



## **Law Firm Attorney Sabbatical Program**

### **Oakland – Regional Position**

#### **Advocacy for Sexual Assault Survivors – Bay Area**

Description: Currently no legal services program in the Bay Area provides representation specifically for sexual assault (SA) survivors. After many years of advocacy, many legal protections have been established to address the needs of domestic violence (DV) survivors; however, SA, sexual violence by someone who is not an intimate partner or relative, is now where DV was 30 years ago.

Unlike a DV Survivor seeking a restraining order, a SA survivor cannot seek to have her abuser removed from her home (ex a violent roommate), cannot seek reimbursement for medical expenses and/or lost wages, and is not entitled to unemployment benefits if s/he has to leave their job (though one-fourth to one-third of survivors lose their jobs following an attack). Change is on the way, the CA legislature passed legislation that allows DV and SA survivors to terminate their leases to flee the violence. This project would be at the forefront of the changes we need to empower sexual assault survivors to recover and live productive, secure lives.

Responsibilities: Under the supervision of BayLegal's Domestic Violence Regional Counsel – Family Law and Regional Immigration Law Coordinator (both experts in their field):

- Represent SA Survivors in obtaining Civil Harassment Orders (CHO) and addressing other legal needs such as housing, public benefits, health care, and immigration;
- Provide technical assistance to BayLegal attorneys and community rape crisis centers on the legal protections and benefits available to survivors of sexual assault;
- Advocate for improved public policy, and
- Conduct community education and outreach.

Qualifications:

- CA Bar License required
- Experience working with sexual assault survivors and sensitivity to the needs of this population preferred

Location: Oakland, CA (willing to travel to/from court throughout the Bay Area)