

LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE PRO BONO PROGRAM

Representing Survivors to Obtain Vacatur and Post-Conviction Relief

LACLJ'S MISSION and SERVICE MODEL

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. We implement an integrated service model in partnership with social workers and MSW students to provide holistic legal services in the areas of Family Law, Immigration, and Criminal Justice Advocacy to immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or human trafficking.

VACATUR PROJECT OVERVIEW

LACLJ's Pro Bono Vacatur Project is a collaborative response with Jones Day to meet the unmet need of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking to address criminal records resulting from victimization and abuse. Vacatur is a form of post-conviction relief that voids a criminal conviction or arrest if the violation is related to trafficking or abuse. This relief is especially crucial to noncitizen survivors whose eligibility for immigration relief may be compromised due to their criminal record. Because these cases consist mostly of research and document preparation, this project also presents a perfect opportunity for firms to partner with corporate clients. All volunteers are provided training, resources, and ongoing support from LACLJ and Jones Day during their representation. Cases typically last 6-12 months. We recommend teams of 2-3 attorneys per case.



BENEFITS OF TAKING A CASE WITH LACLJ

Training and Resources — LACLJ and Jones Day will offer live or pre-recorded trainings on vacatur relief. We offer MCLE credit for live trainings. We also have a resource library with form and declaration samples, templates, and other helpful tools and resources for representing survivors in their vacatur petitions.

Ongoing support and technical assistance – Jones Day has handled over a dozen vacatur cases and will provide ongoing technical assistance on vacatur law and procedure. LACLJ will provide continued technical assistance and support in addressing immigration-related consequences. Clients are also assigned a Community Advocate, who is a social worker or MSW student, to 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 – Attorneys will have an invaluable opportunity to work closely with a client, prepare compelling declarations and legal argument, conduct legal research, and engage in negotiations with the prosecutor's office. There is also a potential opportunity to appear before a judge to argue the merits of the case if the prosecutor does not join in the petition.

Impact – While countless survivors may qualify for vacatur relief, which can be critical to offering immigration relief, housing stability, job opportunities, and economic stability to survivors who have a criminal record, legal assistance in seeking this relief is nearly nonexistent in Los Angeles County. You can join us as pioneers in providing this critical relief to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

GET INVOLVED

Contact LACLJ's Pro Bono Manager, **Amanda Jancu**, at amandaj@lajl.org for more information!