



*"Local Services, Global Reach"*

# FJC Legal Network

# Legal Network

- Program of the Alliance
- Launched in July 2009 as a TRO clinic at the request of Lt. Luhnnow
- Initially funded by OVW for 6 months
- Currently funded by Avon for 1 year
- Seeking additional funding in partnership with CCS and the FJC



# Staff of the FJC Legal Network



Alexia E. Peters,  
Managing Attorney



Michelle Adams,  
Staff Attorney



Yvonne Coiner,  
Court Support Advocate

# Supported by 15 Intern & Volunteer Positions

- Intern Positions:
  - Coordinator
  - Legal Screener
  - TRO Duty
  - Administration
  - Advocacy
  - Special Projects
  - CFJI
  - National
  - International



# Stats (to date)

- 89.4% of clients apply for TROs
- 10% of clients are provided with Court Support (Court Support did not begin until December)
- 2% of clients go to Court Preparation Classes
- 932 Volunteer/Intern Hours valued at \$21,240.28
- 5 E-box clients
- 90% of clients are FJC Walk-Ins (with 54% of those clients being referred by the police); 10% are other Referrals

# On-line Legal Training

- Recorded Sessions:
  - Crimes & Collecting the Evidence
  - Legal Network Day to Day Operations
  - FJC Alliance Internship Program
  - Overview of Civil & Criminal Justice System & Protection Orders
  - Safety & Security



# The Steps

- Check-in at the FJC – no appointment
- Legal Screening
- Meet with Attorney & Prepare Paperwork
- Submit Application to Court via Fax
- Wait for Approval & future Court Date
- Follow up with Court Advocate
- Attend Court Preparation
- Attend OSC Hearing with CS Advocate or Law student

# Client Welcome Packet: English/Spanish

- Developed by Brenda Lugo
- Realizing that the criminal and civil process can be overwhelming and scary at times, the client welcome packet was developed with the goal of assisting clients to understand the TRO process
- The welcome packet includes the Legal Advocacy packet with info on how to file a restraining order, court hearing preparation tips, checklist for documenting DV, mediation tips and child custody checklist and much more. In addition, the welcome packet includes Stalking and DV Fact Sheet as well as the Facts Victims of Strangulation Need to Know brochure



# Special thanks to the VOICES COMMITTEE for their on-going feedback



# ETO – Client Tracking System

- Developed by Melissa Mack for the Legal Network
- ETO tracks all aspects of Intake, DV-110, DV-130 and follow up
- Tracks demographics, legal assistance requested, legal assistance provided, and incident history, including corroborating evidence



# TRO Program for Legal Network

- In December, we conducted an analysis of the first 300 clients served at the Legal Network with the help of survivors, interns and staff



# Results of the TRO Study

- Reviewed outcomes from 297 Clients (July through Dec 2009)
  - All data was recorded in ETO
  - Analyzed what the clients requested in the application to what the clients received after the hearing
- Conducted phone surveys with 70 Clients
  - Interviews were conducted by survivors and Brenda Lugo assisted with Spanish-speaking Clients

# Benefit of Court Support

- “I was a mess. I did not understand anything that was happening. Then three VOICES committee members showed up to be with me in court and I pulled it together. It was amazing.”

# Findings from Surveys

- Clients requested more support in the TRO Process in filling out forms (46%), court preparation (62%) and debriefing after the hearing (50%).
- Clients expressed a strong interest and need for court support (78%); more risk assessment and safety planning (29%) and additional legal assistance (32%).
- Clients said they did not understand what was happening in court (57%).

# Results from Client Case Files

- 78% of the ex parte orders were granted but only 55% of those clients obtained a permanent order.
- 36% of the clients voluntarily dropped the protective order at the hearing (no court advocate present).
- 23% dropped the order because the abuser's opposition and/or lack of evidence.

# Results from Client Case Files

- 61% of cases had corroborating evidence
  - 81% of those cases included photos of injuries
- Only 4% of all abusers were ordered to a 52-week counseling program
- 8% of cases were continued
- Nearly 30% of the clients wanted to pursue a divorce.

# Held Focus Groups to develop the Legal Network Vision



# Findings

- Clients need additional assistance with:
  - Collecting the evidence
  - Court preparation and support
  - Obtaining additional services for themselves and children
  - Court representation at the OSC hearing
  - Legal representation for child custody, child support, paternity, divorce and/or immigration matters.

# New Protocol – Independent Corroboration

- A police report is filed with every application for a temporary protection order where a report was made with the SDPD.
- Since the policy changed, 80% have been granted at the ex parte hearing & 53% at the OSC.
- Thank you Judy!



# Court Preparation

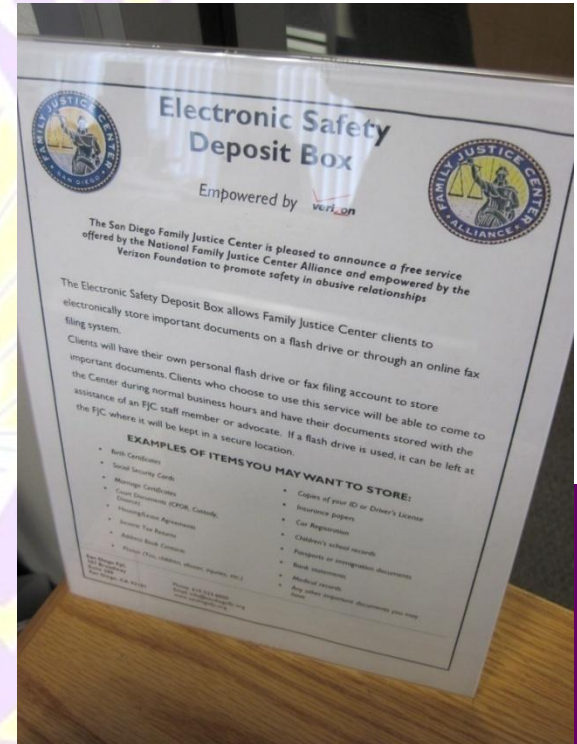


# The Client Resource Manual

- Developed by Lynn Freeman
- Sponsored by Coronado Soroptimist
- Available soon



# Electronic Safety Deposit Box – Sponsored by Verizon





*privacy* *All people* *Liberty* *Speak*  
*Conscience* *without discrimination.* *common good*  
**California Secretary of State Debra Bowen** *protecting*

- [Safe at Home](#) ▶
- [How does Safe at Home work?](#) ▶
- [More protection than a post office box](#) ▶
- [Provisions for Reproductive Healthcare Workers](#) ▶
- [Voter registration and voting](#) ▶
- [How do I sign up?](#) ▶
- [Safe at Home News](#) ▶
- [Enrolling Agencies](#) ▶
- [Other State Programs](#) ▶
- [Materials Available](#) ▶
- [Useful Links](#) ▶
- [Legislation](#) ▶
- [E-mail Us](#) ▶

## How does Safe at Home work?

If you are a survivor of domestic violence, victim of stalking or a victim of sexual assault... If you are living in fear as a provider, employee, volunteer or patient of a reproductive health care clinic... the Secretary of State's **Safe At Home** program can help keep your assailant from finding you.

- **SAFE AT HOME** will give you an official, substitute address to use in place of your real home address.
- All first class mail, legal documents and certified mail will come to our offices here in Sacramento. We will forward them to you and keep your real address absolutely confidential. Mail is forwarded within 48 hours.
- For most participants, this is a no-cost mail forwarding service. Doctors and other health care professionals pay just a small service fee for this unique service.
- You can sign up with an [enrolling agency](#), such as domestic violence shelters or reproductive health care facilities. An enrolling agency will work with you on the evidence of abuse or threats required for enrollment. Many local police, therapists and even schools can refer you to an enrolling agency.

# Enrolling Agencies in SD

- South Bay Community Services
- Community Resource Center Encinitas
- Center for Community Solutions
- Women's Resource Center Oceanside
- Family Justice Center Legal Network
- Jewish Family Services San Diego
- San Diego Deaf Mental Health Services
- San Diego County DA- Victim Assistance

# Pending

- Safety Planning Course
- Post-TRO Legal Course
- Court Representation
- Expanded Legal Services
- High Risk Team

# Thank you to our Funders

- OVW
- Verizon Foundation
- AVON
- Soroptimist of Coronado
  - Gift Cards
  - Manual
- And Lori Gilliam for managing it all!



# Thank you - the FJC Alliance Team



**Casey Gwinn, JD**



**Gael Strack, JD**



**Sgt. Robert Keetch,  
Ret.**



**Jennifer Anderson**



**Brenda Lugo**



**Lori Gillam, CPA**



**Michelle Adams, JD**



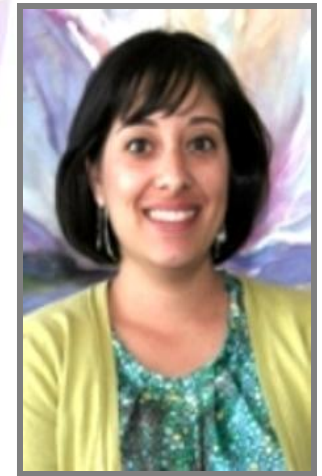
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# Thank you – FJC Alliance Team

