

An Evening With LSC

Celebrating 40 Years

Featuring

Guest Author

Vanessa Diffenbaugh

New York Times best-selling author of *The Language of Flowers* and co-founder of Camellia Network

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TODAY’S PROGRAM

Welcome

Ann Alpers, Event Committee Co-Chair
President, S.H. Cowell Foundation

Forty Years of Children’s
Advocacy

Abigail Trillin, Executive Director
Legal Services for Children

Author Presentation

Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Author and co-founder of Camellia Network

The Client Experience

Jamice C.
Current LSC Client

Leadership Awards

Presented by Andrea Del-Pan, Pro Bono Director

The Pro Bono Experience

Gina Guarienti Cook
2015 Pro Bono Leadership Award Winner

Farewell

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Susan Tunnell, Event Committee Co-Chair
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History

Founded in 1975, LSC is one of the country’s first non-profit law firms dedicated to representing children and youth. We pioneered the model of multidisciplinary holistic advocacy that is considered best practice in children’s legal services today.

Vision

All children should be raised in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment with equal access to meaningful education and other services that are necessary to thrive and grow. Our youth deserve positive alternatives to unnecessary placement in foster care, juvenile justice facilities, and immigration detention.

Approach

Our young clients may be assigned by the court, referred by a caring adult, or they may come to us on their own, via a phone call or by visiting a drop-in clinic. When we open a case, we assign an attorney and social worker who function as a team and tap into diverse community resources to address the interconnecting concerns of every client—legal, physical, social, psychological, economic, and educational. We empower our young clients to take active roles in their cases and the critical decisions that affect their lives.

Our Clients

Each year we respond to 1,500 requests for information and referrals, and handle over 700 newly opened or continuing client cases involving foster care, guardianship, emancipation, school expulsion, and immigration matters. The majority of our clients are children of color and half speak a primary language other than English.

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Guest Author: Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Vanessa Diffenbaugh was born in San Francisco and raised in Chico, California. After graduating from Stanford University, she worked in the non-profit sector, teaching art and technology to youth in low-income communities. Her debut novel, *The Language of Flowers*, was on The New York Times best seller list for 50 weeks and has been translated into more than 40 languages. Following the success of her novel, she co-founded Camellia Network, a non-profit whose mission is to connect every youth aging out of foster care to the critical resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive in adulthood. Her forthcoming book, *We Never Asked for Wings*, will be released this August. She currently lives in Monterey, CA, where her husband PK Diffenbaugh is the Superintendent of Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. Vanessa and PK have four children: Donovan, 25, Tre’von, 22, Graciela, 8, and Miles, 7.

“As a foster mother and activist, I am in awe of the good work that Legal Services for Children does for kids on a daily basis. It is difficult, exhausting work and I will do anything I can to support their attorneys and organization to continue defending the rights of children in a troubled system.”

–*Vanessa Diffenbaugh*

PRO BONO LEADERSHIP HONOREES

The following recipients of the 2015 Pro Bono Leadership Awards were selected for diverse reasons—devoting long hours of service or taking on multiple cases, stepping up for a particularly challenging case, employing innovative legal strategies, or going “above and beyond the call of duty” in a notable way. Whatever the nature of the case or the situation of the client, each of these attorneys has made a life-changing contribution to the well-being of a child and we are proud to salute them today.



Gina Guarienti Cook is a senior associate in Paul Hastings’ Employment Law practice and is based in the firm’s San Francisco office. Ms. Cook represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment law, including discrimination, harassment, and wage-and-hour cases, and compliance issues. Ms. Cook has focused her practice on litigating wage-hour class actions and high-stakes retaliation and wrongful termination cases, and she also has significant experience assisting clients with large-scale audits of their employment practices, particularly those related to wage-hour issues. Ms. Cook received her J.D. in 2006 from Yale Law School. She also holds a Master’s and a Bachelor’s degree in English from Stanford University. Ms. Cook serves as the Pro Bono Coordinator for Paul Hastings’ San Francisco office and has worked closely with LSC for the past five years. Her pro bono work has been focused

on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases, but she has also represented children in guardianship and asylum petitions and has overseen Paul Hastings’ amicus work for LSC. Ms. Cook has also been involved in various working groups designed to address the current crisis involving unaccompanied minors.



John (“Jack”) E. Dittoe has been practicing law for 35 years. He has been a partner at Reed Smith LLP in San Francisco since 2003 and before that at Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May (1979-2002). His practice has largely focused on litigation, in the areas of product liability, toxic tort, health care, commercial, insurance, environmental and Prop 65, with some regulatory and compliance counseling. He has served as national and regional counsel for various corporations involved in toxic tort litigation. He has served as trial counsel in a variety of courts, as well as having handled arbitrations and administrative proceedings. He has been a member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (“ABTL”), Defense Research Institute (“DRI”), Associate of Defense Counsel of Northern California, the ABA (Litigation Section) and the bar associations for San Francisco and Alameda counties through which he has served as a mediator and arbitrator. For many years, he served as a member of the Advisory Boards of the Prop 65 publications (Prop 65 Clearinghouse and Prop 65 News). Jack has handled education cases for LSC, the last one having involved a high school student in his senior year facing expulsion.



Keith Wurster serves as the Pro Bono Chair for the San Francisco and Palo Alto offices of Baker & McKenzie, LLP. He is also a member of Baker McKenzie’s Dispute Resolution Practice Group. His commercial practice focuses on domestic and international litigation and arbitration. He has extensive experience in product liability, compliance, copyright, trademark, trade secret, distributor disputes, and privacy matters. His pro bono practice includes special education advocacy, immigration, and juvenile matters. He has also prepared and filed a number of amicus briefs in both state and federal appellate courts on a variety of children’s issues, including immigration, detention, and special education. He is the former Chair of the Santa Clara County Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee and currently serves as the Vice President on the Board of Directors for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. He has represented a number of LSC’s clients in filing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications and recently led the effort to file an amicus brief on a juvenile detention issue.

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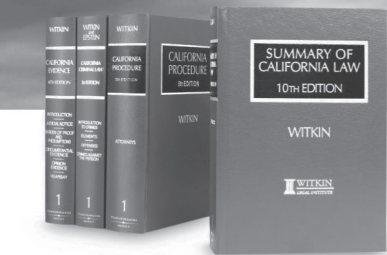
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LSC coordinates and supports a panel of over 200 attorneys throughout the San Francisco Bay Area who represent youth on a pro bono basis in guardianship, school discipline, and immigration cases. Last year, these advocates collectively contributed over 3,700 hours of legal service valued at more than \$1.8 million. The powerful force of legal volunteers significantly increases LSC’s capacity to serve the Bay Area’s most vulnerable youth.

No experience in LSC’s practice areas is required as each volunteer attorney receives training as well as ongoing technical assistance from LSC’s experienced staff attorneys. In-house corporate counsel are encouraged to join. For more information, please contact Andrea Del-Pan, Pro Bono Director, at (415) 780-6330 or andrea@lsc-sf.org. The individuals listed below are being recognized for their recent LSC Pro Bono service.

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Cecilia Candia
Staff Attorney

Miguel Castillo
Administrative Assistant

Linn Chiu
Senior Social Worker
Moises Cruz
Administrative Coordinator

Andrea Del-Pan
Senior Staff Attorney & Pro Bono
Director

Mayra Esparza
Grants Coordinator

Alvaro Franco
Legal Assistant/Emerson Fellow

Semuteh Freeman
Staff Attorney/Skadden Fellow

Fanny Giglmayr
Social Work Volunteer

Christian Gutierrez
Legal Assistant

Rob V. Kish
Finance Manager

Erin Maxwell
Social Worker & DICP Director

Ashley Connell Melwani
Staff Attorney

Michelle Nguyen
Development Associate

Jennifer Oliva
Intake/Outreach Coordinator

Eliza Patten
Senior Staff Attorney &
Dependency Project Director
María Pérez
Social Worker

Rumeli Snyder
Senior Social Worker

Beatriz Torres
Social Worker

Hayley Upshaw
Senior Staff Attorney & Immigration
Project Director

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Anabel Agloro
Amelia Anderson
Brittany Benavides
Joanna Camacho
Grecia Ceja
Lilian Fabela
Rishi Gupta
Soha Jafarzade
Ingrid Lara
Olivia Mendoza
Douglas Morataya
Jennifer Pham
Tania Prado
Jill Shaw
Chelsie Thurmond
Samantha Wu



1254 Market Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.863.3762 T
415.863.7708 F
www.lsc-sf.org