



Dear LACLJ Supporter,

Achieving justice for survivors of sexual assault is a challenge. Perpetrators target people who are already vulnerable because of age, immigration status or gender. Many survivors do not report the assault because they lack support and often risk being blamed. Sadly, when survivors do report **less than 1% of rapes result in a conviction.**

LACLJ's legal team listens and empowers survivors in their decision-making. We provide **client-centered legal assistance** to help survivors meet their own needs for safety, privacy and stability.

I am proud to share a recent client story of how we go beyond the usual legal service to help a survivor seek justice. I'm also happy to welcome a new member to our Board of Directors, Andrew K. Walsh. Read more about these and other highlights below.

Warmly,

Gladys La Torre  
Interim Executive Director

After being drugged and raped by her landlord, Sandra's rent went up and she was threatened with eviction.

## SA Survivor Empowered to Seek Justice



Sandra\* is a mom of 4 and a survivor of sexual assault. She came to LACLJ after being drugged and raped by her landlord, who then **increased her rent and threatened to evict her** and her family. Over the course of 6 months, she endured 5 eviction notices and overwhelming stress as he continued to harass her.

**LACLJ helped Sandra understand her legal rights and options so she could decide how to respond** and protect her and her family. We connected her to a housing agency to address the eviction notices. We also prepared her for small claims court so she could win back the rent she had overpaid. **Sandra won in small claims but her landlord appealed. LACLJ represented her on the appeal and won.**

Sandra feels confident now after months of depression. **She feels empowered after being able to stand up to the rapist in small claims court.** We are now in the process of enforcing the judgment and making sure Sandra gets the money owed to her.

Sandra is focused on moving forward with her life and is receiving counseling. She currently **enjoys giving talks to other women about their housing rights** so others may be empowered as she was.



## SA Team Participates in 60-hour Training

Over the summer, LACLJ staff members participated in a 60-hour Sexual Assault Advocate Training. **Sarah Reisman**, **Lourdes Galvan**, and **Paxcely Marquez** (pictured above left to right) participated in the training to become California State certified sexual assault advocates. The trainings were provided by LACLJ partners - the [YWCA of Greater Los Angeles](#), the largest provider of sexual assault support services in LA County, and the [East Los Angeles Women's Center](#), a leading voice, advocate and service provider for survivors for over 40 years.

Every day in the U.S., over 500 women are sexually assaulted. However, **sexual assault is the most underreported crime**, with 65% of victims never filing a report to the police. **For every 100 cases of rape, there are only 12 arrests, 9 prosecutions and 5 felony convictions.**

When LACLJ updated our mission in 2018, we reaffirmed our commitment to serving survivors of sexual assault. Through this training, **LACLJ is able to integrate best practices for serving this vulnerable population, supporting them beyond the legal system through a more holistic, client-centered approach.**



## New Board Member

LACLJ is proud to welcome our newest board member - **Andrew K. Walsh**. Mr. Walsh is Partner at Hueston Hennigan representing clients in complex civil business disputes, high-stakes environmental and entertainment litigation, and white collar criminal actions. Through his pro bono work with LACLJ, he has represented domestic violence survivors, successfully securing them with restraining orders, as well as orders for custody of their minor children. [Read More](#)

**We're excited to have Mr. Walsh join our Board and look forward to working with him on behalf of survivors in our community!**

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