

## CLSACC VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY HELPS MOTHER AND CHILD MOVE OUT OF POVERTY

CLSACC's client "Vicky" married "Pierre" and a year later they had a daughter, "Ann". Pierre had always been domineering, but after Ann was born he became a tyrant who ordered Vicky around until she was scared all the time that something unspeakable would happen to her and Ann. Pierre began threatening to take Ann back to his home in Eastern Europe. His attacks escalated, and in December 1999, he struck Vicky in a terrible rage.



CLSACC volunteer attorney Susan Corcoran

Fearing that he would try to kill her, Vicky obtained a permanent court order to make Pierre leave the house and stay away. A CLSACC attorney helped her file for divorce, and Vicky obtained custody of Ann and \$75 a week in support. In his anger, Pierre convinced Vicky that he would take Ann and disappear if she tried to get more support from him. Vicky believed his threats and did not ask for any increases for ten years. Money was always short, but she was afraid that Pierre would make good on his threats.

*"At times I just wanted to give up, but you pushed me forward....I will never forget you."*

Finally, wanting to give Ann a better life, Vicky came back to CLSACC. Pierre insisted he had little income and more debts than assets. CLSACC's volunteer attorney **Susan Corcoran** fought back. Vicky's child support was raised to \$200 per week, and her divorce settlement awarded her \$55,000.

Vicky expressed her deep gratitude in a note she sent to Susan. She writes:

*"...You will never know how thankful I am for all your help. You listened to me ramble on when I know you didn't have the time. You treated me with respect,*

## CLSACC DRAMATICALLY INCREASES SERVICE LEVELS

The Center faced an enormous shortfall in our legal services funding in FY2010, but with your generosity and an unprecedented contribution by volunteer attorneys and mental health professionals, CLSACC served 1,400 clients, a 17% increase over the previous year. Volunteers contributed 13,000 hours of donated professional services, a 22% increase over FY2009. We are very grateful to the law firm of Dwyer & Collora, who provided attorney **Laurie Carafone** for one year as a full time legal fellow in our immigration unit. Laurie made a huge contribution to the agency and its clients. She was recently named a "Rising Star" in Boston Magazine's recognition of outstanding lawyers.

The economic crisis has heightened the need for CLSACC's legal and counseling services. Low income families are faced with increased rates of domestic violence, unemployment and evictions caused by foreclosures. We could not have served so many clients without your financial help. On behalf of our clients and staff, thank you for all your support.



CLSACC immigration attorney Deirdre Giblin & Dwyer & Collora fellow Laurie Carafone

*kindness and compassion...The additional work and effort you put into the case was truly a blessing. You handled the case with precision never missing a beat. At times I just wanted to give up, but you pushed me forward....I will never forget you."*

Vicky is back in school, and is able to move forward. Ann is now in high school, and plans to go to college.



Watch for our new website at [www.clsacc.org](http://www.clsacc.org)!

With the support of CLSACC's many generous donors and a grant from The Center for Victims of Torture's National Capacity Building Project, CLSACC has expanded its current website to include more detailed information describing our services for refugee and immigrant survivors of torture and trauma.

"We're really proud of the new site," says Executive Director Barbara Mitchell. "It now reflects our expanded counseling and legal services available for survivors of torture and trauma, and will serve as a much more useful tool for our clients and for other service providers."

## CLSACC UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

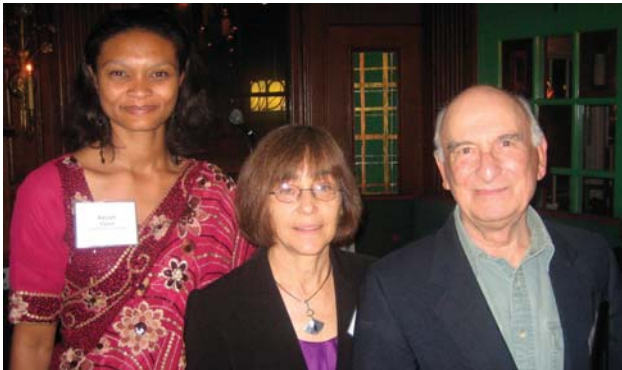
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## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CLSACC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY!



Event Chair Azizah Yasin, Executive Director Barbara Mitchell, & founder Dr. Joseph Brenner



Board member Hugo Kamy, Counseling volunteer Alice LoCicero, & former Board member Rick Reinkraut

To celebrate 40 years of service to the community, CLSACC held a festive event and fundraiser on September 27th at UpStairs on the Square in Cambridge. We hosted 185 supporters, and both past and present volunteers and staff. The program honored staff and volunteers who have worked twenty years or more with CLSACC and our clients.

Thank you to our many sponsors and in-kind donors, ticket buyers, and everyone who participated in the silent auction. Because of your generosity, the event raised **\$45,000** to help us close our budget gap. With continued cuts to state legal services funding, the proceeds will help CLSACC maintain our service levels in the coming year.



Board President April English with 20 Year Club Honorees: Marie Lee, Adrian Touw, Richard Godes, Jeff Wolf, Toni Lee Pomeroy, Leslee Klein, Sandra Lovell, Dr. Joseph Brenner, Paul Goldmuntz, & Debra Fillurin