



**Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice**

GIVE

August 31, 2020

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

Every day when I meet with our staff, I am reminded of how complex and difficult justice is to obtain. **Survivors have to overcome significant barriers just to survive.** Trauma is debilitating. The system is nearly impossible to navigate. Many survivors don't even get the chance to fight for justice.

We believe every person has a right to justice. And as a community, we must support survivors in their search for safety and security.

When I hear our clients' stories, I am grateful to be a part of that community with you. A community that advocates for survivors, as we did when LAPD Rampart put up barriers for undocumented families. I am also proud to welcome the newest member of our community, Dan Hanley, LACLJ Major Gifts Officer.

Read more about how we're building a community of support for survivors below. I also invite you to reach out to me or Dan to learn more about our impact. We'd be delighted to connect with you!

Warmly,

Norayma Cabot
Executive Director

When Isabella came to LACLJ, she was feeling scared and hopeless having experienced so much trauma at just 20 years old.



Trafficking Survivor Gets New Chance at Life

In her home country, Isabella* was terrorized by gang violence and was a survivor of sexual assault. **As a teen, her family sent her to the U.S. to escape the violence.**

Living with her "aunt" in America, **Isabella wasn't able to go to school.** Instead, her aunt forced her to work in a small market during the school day and told Isabella she'd have to pay her earnings for rent.

She was able to escape her trafficker, but didn't know where to go for help. **Isabella had been living in a homeless shelter, survived another sexual assault, and felt hopeless.**

At LACLJ, we helped Isabella by connecting her to public benefits. She was able to receive refugee cash aid, Medi-Cal and food stamps to help her get back on her feet. She even started attending high school again. **LACLJ also successfully fought the denial of her T-Visa and got her application approved.**

Isabella was in disbelief! She didn't think she'd have hope again about her future. Now, Isabella is excited and is thinking about furthering her education. She is hopeful and open to new possibilities.



Immigrant survivors applying for a U-Visa must have certification from law enforcement verifying cooperation with the criminal investigation.

Advocating for Immigrants' Safety During a Pandemic

In May, Liliana* was required to go to the LAPD Rampart station to pick up her U-Visa certification. We tried to advocate for LAPD to mail it to Liliana's LACLJ attorney because of the pandemic, but they refused. Weighing the risk with her need for the signed document, Liliana went to the police station as instructed.

However, when she got there, she was notified that there were only certain hours when she could pick it up and was sent home. Liliana had to return a second day to pick up her certification.

The LACLJ team knew Liliana wasn't the only person impacted by this policy. **Many survivors are having to choose between risking their health and getting the information they need to apply for lawful immigration status.**

LACLJ Directing Attorney of Immigration, Michelle Carey, raised this issue with the LA VAWA Network, a coalition of nonprofits that meets to discuss issues impacting survivors in the county. In partnership with the LA VAWA Network which she co-chairs, Michelle advocated with LAPD to change this protocol and protect the safety of survivors.

Thanks to this collaborative advocacy effort, **LAPD Rampart agreed to begin mailing U-Visa certifications to attorneys rather than requiring survivors to pick them up. Now, survivors can pursue immigration relief without needing to risk their health and the health of their families.**



Dan Hanley, Major Gifts Officer



LACLJ is happy to welcome a new member to our team! Check out his quick video introduction to learn more.

Dan Hanley considers himself a "fundraising nerd" and has worked with human service nonprofits here in LA and in Denver for the past 12 years. He has a passion for nonprofit fundraising and relationship building.

Dan lives in Monrovia with his husband and three adopted furrries, volunteers in Tijuana serving refugees and asylum seekers, is a US Navy veteran and loves creating delicious vegan meals. You can reach Dan at Dan@LACLJ.org or at (720) 470-0247.



Send Families Your Support: Survivor Care Packages

Survivors need our help!

Many families are struggling right now to cover basic supplies like masks, hand sanitizer and back-to-school supplies.

Send your support with a care package:

[Learn More](#)

You can connect families with critical supplies to connect to resources online and set up their kids for success!

*Actual names and photos are changed to protect the privacy and safety of clients.

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