

## Summer 2013 Newsletter

Sponsored by The Law Office of Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, LLP

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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

July 27, 2013

**MCLE Training:  
Cultural Competency in  
Family Law Practice**

Find more information [here](#).

September 7, 2013

**2013 Annual Gala at  
Skirball Cultural Center**

Event details available [here](#).  
Sponsorship information [here](#).

## Executive Director's Message

Levitt & Quinn client Susan\* and her family are safe and her children are attending school regularly after enduring years of abuse. Susan and her children escaped years of violence with the assistance of Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center. Susan found the courage to leave the relationship after the father of her infant son, Danny, hit her three-year-old son and attacked her as she held Danny. Her abuser's violence and methamphetamine use escalated over three years during which she endured sexual, physical and verbal attacks. Throughout their relationship, Danny's father regularly punched, scratched and kicked her. During her pregnancy he struck her face on several occasions leaving her with permanent structural damage and numerous scars. She fled the relationship so that her children would not have to live with similar scars. \*Client's name changed to protect her privacy.

When she finally made her way to Levitt & Quinn, Susan had prepared and filed a petition for a restraining order without legal representation and had no idea how to represent herself at the hearing. She does not have a high school diploma and the paperwork she had filed lacked the facts and law necessary to support her request for a protective order. With Levitt & Quinn attorney Amanda Fleming's representation at the hearing, Susan was granted a restraining order protecting her and her four children and giving her sole legal and physical custody of Danny who now has the chance to grow up in a safe and stable home.

Every day, Levitt & Quinn attorneys represent families seeking a safe and stable home in which their children can thrive. The work of these attorneys is made possible through the financial support provided by individuals, corporations, and foundations. Donations now make up the largest single source of Levitt & Quinn's funding. Throughout the economic crisis supporters continued to donate, making it possible to keep our doors open even while a record number of nonprofits have been forced to close theirs.

The Annual Stand for Justice Gala is Levitt & Quinn's largest fundraiser and many law firms and other businesses have already shown their support for the 2013

## Thank You Tory Burch

Special thanks to Tory Burch, her staff and everyone who came out to support the Shopping Benefit on May 2nd. We had a wonderful time and deeply appreciate your generosity.

## Donate a Computer and Support Levitt & Quinn's Mission

Levitt & Quinn is in need of five computers for its interns and volunteers. If you have a gently used computer that is a few years old and will run Windows 7 please email [msrolestar@levittquinn.org](mailto:msrolestar@levittquinn.org) to make a tax deductible donation.

## Major Donors

To read about donors that share our vision click [here](#)

## Board

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Annual Stand for Justice Gala by becoming [Early Sponsors](#). Thank you to all of our supporters for making happy endings like Susan's possible.

Tai Glenn

## Board President's Message

Many forecasters are saying the economy is turning around. Even if that is true, the people at the low end of the economic scale are not seeing much improvement nor will they for some time. These are the people who depend on Levitt & Quinn when they have a family law problem.

Their jobs are uncertain and their wages average \$10-\$12 per hour so that they have no extra money to spend on lawyers, filing fees, and other legal expenses. Yet their family problems are just as important to them as are those of families with the means to retain a private attorney.



The families that Levitt & Quinn represent are seeking legal representation in cases that will decide where their children live and how they will be provided with a home, meals and healthcare. I salute all of our supporters who have helped Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center provide services to people in need so that they may find some peace and security for their families. I am grateful to our staff members who work so long and hard tackling one difficult case after another. Their commitment is extraordinary.

Cordially,

Dinah Ruch

## Board Member Wendy Landes Is Mourned

Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center board member, Wendy Landes, died recently after a lengthy, courageous and exemplary struggle with liposarcoma, a rare form of cancer for which there is no known treatment. Although Wendy and her family had only lived in Los Angeles for about 15 years, they had amassed a huge community of friends, colleagues, and supporters. Originally from New York where Wendy practiced as a D.A. and family law attorney, she joined the family law mediators' community here and soon had a thriving, highly respected practice.

For several years, Wendy was the chair of the State Bar Family Law Committee South's ADR (now CDR) subcommittee. In this role, she spearheaded the creation of a brochure explaining to parties the various means by which they could conduct their divorces, initiated a successful series of symposia on family law mediation, and was instrumental in creating a panel of adult children of divorce. Even after she was diagnosed with liposarcoma, she had what appeared to be unbounded energy and commitment to whatever she did. She continued to live her life to the fullest: playing A-level tennis, skiing, traveling to different parts of the world.

Her three twenty-something children, upon her diagnosis, created a foundation which raises funds in support of research regarding Wendy's disease. Every year her family organizes a walk in New York, Miami and Los Angeles. The Walk here takes place here on the sand in Santa Monica. The foundation has raised over \$1 million. Why not join us next year in the spring?

Wendy, taken way too early, is greatly missed by all of us. To know her was to appreciate her and to love her.

In appreciation,



Bonnie Yaeger  
Board Member

## Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein Supports Levitt & Quinn's Mission

The Levitt & Quinn Summer Newsletter was made possible by the contributions of Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, LLP. FMBK has long supported Levitt & Quinn's mission to provide affordable legal representation in family law matters for low-income families in Los Angeles County.

"Many of our attorneys have dedicated their time providing pro bono services to Levitt & Quinn by handling cases and receiving favorable outcomes for lower-income families," says managing partner Steve Mindel. "We understand the importance of the legal care that Levitt & Quinn provides to low-income families and we are proud to support them."

Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, LLP is a 15 attorney Southern California law firm with a reputation for high-caliber legal representation. FMBK concentrates on five distinct areas of law: Family Law, Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Litigation, Business Transactions, and Business Litigation. The firm's goal is to achieve the best results for clients as efficiently as possible.

## Congratulations Volunteer Violett Beyder



This spring Levitt & Quinn was fortunate to have Violett Beyder as a volunteer while she waited for her bar exam results. Violett assisted with the intake process at Levitt & Quinn and, with her compassionate demeanor, provided a sense of relief to clients who were overwhelmed by the prospect of negotiating the legal system. Violett's attention to detail and enthusiasm about new assignments garnered a favorable reputation among the staff. Levitt & Quinn staff members were thrilled to learn that Violett passed the bar exam.

"I am so happy for Violett," said Levitt & Quinn Legal Assistant Jannina Archila upon hearing the good news. "I loved to work with her. She was efficient, very organized and reliable." When asked to reflect on her time at Levitt & Quinn, Violett said, "My initial expectations of volunteering at Levitt and Quinn were geared towards gaining experience in the field of family law. I was thrilled to find out that the most powerful part of this experience was the uniquely rewarding feeling I got from providing assistance to a community lacking the access to legal resources that we all take for granted."

## 2013 Stand for Justice Early Sponsors

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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. Approximately, 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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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](#).

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