LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE PRO BONO PROGRAM
Representing Survivors in Domestic Violence Restraining Order Hearings

LACLJ’S MISSION

The mission of the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) is to secure justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and to empower them to create their own future.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LACLJ’s Pro Bono Restraining Order Representation program is an innovative program that partners with attorney volunteers to offer free legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The effect of this program is to decrease the recurrence of domestic violence while simultaneously increasing awareness and access to legal services. Volunteers are provided with training, resources, and ongoing support from LACLJ during their representation. Cases typically last 3-6 weeks, and attorneys spend an average of 30-40 hours on a case.

BENEFITS OF TAKING A CASE WITH LACLJ

Training and Resources — LACLJ offers live or pre-recorded trainings on domestic violence and how to represent a survivor in a restraining order hearing. We offer MCLE credit to attorneys who attend a live training. We also have a resource library with form samples, sample direct and cross examinations, and other helpful tools and resources for representing a survivor at a restraining order hearing.

Ongoing support and technical assistance — LACLJ will provide continued technical support and share resources, information, and guidance to assist you in representing our mutual client. Each client will also be assigned a Community Advocate, who is a social worker or social work student who can provide emotional support, connect the client with needed resources, and support the client in completing any follow up for the attorney.

Extensive Experience, Limited Scope — With only a 3-6 week commitment on average, cases provide invaluable courtroom experience and the opportunity to put on a “mini-trial” at the restraining order hearing, including opening and closing statements, introducing evidence, conducting direct and cross examinations, making objections, and ensuring a clear and complete record.

Impact — About 1 in 3 women experience domestic violence in their lifetime while over 90% of litigants are self-represented in Domestic Violence Restraining Order Cases. You can help bridge the justice gap by providing critical and life-saving legal services to one of the most disadvantaged populations in Los Angeles — low income and immigrant women who are experiencing domestic violence!

GET INVOLVED

Please contact LACLJ’s Pro Bono Manager, Amanda Jancu, at amandaj@laclj.org for more information, to schedule a training, or to volunteer!