

November Newsletter: Partnership Highlights



Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice

November 2022 Newsletter

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

I am so grateful for our community and the outpouring of support for the immigrant survivors we serve! Whether through our Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign in October or yesterday's Giving Tuesday, time after time, our supporters and pro bono partners show up for survivors in need.

I am excited to highlight a few of these partners in this month's newsletter, including an [incredible pro bono success story](#), a [Q&A](#) with one of our dedicated attorneys, and a new member of the [Board of Directors](#).

Please also save the date for our upcoming [Empower Run](#) the weekend of February 25th-26th, 2023! I hope you can join us for this fun event!

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carmen McDonald'.

Carmen McDonald
Interim Executive Director

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



Robin* is a young mother who works hard to provide all she can for her daughter. When she came to LACLJ, she was petrified of the court process and was suffering from depression and anxiety.

Robin's ex was extremely abusive. He strangled her, was physically violent with her and even broke down a door to get to her in front of her child. She was terrified. Thankfully, our pro bono partners stepped in and joined her fight.

[Jibraun Riaz](#), Counsel at Davis Wright Tremaine, represented Robin at her

restraining order hearing. He overcame numerous hurdles in the four-month long case and worked hard to fight for Robin and her daughter's safety.

We are proud to share Jibraun secured a 5 year restraining order and sole custody for our client! Robin can now breathe a sigh of relief and focus on her and her daughter's emotional well-being.

Thank you Jibraun for your generosity and incredible win for this family!



Q: Why did you want to work in this field?

I care deeply about meaningful access to justice for low-income communities, especially survivors who face barriers in addition to their socioeconomic conditions. I am also passionate about gender equity, and as defined in Title IX, sexual harassment and sexual assault are forms of sex discrimination.

Q: What misconceptions about sexual assault do you wish more people knew?

A misconception that comes up a lot, especially in the legal system, is that if a person was sexually assaulted then they would have immediately reported the incident.

In reality, most sexual assaults are not reported and even if they are reported it's usually not until much later.

Q: Tell us about the recent Title IX case you took on with LACLJ pro bono partners.

In every case, I have a discussion with the client about what justice looks like for them and what their goals are in working together. Here, justice looked like accountability for the client. She wanted the school to be held accountable for their violations of Title IX – for not providing a prompt and equitable resolution – and as a result disrupting her education.

[Read More](#)



NEW LACLJ BOARD MEMBER



SAGHAR ESFANDIARIFARD

LACLJ is proud to welcome a new member to our Board of Directors!

Saghar Esfandiarifard is a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. She has extensive experience representing clients at all stages of litigation in state and federal court, in a broad array of matters.

Saghar was also among the first lawyers to arrive at John F. Kennedy Airport and provide immediate assistance to immigrants impacted by the January 2017 executive order barring admission to the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries. She maintains a strong pro bono practice and is dedicated to fighting for justice.

[Read more about Saghar](#)

**Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice**

**VIRTUAL
RUN/WALK
Feb 25th &
26th 2023**

Run, roll or stroll 1 mile, 5k or 10k and join our community of supporters making a difference for survivors!

Save the Date!

**Empower
Run**

**LEARN ABOUT SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**