

Human Trafficking and the Legal Needs of Trafficked Persons



San Mateo County Human Trafficking Initiative
August 11, 2020

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Meeting Clients Where They Are



Justice At Last Believes That...

- Access to **trauma-informed** and **survivor-driven** free comprehensive legal services are critical to survivor empowerment and transformation
- For justice to eradicate all forms of human trafficking, survivors must have the opportunity to define and seek justice on their own terms
- Building capacity and increased collaboration is crucial to developing a community response to combating human trafficking

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Meet the Justice At Last Staff - Lawyers



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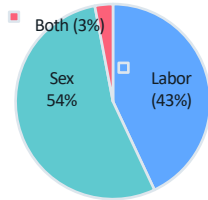
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The Real Experts
Justice At Last Advisors



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Justice At Last Client Demographic



- Average age of a JAL client is mid 20's to early 30's
- Prior to 2018, majority of clients were female victims of sex trafficking
- Current: 26% Male 74% Female
- Recent increase in identification of labor trafficking and male clients.

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PART 2: The Legal Needs

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Justice At Last Client Legal Needs

Top Legal Areas:

- Crime Victims' Rights (33%)
- Post-Conviction Vacatur (16%)
- Family Law(11%)
- Immigration Relief (8%).
- Since its inception, JAL has offered CVR representation to 100% of its clients
- In 2019, 100 survivors successfully participated in the criminal legal system to hold the trafficker accountable

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Justice At Last Comprehensive Legal Intake

- Civil/Restitution
- Crime Victims' Rights (CVR)
- Family Law
- Education Access
- Identity Theft Recovery
- Immigration
- Juvenile Court
 - Dependency/Delinquency
- Public Benefits
- Post-Conviction Relief
 - Vacatur
 - Expungement
- Protective Orders
- Worker's Rights

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Justice At Last Legal Needs Summary

- Most of our clients require legal representation in two or more complex legal areas simultaneously
- Many clients do not self-identify their legal needs or are aware of the legal rights that exist to protect them
- Common for both foreign-national and domestic survivors to not be familiar with various legal systems including the criminal legal system

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Impact of COVID-19

- Temporarily suspended all in-person client meetings and staff are working remotely except for as needed client accompaniment to report crimes to law enforcement and triage of cases;
- Regular e-appearances and in-person appearances in court;
- Developed a resource guide that answers common legal questions;
- Dealing with an influx of calls for new legal needs because many of our clients are facing new basic needs challenges and require additional legal services to access unemployment benefits, disability insurance, renter protections, wage theft and victim compensation;

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Impact of COVID-19

- Working closely with our clients on the phone to continue providing holistic wrap-around services;
- Received a surge in requests for emergency basic needs support, from assistance with rent payments, food and gas gift cards, and recently paid a client's utility bills;
- Already exceeded of our client incidentals' budget to meet our clients' emergencies requests for assistance.
- Collaborated and forged new partnerships with CBOs and Foundations to provide PPE and emergency support for our clients

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Impact of COVID-19



- Not all clients have smart phones or laptops
- No privacy where they live
- Wearing masks can be triggering

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Collaboration Next Steps

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Justice At Last Referral System

- Courts are still not fully open and types of cases being heard are very limited
- Still triaging urgent immediate cases with on-going criminal prosecution, and emergency legal needs
- Currently operating a wait list for services dependent on when courts open
- Email Admin@justiceatlast.org to obtain link to our Online Services Referral form

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Justice At Last Available Trainings

- In-Depth HT Analysis
- DV/HT Cross-Over Cases Common Pitfalls
- Understanding the Anti-Trafficking Legal Framework
- Protecting Privilege
- Recent CA HT laws
- Victims' Rights Advocacy
- Vacatur
- Public Benefits
- Identity Theft Relief

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