



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE



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April 25, 2016

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Denim Day - April 27



Denim Day in LA & USA is a sexual violence prevention and education campaign. On **April 27**, wear jeans as a statement of protest against the misconceptions around sexual assault.

For more info, visit *Peace Over Violence's Denim Day website* at denimdayinfo.org.

Attorney Spotlight



ANGELA TURNER
Attorney, Teen/LA Program

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is any sexual contact that occurs without consent. It includes things like voyeurism, exhibitionism, sexual harassment, forced oral sex and rape. It doesn't always involve physical force; someone can use threats or intimidation to make a victim feel afraid or unable to say no to sexual contact. It is also sexual assault if the victim is drunk, drugged, unconscious, too young, or otherwise unable to legally agree to sexual contact.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

LACLJ is committed to advocating on behalf of the nearly 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men who have experienced some form of sexual assault. A lawyer can be a valuable advocate for survivors of sexual assault. In LACLJ's Teen/LA program, attorneys help young survivors come up



with solutions to the challenges they may face in their everyday lives after an assault. Survivors may have to interact with law enforcement and prosecutors. They may need to move, change schools or take time off from work. If they were in a relationship or shared children with the abuser, they may need to obtain a restraining order or address custody matters. The incident may also impact a survivor's immigration status. For these individuals, LACLJ offers a wide range of civil legal services related to housing, employment, education, privacy, restraining orders and immigration status. Survivors of sexual assault also receive help with understanding and protecting their rights as victims in the criminal justice system. Through this work, we work with sexual assault survivors to promote their security and stability.

Get to know LACLJ Teen/LA Attorney Angela Turner, who represents young survivors of sexual assault, in the Attorney Spotlight (left sidebar).

Attorneys advocate for free legal services for immigrants



LACLJ Supervising Attorney Michelle Carey addresses the crowd outside the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Los Angeles Field Office.

LACLJ is committed to providing high quality and free legal services to immigrants who have suffered significant violence and trauma. On March 21st, LACLJ stood with other attorneys and community partners to protest the lack of free legal representation for immigrants facing deportation. Many immigrants have fled violence in their home country or suffered trauma in the US that may entitle them to valid immigration relief. Absent an attorney, many immigrants are unable to benefit from available relief and are consequently deported.

A majority of LACLJ clients are immigrants and approximately 20% are from El Salvador, Guatemala or Honduras – a region that has been identified as the most violent area in the world. Michelle Carey, who oversees LACLJ's Immigration Program, addressed the crowd of 100 at the rally. She remarked, "These are people who are striving to support their families

What is challenging about your work?

Working with young survivors, it's challenging hearing some of the things my clients have experienced and learning how the trauma has impacted them. It's also difficult when there isn't any legal remedy that would help them get the things they want or need after the assault.

What is most rewarding about your work at LACLJ?

My clients are incredibly inspiring. I love working with survivors and supporting them. I also love working with young people and watching them grow over the course of our representation. Finally, I love that I get to practice in lots of different areas of the law. I'm always learning something new.

What might someone be surprised to know about your work?

Many young people are surprised to learn that survivors of sexual assault can retain their own attorney - that lawyers are not mandated reporters and that our services are confidential.

What is a common misconception about sexual assault?

Many people think that sexual assault is a crime committed by strangers. However, most victims are assaulted by someone they know: a friend, date, acquaintance, or boyfriend or girlfriend, and many victims are assaulted in their homes.

Share a fun fact about yourself.

I love young adult fiction, particularly dystopias. I read all the Hunger Games and Divergent series books.

and, in many situations, desperately pleading for safety. It's appalling to see situations where so many of the people being targeted for removal are people who have survived terrible forms of trauma."

In addition to free legal representation for those facing deportation, attorneys highlighted the need to grant Temporary Protected Status to Central American immigrants and an end to the inhumane treatment of LGBT immigrants in detention.

Attractive Nuisance places first and raises \$7,000 for LACLJ



Eric Kennedy, LACLJ Leadership Council member and partner at Payne & Fears, belts out rock hits with Attractive Nuisance bandmates at the historic Whisky A Go Go.

Last month, the band **Attractive Nuisance** rocked out in support of LACLJ at the fifth annual Law Rocks Los Angeles. Featuring talent from Allen Matkins and Payne & Fears, Attractive Nuisance raised **\$7,000** to support LACLJ's work, and tied for first place in the competition after receiving the best reaction from the crowd! Thank you to everyone who supported the crowdfunding campaign and came out to watch the band perform. Special thanks to Eric Kennedy, lead singer of Attractive Nuisance, for bringing LACLJ into this year's Law Rocks event.

LACLJ reflects on 43-year history at annual awards gala

We invite you to join us for [LACLJ's 43rd Anniversary Awards Gala](#) on **Thursday, June 16, 2016** at The L.A. Hotel Downtown. LACLJ's annual gala celebrates a legacy of stabilizing families and strengthening communities through high-quality legal services. This year, we will also be honoring the following community leaders:

No Más Bebés filmmakers
Renee Tajima-Peña and Dr. Virginia Espino
Justice Award

Hueston Hennigan LLP
Pro Bono Partner of the Year

Pacific Western Bank
Corporation of the Year

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets, sponsorships and tribute pages. For more information about the event, please contact Jenny Farrell at jenny@laci.org or (323) 980-3500, ext. 14.

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