



The Mission Continues...with your help

Starting over can be nearly impossible when toxic and sometimes dangerous people do not allow you to move forward. In order to support our clients and help them and their children obtain a semblance of safety, we help them obtain restraining orders against abusers, which can range from abusive boyfriends to traffickers and/or violent buyers.

Protective orders are used in the civil court system and tell someone to stop harassing, threatening, or hurting the petitioner, and may require the respondent to stay away from the petitioner. Protective orders help our clients in other ways, too: they can give temporary custody of children and order payments for damaged property. In domestic violence cases, a protective order can be evidence that the petitioner is a victim and that can make it easier to access victims' services.

On our [website](#), you may have seen [Sara's* story](#). Amara represented Sara* in court to obtain protection from her trafficker who was sending her threatening messages about how he planned to harm her and her children. After Amara assisted Sara in obtaining an extension of Sara's Civil Protection Order, her trafficker ceased contacting her. No one should fear or dread receiving a text or phone call alert. Our clients deserve to live peace-filled and self-determined lives like everyone else.

The No Show Ball ensures that we can continue to support clients like Sara* and her children. Even the smallest gift makes a difference. What better way to end 2019 than to donate to an important cause, while you lounge on your couch in your pj's and cue Netflix for your next binge?

Join the party and challenge your friends to match your gift or contribute what they can!

To learn more about our services and what your gift to the No Show Ball helps us do visit www.amaralegal.org or [make a donation](#).

*Names in this message have been changed to protect client confidentiality.



Our Kickoff

We kicked off the No Show Ball with a Facebook live on December 3rd. If you missed it, you can still view it over on our Facebook [page](#). Thank you to everyone who watched and sent in questions. It was very engaging conversation that gave our team a chance to discuss things like why we got into this line of legal work, the communities we serve, and how we'd like to see Amara Legal and it's work grow. It was fun to share the importance of our work and the No Show Ball, all while rocking our pajamas.



Staff Spotlight: Llamilet Gutierrez



Why it's important and why we provide the service?

Protective orders are a legal remedy our clients have to obtain protection from their abuser, who might be a trafficker, a client, their child's father, or another abusive individual in their life. For many of our clients, protective orders allow them to get a safe distance from their trafficker when they are able to take the steps to leave. While protective orders put distance between victims and their abusers, this legal relief comes at a cost. Victims must explain in open court why they're pursuing a protective order, present evidence, and relive difficult experiences.

Something as seemingly straightforward as providing evidence of abuse can be a difficult choice for victims since it may open them up to prosecution for criminal activity they were forced to participate in while being trafficked. They have no way of knowing who will be in the courtroom or if their trafficker will be present. These factors leave clients feeling vulnerable and sometimes even dissuade victims from pursuing this legal relief.

We provide clients a full understanding of obtaining protective orders and support them with whatever decision they decide to make: pursuing the protective order or dropping the protective order after obtaining a temporary one. We are stated interest attorneys and

ultimately will do whatever our clients decide.

Emergency Client Needs

In addition to legal services, many of our clients have short-term, emergency needs. Since they are not legal services, these important client needs -- including baby formula, groceries, child care, and transportation costs -- are not typically covered by our grant funding. We rely heavily on sources of unrestricted funding, such as donations and general operating support, to ensure our clients' emergency needs are met.

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