



CASA CORNELIA  
LAW CENTER

**13<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL  
LA MANCHA  
AWARDS**

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

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Thursday  
October 15, 2020  
5:30 p.m.

[casacornelia.org](http://casacornelia.org)





The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus  
extend our prayers and  
best wishes to

*Casa Cornelia Law Center's  
2020 La Mancha Awards*

We congratulate and thank  
this year's award recipients  
for carrying forth our  
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We honor and applaud Casa Cornelia and all of the honorees for the outstanding legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations

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## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Casa Cornelia Law Center's work to deliver quality legal services to indigent victims of human and civil rights violations is done on behalf of the many incredible volunteers, financial supporters, and faith communities who have supported its mission for the past 27 years. Together, we provide justice with compassion for the asylum seekers, victims of serious crime, and unaccompanied children we serve.

This year of 2020 has certainly brought intense challenges to Casa Cornelia, as it has to the world at large. Yet tonight is about celebrating those who make our work possible despite the obstacles; whether they are brought about by policy changes or the global pandemic. We honor those who persevere for our clients, helping them to achieve hope and safety and achieve their dreams here in the U.S.

Thank you for joining us for our first-ever Virtual La Mancha Awards event. We sincerely hope you enjoy it.

Warmly,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read 'Carmen M. Chavez', is written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Carmen M. Chavez, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Casa Cornelia Law Center





## CARRYING OUR MISSION FORWARD

Casa Cornelia Law Center is a provider of pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations in Southern California. Since 1993, thousands of children, women, and men have turned to Casa Cornelia for critical legal assistance and humanitarian protection.

In 2019, the Law Center responded to **2,661** persons from 70 nations speaking 54 languages, through the following programs:

**Asylum.** Last year, the Law Center responded to **1,181** requests for assistance from persons fleeing violence and persecution in their homelands. Of these, 640 were detained by immigration authorities. The majority of asylum seekers were from Latin America.

**Children.** Casa Cornelia provided services to **1,000** unaccompanied children from infancy through age 17. The majority of these children were recent arrivals, but some were residents of Southern California communities. Many suffered physical abuse, parental abandonment, or traumatic separations from families. Sixty-five percent of the children were detained in federal custody at the time they were represented by the Law Center.

**Victims of Crime.** **Four-hundred and eighty** individual victims of crime sought the assistance of Casa Cornelia in 2019. The majority of these applicants were women between the ages of 25 and 45 with children. These survivors live in the shadows of society isolated by trauma, language, poverty, and fear.

In 2019, **522** volunteers donated **24,296 hours of service**. Of them, 320 volunteer attorneys donated 13,942 hours in screening, counseling, preparing materials, and litigating on behalf of Casa Cornelia clients. Furthermore, 125 volunteer interpreters and translators donated 3,878 hours in support of Casa Cornelia's legal programs. Today we honor those outstanding volunteers. Without their commitment and dedication, Casa Cornelia's mission would not be accomplished.



# 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LA MANCHA AWARDS

Don Quixote has made his appearance within many of Casa Cornelia Law Center's events and publications. Lifting his lance to evoke images of tilting at windmills and dreaming impossible dreams, this knight-errant has been a silent honor guard for the many staff members and volunteers who have represented victims of human and civil rights violations over the past 27 years.

Every year, La Mancha Awards are given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the mission of Casa Cornelia Law Center.

## DISTINGUISHED PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

**Jeff Sheriff, Esq.**  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



Casa Cornelia is delighted to bestow the 2020 La Mancha Award Distinguished Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award to Jeff Sheriff, Esq. for his dedication and commitment to the Law Center's clients and their cases.

Jeff started volunteering at Casa Cornelia in 2018, and since then he has dedicated approximately 350 hours of pro bono legal service to asylum seekers. Consistently doing high-quality legal work, and always with a smile and great attitude, Jeff is a zealous advocate for his clients and their cases.

Casa Cornelia staff have shared about Jeff's incredible dedication and good sense of humor. He makes his clients feel comfortable, as he makes a genuine effort to connect with them.

Thank you, Jeff, for your incredible service!



PRO BONO LAW FIRM  
OF THE YEAR

## LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

For over two decades, Latham & Watkins LLP has partnered with Casa Cornelia to serve victims of human and civil rights violations in Southern California. In 2019, Latham devoted over 1,200 hours of pro bono legal work to Casa Cornelia's clients, taking a variety of cases, assisting adult asylum seekers, migrant children, and victims of violent offenses.

The firm has a strong commitment to pro bono service in the community. Shawn Cobb, Esq., who leads the firm's pro bono committee at the San Diego office, recently shared that "there is a very strong public service drive for most of the attorneys [at Latham & Watkins]. Every year, I sit with first year attorneys, coming fresh out of law school, and I tell them that they get one billable hour credit for every hour spent on pro bono. I make [the firm's commitment to pro bono] very clear to them from the start, and I think that carries throughout their careers."

Latham & Watkins has collaborated numerous times with Casa Cornelia attorneys who have comprehensive expertise in human rights and immigration law. In November of 2019, Latham & Watkins invited Casa Cornelia legal director Jesse Imbriano to present "A History of the United States' Treatment of Foreigners".

Thank you, Latham & Watkins, for your incredible leadership and service to our community!



## PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARDEES\*

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\*This list represents attorneys' firms at the time of volunteering in 2019.



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Kate Anchondo  
Holly Araya  
Julie Burelle  
Francesca Egger  
Natalia Gottschalk  
Daniel Krupa  
Ian Lutz  
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Casa Cornelia Law Center is grateful to all who have supported and continue to support its humanitarian mission. Casa Cornelia delivers quality legal services to indigent victims of human and civil rights violations without charge, and relies on the generosity of others for funding. Casa Cornelia clients include survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, unaccompanied children, and asylum seekers fleeing persecution from all over the world. The good that has occurred over the past year was done on behalf of the many friends, foundations, and faith communities that have supported its legal programs for the past 27 years.



Casa Cornelia Law Center expresses its gratitude to the generous sponsors of this 13th Annual La Mancha Awards Celebration.

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*“Casa Cornelia has been there for me since day one. It has given me hope. I couldn’t have done it by myself. Working with them has been just a blessing.”*

– Awichu A., Former Client of Casa Cornelia



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Thank you for upholding Casa Cornelia's humanitarian mission during tumultuous times. We are grateful to our ongoing supporters.



*“Hay tantas emociones por la gratitud que tengo a Casa Cornelia [...] y ahora veo que hay muchas oportunidades para ir adelante, que si se puede [...] Gracias y sigan adelante sembrando esa luz que sembraron en mi”*

*“There are so many emotions for the gratitude I have for Casa Cornelia [...] and now, I see that there are many opportunities to move forward, that I can do it. Thank you, and keep on planting that light that you planted in me.”*

– Luz E., Former client of Casa Cornelia”

A person with blonde hair is sitting on a brown couch, viewed from behind. They are using a silver laptop. The laptop screen shows a video call with a young girl with pigtails who is also on the couch. A smaller window in the bottom right of the call shows another person. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

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Congratulations to our own **Jeff Sheriff**,  
Distinguished Pro Bono Attorney of the Year.

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## Klinedinst Thanks Casa Cornelia and Tonight's Honorees

Now more than ever, we appreciate your unwavering commitment to victims of human and civil rights violations and to indigent people within the underserved immigrant community. Their stories and voices are heard because of you.

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We applaud all honorees for  
their outstanding legal services  
to victims of human and  
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Congratulations to this  
year's honorees.

During these times when the things we have taken for granted seem out of reach, we reflect on the hopes and dreams of the individuals Casa Cornelia serves and realize that we have much to give in relation to assisting the most marginalized in our community, including the ability to transform a life forever.

Congratulations to Casa Cornelia Law Center and all of the valiant knights comprising its staff and volunteers who make its work a reality.

**Elizabeth and David Balfour**



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Deacon Jim and the Vargas family congratulate the recipients of the La Mancha Awards and are honored to support Casa Cornelia Law Center in its mission to provide quality legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations.

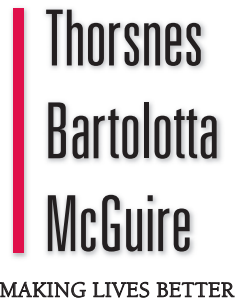
**We remain deeply grateful to the staff, board members, volunteer interpreters and attorneys for their continuing presence and perseverance on behalf of Casa Cornelia Law Center clients in this time of great need.**

*– Lucy & Steve Howell*

*“A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in... And how many want out.”*

*–Tony Blair*

We are proud to support the work of Casa Cornelia and offer our congratulations to this year’s honorees.



**Proud to Support Casa Cornelia in its efforts to help those most in need.**

*– Gregory A. Vega, Esq. and Dr. Sue A. Farus*

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CASA CORNELIA  
LAW CENTER

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