



Winter 2014 Newsletter

Sponsored by White Zuckerman Warsavsky Luna & Hunt, LLP

In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Veterans Goes Home](#)

[Loyola Fellow](#)

[With Gratitude](#)

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

**March 24 &
April 28, 2014**
**Levitt & Quinn is a proud
co-sponsor of the San
Fernando Valley Bar
Association's Trial Tech
Training. For information
contact events@sfvba.org or
[click here](#).**

Executive Director's Message

Over the last few months I have had the opportunity to observe Levitt & Quinn's attorneys in quite a few Los Angeles courtrooms. I was not surprised to be impressed by each attorney's expertise, thorough preparation and passion for their clients and their clients' families well being. I was surprised by the non-stop torrent of complex and critical decisions faced by each of the family law judges sitting in those courtrooms. We all must make life altering decisions and many of us must make them in ways that impact others on occasion. Family law judges make those decisions for families and children many times each day. The judges that I had the opportunity to observe were considerate, listened, and by allowing the parties a chance to talk, helped many find compromises. I left the courtrooms with a greater appreciation for the difficult job of family law judges and the patience and clarity so many bring to their courtrooms.

It is early in the year, but Levitt & Quinn attorneys have already made huge differences in the lives of our clients. Equal Justice Works Veterans Fellow Rebecca Miller has been with Levitt & Quinn for almost six months. In that short time, she has provided assistance to dozens of homeless veterans facing seeming insurmountable family law problems and helped them to change their lives for the better. Read Frank's story below to learn more about our Veterans Project. Staff attorney Anna Lucas just completed an eight-day trial with the assistance of David Shebby of Jacobson Scully Shebby LLP and Volunteer Adina Rosenfeld. The case was a high conflict custody case in which Levitt & Quinn's representation resulted in a child's return to his mother's care. Read [more](#) about volunteer attorney Adina Rosenfeld's work with Levitt & Quinn.

May 7, 2014
5th Annual Tory Burch Shopping Benefit.
142 S. Robertson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90048.
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
RSVP to Matt Srolestar at
[**msrolestar@levittquinn.org**](mailto:msrolestar@levittquinn.org)

September 27, 2014,
Stand for Justice Gala
Skirball Cultural Center
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Major Donors

The Annenberg Foundation
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Jaffe and Clemens
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I am thrilled that Levitt & Quinn is expanding its services in 2014. Board President Dinah Ruch's message in this newsletter focuses on Levitt & Quinn's new, child-oriented project. Thank you to all of our supporters for your financial and pro bono support that makes the work highlighted in this newsletter possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tai Glenn".

Tai Glenn

Board President's Message

Dear Friends,

Spring is just a few days away and Levitt & Quinn already has exciting news for 2014. Levitt & Quinn has launched a new program dedicated to helping children from the most disadvantaged families. There are more and more very poor people in our community and they simply cannot afford to pay even the lowest fees that we charge. They have no other options for representation in court and so must go it alone. This is a very scary option to a parent when the welfare of his or her children is at stake.

So while we continue our ongoing programs that help hundreds of families who can pay very low fees for representation and veterans who get help with their cases at no cost, we are launching a new program called the Kids Fund. The Kids Fund will provide FREE services for families who have serious issues involving the health, welfare and safety of their minor children AND who are at the Poverty Level or below as defined by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Most of these cases involve custody and child support-issues that can be very contentious. The sooner the issues are resolved, the sooner the children can have a chance at a normal, stable life. And, the sooner both parents can focus on being good parents even though they may be separating.



Please join me and other Levitt & Quinn supporters today with a donation that will keep the Kids Fund strong and growing. Just like the children who will benefit from its services. It is because of all of you and all of your support that we can expand our services. Thank you and all the best for a wonderful year.

Hon. Robert A. Schnider (Ret.)
Elizabeth Potter Scully,
Bonnie H. Yaeger,

Cordially,

Dinah Ruch

Dinah Ruch

Frank Makes It Home

Levitt & Quinn client Frank* is a veteran of the United States Army. Frank has four adult children born before and during his military service. Frank divorced shortly before he was discharged. Initially, he regularly made child support payments. When he had steady work, Frank continued to make payments and be involved in his children's lives. However, after his discharge, Frank was working odd jobs, and was unable to make payments. Ashamed that he could not pay, Frank stopped seeing his children and left his child support issues unresolved. Because of unpaid arrears, Frank was unable to get his passport renewed and could not accept a well paid job opportunity overseas. He attempted to find work locally, but there were no jobs available using the mechanical expertise gained during his military service. By 2013, Frank's child support debt had grown to over \$300,000 and half of his paycheck from his job as a clerk was being garnished each month. This left Frank unable to pay rent even for a small studio apartment. He was forced to move in with his adult daughter for whom he was paying child support from over a decade ago. Frank found out about Levitt & Quinn and its Veteran's Project through the website and met with Equal Justice Works Veterans Fellow Rebecca Miller. Rebecca agreed to represent Frank and appeared on his behalf at the child support hearing in January. At that hearing Rebecca advocated for a reduced monthly payment and credit for the time his children had lived with him. Frank's outstanding child support amount was reduced almost a quarter of a million dollars to \$88,000 and his monthly payment was cut in half. Frank has big plans for his new home and relationships with his daughters going forward. He sees his future as bright without insurmountable debt holding him back. Frank's story is just one of many stories of veterans assisted through Levitt & Quinn's Veteran's project in its first six months.

*Name has been changed to protect his identity.

Volunteer Adina Rosenfeld



and trial preparation.

She has attended an eight day trial for which she contributed countless days and evenings of research and document review. "Being part of a team that changed the lives of a mother and her young child has been such a rewarding experience that I have decided to stay on as a volunteer now that my fellowship is ending", said Adina.

With Gratitude

**White
Zuckerman
Warsavsky
Luna
Hunt LLP**
Certified Public Accountants

families in court.

"Levitt & Quinn is highly regarded in the legal community for providing affordable and accessible family law legal services to low-income families," said White Zuckerman partner and winning bidder Patrick Greene, "We are proud to be a supporter."

Founded in 1987, White Zuckerman Warsavsky Luna & Hunt, LLP is one of the leading forensic accounting firms in Southern California bringing more than accounting expertise to their clients. They provide individual and business clients with the latest information on changing tax laws and new planning opportunities.

New attorney Adina Rosenfeld has been clerking with Levitt & Quinn through a Loyola Law School Fellowship since she was admitted in December 2013. Adina has screened potential clients, drafted family law and adoption pleadings, participated in client consultations, and assisted attorneys with discovery, motions

This newsletter was made possible through the generosity of the accounting firm of the White Zuckerman Warsavsky Luna & Hunt, LLP, which won the newsletter sponsorship at Levitt & Quinn's 2013 Stand for Justice Gala auction. White Zuckerman has been a long-time friend and supporter of Levitt & Quinn and the firm's underwriting of the cost enables Levitt & Quinn to represent more low-income

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
- Gifts of Personal Property
- Matching Gifts from employers
- Planned Gifts and Bequests.

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

Levitt Quinn
A Nonprofit Family Law Center