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August Campaign

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LACLJ Attorneys Help Young Man Find Safety and Security in the US.

In the treacherous streets of Guatemala, there are few options for survival. Even the most fortunate boys can be swept into a life of violence at a young age. LACLJ client Andres faced particularly difficult barriers. At the age of four, Andres' father abandoned him and his mother who has a disability. Unable to appropriately care for his mother, Andres fled to the United States at the age of 19. His one hope was to continue his education so that one day he could help his mother receive the care she needed.

LACLJ was able to assist Andres in gaining legal status to remain in the United States. LACLJ attorneys successfully petitioned for Andres' uncle to become his legal guardian thereby allowing Andres to gain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and gain a work permit. Now, Andres is able to work and help support his mother, while also pursuing his education. Andres is eager to fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor and helping others in his community.

*Names have been changed to protect client identity.



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LACLJ Board Member Receives 2017 Family Law Award.

Congratulations to LACLJ Board Member Courtney Black for receiving the Legal Aid Association of California 2017 Family Law Pro Bono Award! On July 24, 2017, Courtney was honored for her commitment to and passionate advocacy on behalf of vulnerable women and children at the 2017 Family Law Awards hosted by the Judicial Council of California and the Legal Aid Association of California.

Courtney has been an invaluable member of LACLJ's Board since joining in May 2016. Her dedication to helping survivors gain justice has been shown through her advocacy and volunteer work through LACLJ's [ADVOCATE Pro Bono Program](#).

Courtney truly believes in helping mothers and children be safe from violence and this has driven her to be, far and away, LACLJ's #1 pro bono volunteer on family law matters. LACLJ is grateful to have board members like Courtney who are passionate about our mission to create safer communities free from violence.

Congratulations again to Courtney on this well-deserved award!





LACLJ Supervising Attorney Carmen McDonald (left) presents Hueston Hennigan Pro Bono Coordinator Courtney Black (right) with the 2017 Family Law Award.

LACLJ Attorney Fights for the Rights of LGBTQ survivors.

On July 27, 2017 LACLJ attorney Angela McNair-Turner traveled to Sacramento to testify before the Assembly Judiciary Committee in support of SB310, the Name and Dignity Act. SB310 is a pivotal bill that will give incarcerated individuals the right to petition to obtain name and gender change. LACLJ is happy to report that the committee members voted in favor of the bill and it will move forward to the appropriations committee.

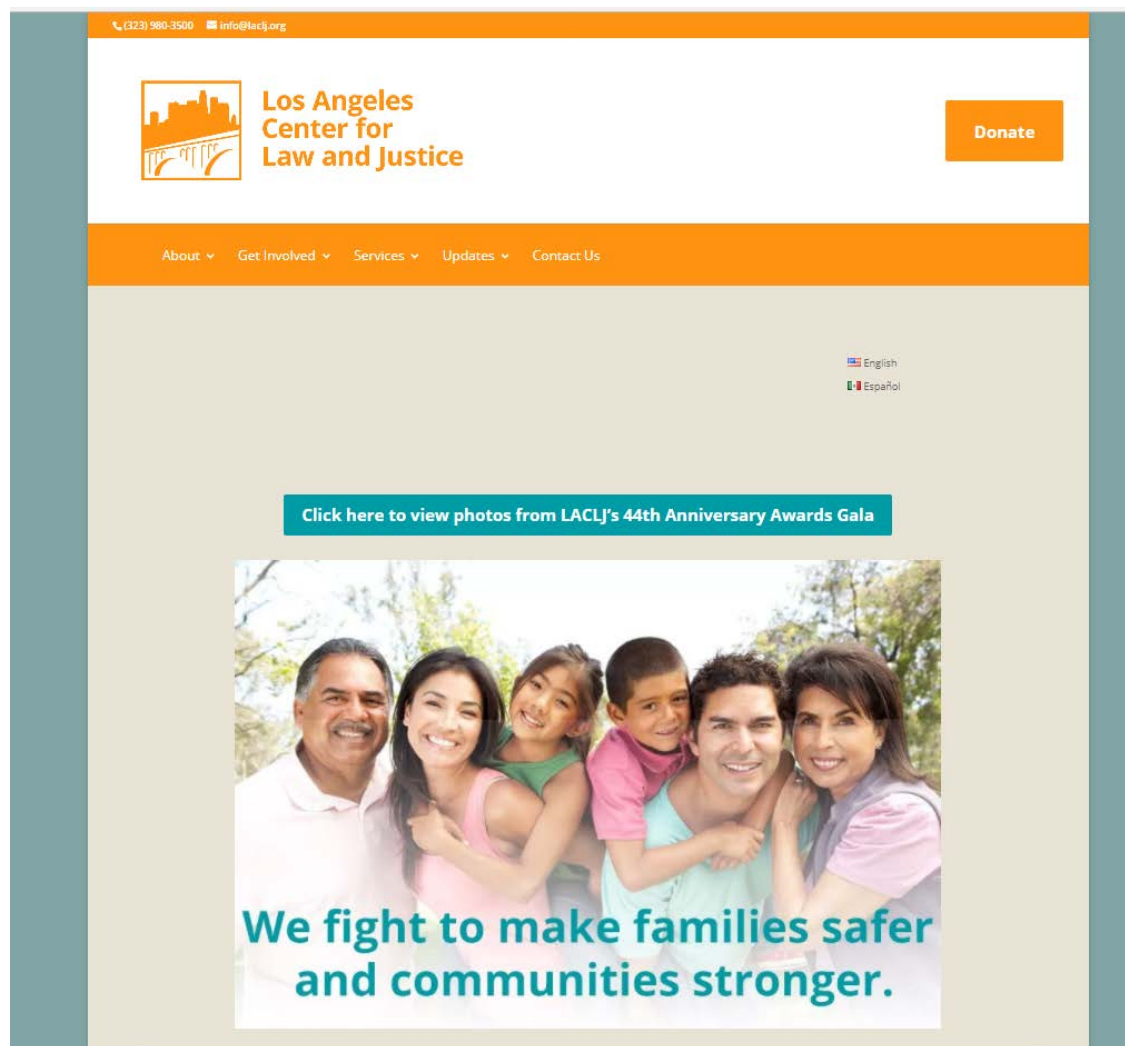
Angela is advocating for the bill on behalf of the Women's Policy Institute. As a fellow on the Trauma-Justice Team, Angela works with a team to amplify the voices of women and trans individuals throughout the state. As an attorney who works with transgender immigrant survivors, Angela hopes SB310 will help facilitate smoother re-entry into the community after incarceration for transgender survivors of interpersonal violence.



LACLJ Attorney Angela McNair-Turner (middle) pictured with the Women's Policy Institute Trauma-Justice Team

We Have Updated Our Website!

LACLJ is pleased to announce the launch of our updated website! Our goal with the updated website is to provide our donors and clients an easier way to learn more about LACLJ and our services. Among the new features, the site contains an integrated Spanish translator, mobile optimized browsing, and updated interactive pages. Click below to view and don't forget to follow LACLJ on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



LACLJ's Call To Action

Each newsletter, LACLJ will introduce a "Call To Action" where you can learn ways to advocate for our clients and support safer communities in Los Angeles. This month, we are asking you to support our DACA-eligible youth.

LACLJ regularly serves DACA-eligible and DACA-mented youth, including many of our immigrant survivors who are also applying or have applied for DACA while their U visa petitions and other forms of immigration relief remain pending during lengthy processing times.

You can show your support for DACA-eligible and DACA-mented youth by:

1. Sign the [petition](#) to tell President Trump to #DefendDACA.
2. [Call your Senators](#) and tell them to co-sponsor the bipartisan Durbin-Graham "Dream Act" (S.1615) to create a legislative fix to the predicament of these young Americans.
3. Engaging your state and local elected officials in the fight to defend DACA by using [this toolkit](#) created by the National Immigration Law Center and the Center for American Progress.

To learn more about DACA and DACA-mented youth, [click here](#).

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