**California Legal Access for Survivors Project (CLASP)**

*Increasing Access to Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors Filing Restraining Orders*

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**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Through the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ), the California Legal Access for Survivors Project (CLASP) expands statewide access to legal services for survivors of domestic violence seeking to obtain a Temporary Restraining Order.

**Pro Bono Attorneys** review and provide feedback on Requests for Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, which are prepared by non-attorney victim service providers, to ensure the petitions are ready for submission to the survivor’s local courthouse.

**BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN CLASP**

**Rewarding Experience** – 34.9% of California women and 31.1% of California men experience domestic violence in their lifetime. In 2018, domestic violence homicides comprised 10.7% of all California homicides. This project gives you the opportunity to combat this overwhelming problem by supporting survivors of domestic violence in seeking safety and crucial orders to protect themselves and their family and to prevent further abuse.

**Flexible time commitment** – for attorneys looking to get involved and make an impact but unable to commit to representation at this time, this project seeks commitment for only one day at a time to be a point-person to receive and review petitions. There is a 24 hour window to review and provide feedback on petitions, which allows attorneys the flexibility to review petitions during times that work for them. There are usually no more than 3 petitions submitted in a given day, so actual time spent in a given day is usually less than 1.5 hours, but the impact of having an attorney available is enormous!

**MCLE Training** — LACLJ will provide a live training on domestic violence and the nuts and bolts of reviewing a domestic violence restraining order petition. We offer MCLE credit to attorneys who attend this training.

**Ongoing support** – LACLJ will provide continued technical support and share resources and information to assist you in reviewing your petitions and providing legal services.

**Gateway to other opportunities** – become familiar with Domestic Violence Restraining Order law to be better prepared to take a case for representation later! Restraining Order cases provide invaluable courtroom experience and the opportunity to put on a “mini-trial” at the hearing, including making an opening statement, introducing evidence, conducting direct and cross examinations, making objections, and making a closing argument. And we will still provide a family law expert attorney to provide technical assistance throughout your case representation!

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**VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS**

- Receive any petitions completed during your volunteer day
- Respond to participating victim service providers with your feedback within 24 hours of receiving the petition
- If applicable, answer any follow up questions from victim service providers

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For more information or to volunteer, please contact Amanda Jancu at amandaj@laclj.org.

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Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) secures justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and empowers them to create their own futures. We provide holistic legal services in the areas of Family Law, Immigration, and Criminal Justice Advocacy primarily to immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or human trafficking. For more information, please visit https://www.laclj.org/.  [REV. 12/3/21]