



Quarterly E-Newsletter

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Get to Know the Commission: Laura Farber

Attorney Laura Farber joined the Commission in 2005 as a member and will continue to serve through 2008. She was attracted to the strong work that the Commission has done in bringing together all of the local and state efforts to combat domestic violence, its work in creating a national voice for victims and developing awareness about pending legislation that may effect such efforts.

The Commission is lucky to have Laura as one of its members: a partner in the Pasadena firm of Hahn & Hahn, Laura is also extremely active in the ABA. Currently, in addition to serving as a Commission member, she is vice chair of the Presidential Initiative on Youth At Risk, a division director of the General Practice Solo and Small Firm Section, an active member of the Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section, and a Member of the Board of Editors of the ABA Journal.

She is especially proud of the Commission's Domestic Violence Screening Tool for attorneys, and particularly, the adaptation of the tool into a card for use specifically by attorneys represented in the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice and GP Solo sections of the ABA. We are grateful to Laura for her help in seeing this project through!

Laura has been involved locally in domestic violence advocacy by helping individuals (mostly those who speak Spanish) obtain restraining orders. She has

also worked with other non-profits to help distribute brochures to employers about resources, rights and the employer restraining order procedures available for use in California. In her time with the Commission, she has already developed more awareness about how to detect the signs that an individual is a victim, and now tries to encourage more attorneys to pursue *pro bono* representation. She remains frustrated by the difficulties of connecting victims with services, and the costs of legal representation for those who are above poverty guidelines but are not able to afford to hire an attorney.

Laura wants readers to know that the work and reach of the Commission is broader than you might think and we are constantly reaching greater numbers of attorneys to foster assistance to victims. Serving on the Commission is a great way to get more involved with policy and outreach, and she encourages attorneys to apply for a position; it is a wonderful experience!

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