



**Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice**

October Newsletter

Dear Supporter,

It's been a busy Domestic Violence Awareness Month and I am so happy to share some incredible successes we've had recently!

From a huge victory in our USCIS litigation to hosting our first DVAM webinar training, our team has been working nonstop to advocate for survivors, spread the word about domestic violence issues, and help educate fellow legal service providers and attorneys on trauma and vicarious trauma.

I am also happy to feature one of our newest supporters, OurFamilyWizard. Every year during DVAM, we ask our partners to support our work and help ensure low-income survivors can count on free, trauma-informed legal representation when they need it most. Learn more about DVAM and our most recent successes below.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norayma Cabot', written in a cursive style.

Norayma Cabot
Executive Director



UPDATE ON USCIS LITIGATION

Last year, LACLJ reached out to its partners [Kirkland & Ellis](#) and [Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#) to sue U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for failing to issue work permits for eligible U-Visa applicants in a reasonable time. Many of the **immigrant survivors we serve have waited over 4 years** and still no word about their work permit.

Last month, the Court denied USCIS' motion to dismiss our case, agreeing with 6 of our 7 claims and finding that "the wait for approval is unreasonable." USCIS then agreed to issue our clients' first ever work permits.

This victory is a huge step in moving their cases forward and **helping them achieve stability** by being able to work legally in the U.S and be protected from removal. Filings for this lawsuit are also being used as templates by practitioners across the country who are modeling our successful arguments and hoping to achieve the same outcomes for their clients.

Thank you to our partners for taking on this fight with us and for being a part of this **coordinated, nationwide effort to secure justice for immigrant survivors!** We are happy for our clients who will be able to provide for their families during these difficult times.

Trauma-Informed Lawyering

Learn about Vicarious Trauma and Trauma-Informed Best Practices



DVAM WEBINAR

On October 13th, LACLJ hosted our first DVAM Webinar on Trauma-Informed Lawyering. Thank you to the over 150 participants who attended the training! We are so grateful to The Honorable Thomas Trent Lewis (Ret.) for moderating our expert panel of speakers, including LACLJ Board Member, Evan Itzkowitz, LACLJ Human Services Coordinator, Sylvia Gribbell, and LACLJ Directing Attorney, Jimena Vasquez.

Special thank you to our sponsors for supporting the webinar!

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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: OURFAMILYWIZARD

"OurFamilyWizard is proud to be a supporter of the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice and the invaluable services they provide to survivors. LACLJ is a true champion for justice, a pillar of the community, and we at OFW could not be happier to support them and their efforts to provide hope and security for families.

We would also like to congratulate LACLJ's Director of Legal Services, Carmen McDonald, for being awarded the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council's prestigious Betty Fisher Award, a well-deserved and fitting honor.

We are pleased to work with organizations such as LACLJ to offer our services to their clients at no cost via the OFW Fee Waiver Program. [Click Here to learn more about the program.](#)"

- Matt Havrevold, OurFamilyWizard

It's National Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

For many families, Safer at Home hasn't been safe. Support our DVAM Campaign and help survivors of domestic violence obtain safety and protection.

You can help make a difference for low-income families by making a gift today.



STOP VIOLENCE
Build **Safe** Communities

Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- calls to domestic violence hotlines have increased
- physical injuries are more severe
- **experts fear many more cases are unreported due to social isolation**

Source: Los Angeles Times (2020). Domestic violence rose during lockdown – and injuries are dramatically more severe, study finds.

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