-related services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. Michelle moderated the roundtable discussion, which included contributions from law enforcement, government agencies and LA VAWA Network member organizations. Participants shared their knowledge and best practice tips regarding requesting U Visa Certifications from law enforcement, with a focus on increasing safety in vulnerable immigrant communities.

>> We are excited to welcome Michelle to the LACLJ team. She will be representing clients on Immigration matters. [Read on to learn more about our newest Senior Attorney!](#)

Leave a legacy to expand LACLJ and transform lives



This fall, LACLJ launched its **Expansion Campaign for Safe Families and Strong Communities**. Spurred by organizational growth in recent years, this campaign hopes to expand and renovate our office. Because our clients are escaping abusive relationships and unstable homes, we want to ensure that they feel safe and welcome when they see an LACLJ attorney. Some of the renovation plans include:

- **Learning Room & Community Kitchen** for parenting classes, housing workshops, and trainings
- **Family Lobby** where clients' children can play or do homework
- **Pro Bono Conference Room** where our pro bono attorneys can meet with restraining order clients for our ADVOCATE project

If you would like to be part of this campaign and leave behind a legacy as a supporter of LACLJ families, please contact Hellen Hong at hellen@lajclj.org.

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