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## Providing Assistance to Victims of Abuse

### SARA RONDON, DVP DIRECTOR

Los Angeles County Bar Association  
Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP)

Last year alone, over 4,700 victims of abuse came to the DVP seeking protection from their abusers. Many are referred by local law enforcement, shelters, the courts, or social workers. Others find us out of their own personal desire to end the cycle of violence. Many are fearful that their lives are in immediate danger or have recently suffered horrific abuse.

Waiting for them are the DVP volunteers. Attorneys, paralegals, law students, and others who arrive every day to help the thousands of victims that come to the courthouse yearly. These volunteers listen, counsel, and prepare the paperwork necessary for a temporary restraining order. They are quick and efficient yet are able to provide comfort at a crucial moment in a victim's life.

Victims like Mary:

*"A few nights ago, John came home to the apartment we shared and began yelling and cursing at me. I was in bed when he staggered into the room angry, smelling of alcohol with blood-shot eyes. I saw that he had a gun in his pocket. John put his hands in his pocket and said, cursing at me "You think I'm a fool! I'm going to kill you; I don't care if I go to prison!"*

*"I left our bedroom and went into my daughter's room to get away from him. I lay down on the bed next to my sleeping daughter and he followed me into her room. He began punching holes in the walls while I begged him to stop. He then told me "Come outside and take it like a champ. I am going to kill you!"*

*He started punching his left fist into his palm, and then came to the bed and grabbed my arm to try and drag me off the bed and out of the room. My daughter had woken from the noise and began to cry. I managed to break away from him and begged him to calm down. He screamed "if you don't come out here, watch, I'm going to kill you!"*

Mary managed to get herself and her daughter out of the apartment and fled to a family member's home. She came to the DVP terrified for her life and the safety of her child. With the help of a DVP volunteer she was

granted a restraining order keeping John away from her and the children. She recently returned to the DVP to thank the volunteers for helping her regain control of her life.

Your support will help LACBA's DVP provide a place of hope and assistance to victims of violence.

Please volunteer, donate, or support!

Your help can make a difference in someone's life.

For more information please visit [www.lacba.org/dvp](http://www.lacba.org/dvp)

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