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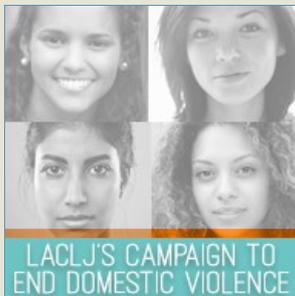
Shop and Support



Support LACLJ clients and their children by shopping with AmazonSmile.

Click [here](#) to get started!

DVAM Fundraising Campaign



Help us raise \$20,000 to support survivors of domestic violence!

In light of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October), LACLJ has launched a month-long fundraising campaign to support our work on behalf of domestic violence survivors.

Support our campaign today by donating and spreading the word:

<http://LACLJ.kintera.org/NoMore>

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ), we are always challenging ourselves to think creatively about how to ensure legal services effect change in the lives of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. Every client comes to us with different needs and goals, and our job is to help authentically move their interests forward.



With that in mind, I'm excited to share the expansion of our Community Care Advocacy (CCA) Program, through which every LACLJ client will now receive supportive services, such as psycho-education, safety planning, and referrals to social service providers. These services will not only help clients prepare emotionally for court, but also help ensure they are able to fully benefit from the legal remedies they obtain.

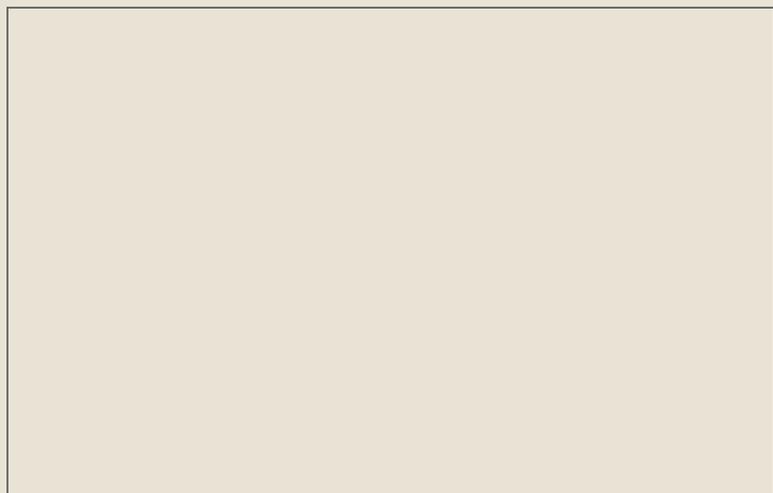
I also look forward this fall to leveraging evaluation to further drive and push innovation across the agency. Earlier this year, we enhanced our staffing and technology to better track and measure the impact of LACLJ services. We're now excited to learn more about our services' effectiveness and long-term impact on different client demographics. With this new information, we will be able to make data-driven decisions as we plan for future expansion or enhancement to services.

And, of course, at the core this exciting new work remains our enormously talented and committed legal team. In August, Senior Attorney Verónica Saucedo was appointed as a Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner. While we will certainly miss Veronica, her appointment represents the most recent validation of the depth of talent we have here at LACLJ. It's my good fortune to come to work every day with this incredible team.

All my best,

Matt

Community Care Advocacy Program welcomes 9 interns



This fall, LACLJ welcomed nine Master of Social Work student interns into its **Community Care Advocacy (CCA) Program**.

Through the CCA program, LACLJ strives to integrate legal services with other interventions to ensure success in court translates into meaningful and sustainable changes for clients and their families. The CCA program integrates MSW interns into clients' legal team. Guided by our licensed social worker, interns provide psycho-education, court accompaniment, safety planning and other supportive services. Interns also connect clients to partner agencies to meet other human service needs, such as counseling, medical services and education. The development of the CCA Program has been one of LACLJ's primary efforts to provide holistic services to clients.

Since its inception in 2014, LACLJ's CCA Program has provided a rich internship experience for Masters-level social work students attending several of our local universities. In just one year, the program has grown from offering two internships to now offering field placement to nine MSW students. Working directly with LACLJ clients and attorneys, interns receive hands on experience working at the intersection of law and social work.

Staff Spotlight: Diane Trunk, Director of Evaluation

Former Managing Attorney **Diane Trunk** is now LACLJ's **Director of Evaluation**. This coincides with our push to build a more robust evaluation system to better measure and to maximize the impact of LACLJ's services. Get to know Diane and learn more about our evaluation work below!



What is Evaluation?

Evaluation is measuring progress towards a stated goal. It's measuring results as well as the steps taken toward achieving those results. In evaluation, if it can't be measured, it didn't happen. We plan to use the results of our evaluation to learn about and improve LACLJ's services.

What do you find challenging about evaluation in this field?

So much is challenging – but that is what makes it exciting and interesting. Typically in the legal field, we measure “outputs,” such as how many restraining orders have been obtained or how many immigration petitions were filed. LACLJ is moving beyond that to also measure improvements in the lives of our clients after receiving our assistance. This gets complicated because we adjust our holistic services to meet each client's unique needs and goals. Sometimes, for example, obtaining a court order isn't the best way for the client to achieve her goal.

What do we mean by “holistic services”?

“Holistic” refers to our method of delivering legal services on a variety of legal problems, as well as our providing the client with non-legal services through our Community Care Advocates (CCA). CCA help clients with psycho-social education, warm referrals to mental health providers and other community resources, skills building, and emotional support. In this way, we give clients the tools they need to meet their goals beyond their legal issue.

You are a litigator. How did you get interested in evaluation?

In my prior position at another agency, I coordinated a group of domestic violence restraining order clinics across LA County. It was an experimental model, so my team conducted extensive research into the issue of domestic violence as well as the results of our work. We worked with over 4,000 people each year, so we had a lot of data to learn from. It was fascinating and rewarding to step back from our very personal work with individuals and look at the work as a whole. I was hooked. When I heard that LACLJ was planning to do evaluation agency-wide, I couldn't wait to apply for the job.

Share a fun fact about yourself!

I am a certified yoga instructor. My favorite pose is Adho Mukha Svanasana (downward-facing dog). It's great for back and core strength and well as strengthening and stretching the legs – plus I get a refreshing perspective from looking at the world upside-down.

