

## Summer 2014 Newsletter

*Sponsored by Phillips Lerner, A Law Corporation*

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### Founders



Ziva Sirkis Naumann  
Ethel Levitt (1911-1995)  
Grace Quinn (1915-2006)

### Mission

To provide affordable legal representation in family law matters to low-income families of Los Angeles County to ensure stability for children and their families in the face of legal difficulties

### Important Dates

**2014 Stand for Justice Gala**  
**September 27, 2014**  
**Skirball Center**

## A Message from the Executive Director

In this newsletter we share the story of [Camellia](#), one of the many children Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center has helped to make part of a permanent family. Levitt & Quinn provides representation in cases in which relatives and caregivers seek to formalize their parental role in a child's life. These families did not step in after the child became part of the foster care system, rather these caregivers stepped in to care for abandoned children before the children became part of the dependency court and foster care system. Whether it is a grandmother who stepped in to raise her grandsons after their substance addicted mother was arrested for drug possession or whether it is a neighbor who took in five siblings after the oldest knocks on the door looking for food because two days have passed since their father went out to buy groceries- all of these caregivers did the right thing and helped a child who had no one to care for them.

These caregivers are not provided with free representation as are the prospective parents adopting through the foster care system. Levitt & Quinn created its Adoption Program to provide representation to those who stepped up when they were needed. Toyota Financial Services helps make this program possible by underwriting a portion of its costs each year since 2010. You-our supporters-help make this program possible with your generous donations. On behalf of the more than 100 families Levitt & Quinn assists with adoptions each year, thank you.

Tai Glenn

**AD DEADLINE AUGUST 15TH**  
For more info contact:  
[ckowalczyk@levittquinn.org](mailto:ckowalczyk@levittquinn.org)

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## An Adoption Story

Camellia's\* family came to Levitt & Quinn seeking to adopt her into their loving care. Born with a serious disability, adoption was complicated by the fact that the family needed extra financial support in order to provide for her medical needs. As the parents tried valiantly to make Camellia a part of their family, they came up against roadblock after roadblock. Lack of clarity on being approved for disability benefits threatened to foreclose those benefits forever, jeopardizing the family's ability to provide Camellia with the best possible care. Despite the frustrating path that led them to the doors of Levitt & Quinn, the parents were more determined than ever to move forward with the adoption and make Camellia a permanent member of their family. Levitt & Quinn attorney Sharon Hulse worked tirelessly to facilitate this complex adoption case, negotiating on her behalf to obtain the funds that would give her the care she needed. Ultimately, a successful outcome was reached, and Camellia is flourishing under the charge of her permanent family with access to the medical support that is so important to her wellbeing.

\*Not client's real name.

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## Volunteers



Megha Bhatt



JaVon Payton

Volunteer Law Clerks JaVon Payton and Megha Bhatt are just a few days from completing a 10-week summer internship with Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center through the AmeriCorps JD program. Their internships focused on Levitt & Quinn's Veterans Project. The two law students assisted with intake and legal clinics, prepared paperwork and pleadings, conducted legal research, and helped with hearing preparation. They gained valuable experience

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interviewing clients and observing court proceedings. In addition, JaVon and Megha worked on creating a "Know Your Rights" manual to provide to veterans to make them aware of common family law issues that veterans face. These materials were then used as part of a presentation given to veterans at several low-income housing facilities.

Both JaVon and Megha hope to practice family law or public interest law following graduation from law school next year. In thinking about her volunteer work, Megha, a student at UC Davis School of Law, says that "working with the smart and dedicated attorneys at Levitt & Quinn was a great way to spend my summer as a law student. I am happy to have learned valuable skills that I know will serve me well as I begin my legal career. I especially enjoyed working with veterans and developing a Know Your Rights training and brochure, which I hope will continue to assist veterans in the future." Vanderbilt University Law School student JaVon expressed gratitude for her summer internship, noting that she received "hands-on training in family law issues, and learned how to help people to cope with the heightened emotions that accompany their cases" and added, "I have gained a team of invaluable mentors to lean on as I continue to pursue my family law career."

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## Phillips Lerner, A Law Corporation Supports Levitt & Quinn's Spring eNewsletter



**PHILLIPS LERNER**  
DIVORCE AND FAMILY LAW

Divorce and family law  
matters change life's course.

As one of Southern

California's most respected family law firms, Phillips Lerner helps high net worth clients with important legal transitions in their lives. The distinguished attorneys at Phillips Lerner provide the capabilities, competence and special care that each individual case deserves, in all types of family law situations: Pre-Divorce, Divorce/Dissolution, Custody, Paternity, Domestic Partnerships, Domestic Violence, and Post-Divorce matters. The firm's goal is to customize its services to provide what each client needs most, in all instances going the extra mile.

"As a law firm dedicated to helping children and families, supporting important organizations like Levitt & Quinn is part of our mission to sponsor programs providing essential outreach to families in need," says Managing Principal Stacy D. Phillips.

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## How You Can Support Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center

In many ways, Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center can be measured by the overall financial commitment and participation of its donors. More than half of Levitt & Quinn's operating budget is from law firms, corporations, foundations and individuals. By contributing to Levitt & Quinn, you ensure that we can fulfill our mission today and in the future. Every gift, whether \$10,000 or \$10, makes a difference. There are many ways to give:

- \*Cash Gifts
- \*Gifts of Stock, Bonds & Mutual Funds
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- \*Planned Gifts and Bequests.
- \*[Register](#) with Amazon Smile at no cost to you, and select Levitt & Quinn as the nonprofit you would like to support

To learn more about giving to Levitt & Quinn contact Tai Glenn, Executive Director at (213) 482-1800 or [tglenn@levittquinn.org](mailto:tglenn@levittquinn.org). To contribute online, please visit our secure donation page [here](#).

Levitt Quinn  
A Nonprofit Family Law Center