

## April Newsletter: Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Los Angeles  
Center for  
Law and Justice

## April Newsletter

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to honor the voices and experiences of survivors and help raise awareness of vital community resources available for their support.

Sexual assault can affect all parts of a survivor's life, including their financial stability, housing, employment, and family life. Further, many survivors struggle with long-term mental health issues that can lead to losing their jobs, dropping out of school, and disconnecting from vital support systems.

At LACLJ, we help educate survivors on their legal rights, help them access community mental health services, and empower them to build more hopeful futures. Learn more about how we help survivors of sexual assault by reading this month's client story below. I am also happy to share that we've welcomed two new board members who have experience working with immigrant families.

Warmly,

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

Norayma Cabot  
Executive Director

---

**Note:** LACLJ serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and some client stories may be triggering.



## ADVOCATING FOR JOY'S RIGHTS

Joy\* is a survivor of sexual assault. For nearly twenty years, she suffered sexual abuse at the hands of her stepfather. He was aggressive, constantly threatened her and even posted nude pictures of her online without her consent.

**When she reported the abuse to law enforcement, her family turned against her. She felt alone with no one on her side.**

At LACLJ, we helped connect Joy to therapy, helped her develop a safety plan, and represented her at her Restraining Order hearing. **In addition to free legal representation, LACLJ advocated for Joy's rights during the criminal investigation and advocated for her right to restitution.**

Thankfully, Joy is safe now. Her abuser is in prison and LACLJ was able to secure financial restitution so Joy can afford mental health services.

**Surviving the trauma and effects of sexual assault can be devastating and no one should have to go through that alone.** We're grateful to be able to help Joy and give her a chance to heal and move forward with her life.

[Support our work with Sexual Assault Survivors](#)

---

# NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**NAREENEH SOHBATIAN, ESQ.**



**CYNTHIA LUCAS, ESQ.**

LACLJ is excited to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors!

[Cynthia Lucas](#) is a founding Partner at Lucas & Barba LLP in Los Angeles, handling a range of removal defense, special immigrant & family-based immigration law matters, including U visas, VAWA, Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) petitions, consular processing and waivers. She is a first-generation Latina whose parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico and Nicaragua. In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Lucas is Adjunct Faculty at the University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy where she teaches Immigration Policy.

[Nareeneh Sohbatian](#) is Winston & Strawn LLP's Immigration Pro Bono Supervisory attorney. Additionally, she represents clients in immigration matters in federal litigation, amicus briefs, and defensive and affirmative immigration cases. Before joining Winston & Strawn LLP in 2016, Ms. Sohbatian worked at several nonprofit legal aid agencies, including Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County.

---



Los Angeles  
Center for  
Law and Justice

*Save the Date*  
MAY 20, 2021



# *Celebrating Survivors*

LIVESTREAM GALA

[Learn More](#)

\*Name and photo changed to protect client privacy.

[Give Today](#)



[ABOUT](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[SERVICES](#)

[UPDATES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

**Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice**  
5301 Whittier Blvd. 4th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#)  
or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

