



Dear Diego,

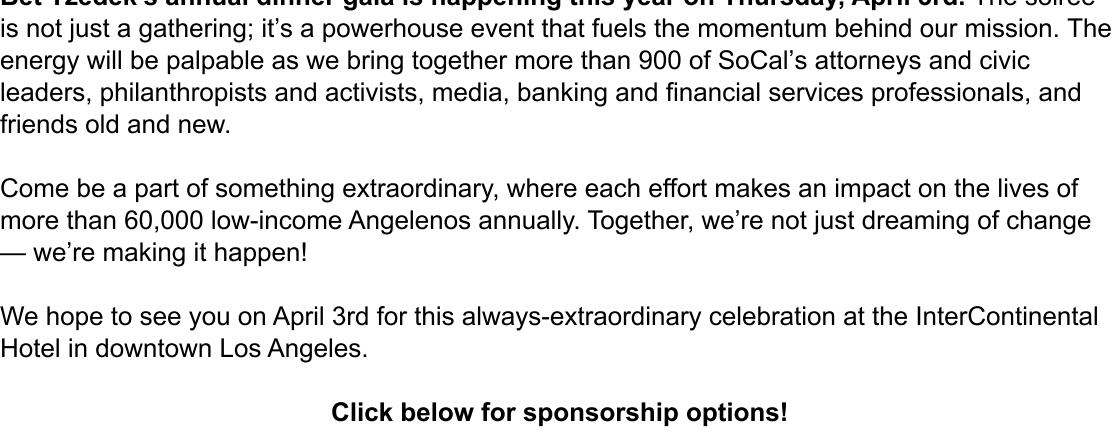
Happy Women’s History Month from Bet Tzedek! This month and every month, we celebrate the instrumental women who have made an impact on society, both historically and in modern times, by fighting for women’s rights, civil rights, and equality and progress. **Right now, the fight is dire. Women are facing major threats to their rights, safety, autonomy, and overall wellbeing.** The policy changes eroding women’s rights and gender justice we are currently witnessing aren’t simply “culture war” issues — they undermine women’s economic freedom and mobility, eliminate access to healthcare, and ultimately serve to dismantle democratic freedoms.

In addition to abortion becoming illegal in 12 states (and restricted in seven) in the aftermath of *Roe v. Wade* being struck down in 2022, the official federal site [reproductiverights.gov](https://www.reproductiverights.gov) – which provided state-by-state guidance on accessing reproductive services and healthcare – has been shut down. **However, you can still access that information here.** The Department of Health and Human Services has altered search results for “abortion,” burying essential, life-saving information. Executive orders targeting “gender ideology” undermine transgender rights and foreshadow further threats to bodily autonomy.

These attacks on healthcare and gender expression are just a few of the myriad attacks that women face today. Others include threats to discrimination protections, the LGBTQIA+ community, social safety net programs (including for mothers), education, workplace justice, voting rights, and more. **Learn more here.** **The fight for women’s rights is a fight for democracy. Bet Tzedek supports the protection of rights and progress for women, and stands with all those affected by these attacks.**



Join Us for Our Annual Dinner Gala on April 3rd!

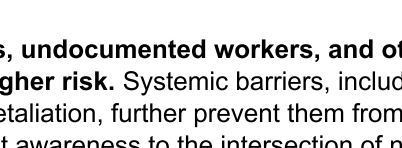


Bet Tzedek’s annual dinner gala is happening this year on Thursday, April 3rd. The soirée is not just a gathering; it’s a powerhouse event that fuels the momentum behind our mission. The energy will be palpable as we bring together more than 900 of SoCal’s attorneys and civic leaders, philanthropists and activists, media, banking and financial services professionals, and friends old and new.

Come be a part of something extraordinary, where each effort makes an impact on the lives of more than 60,000 low-income Angelenos annually. Together, we’re not just dreaming of change — we’re making it happen!

We hope to see you on April 3rd for this always-extraordinary celebration at the InterContinental Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Click below for sponsorship options!



‘Human Trafficking After Wildfires’ Conference to Protect the Most Vulnerable

At a press conference in front of the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration, our VP of Legal Services, **Mary Tanagho Ross**, and our Employment Rights Project attorney, **Matt DeCarolis**, joined elected officials and members of our partner organizations to shed light on the urgent need to prevent labor trafficking and exploitation in the wake of the recent L.A. fires.

As city and county residents recover from this devastating destruction, it is critical to protect labor rights and implement strong protections to prevent human trafficking during the rebuilding efforts. The link between natural disasters and increased risk of human trafficking is well-documented, as crises like the recent fires create vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit. It is imperative that we reduce the risk of trafficking by addressing the sudden economic hardship, job losses, housing instability, and worsening living conditions that make individuals more susceptible to forced labor and exploitation.

Women, children, immigrants, undocumented workers, and other individuals at these intersections face an even higher risk. Systemic barriers, including a lack of legal protections, language access, and fear of retaliation, further prevent them from seeking help or reporting abuse. This conference brought awareness to the intersection of natural disasters and human trafficking, working to find solutions for preventing exploitation as we rebuild and recover from the fires. [View the press release.](#)

*If you need help, please contact **CAST’s 24/7 hotline** to be screened for trafficking and to receive potential services including emergency housing and medical assistance: **888-KEY-2-FREE (888-539-2373)***

Media Alerts: Family Separation Preparedness on KCRW & Telemundo from Staff

Lidia Vargas, our DOJ Accredited Representative, spoke with **KCRW** about what to do when mixed status families are threatened with separation — and what care options to consider for children who may be impacted.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Lesly Mendoza, our Kinship Care Attorney, also spoke with **Telemundo** about family separation preparedness.

[LISTEN HERE \(SPANISH\)](#)

First Courthouse in Nation Named After Latina!

This Women’s History Month, Bet Tzedek celebrates the legacy of **Latina leader Felicitas Méndez**, whose activism led to the end of segregation in California schools, paving the way for Brown v. Board of Education.

In a historic first, California will soon unveil the Felicitas and Gonzalo Méndez U.S. Courthouse, the first courthouse in the nation named after a Latina. This recognition is long overdue — of the more than 200 named U.S. courthouses, only 20 honor people of color, and just six are named after women.

Representation matters. Our public institutions should reflect the rich diversity and strength of our nation. Thanks to legislation introduced by Congressman Jimmy Gomez, the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse will soon bear the Méndez name, honoring their legacy.

Latinas have long led the fight for justice and equality — not only in halls of power but also within families and communities, opening doors for future generations.

‘SAVE Act’ Could Make Voting Harder For Women, Transgender Individuals, and Others

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The SAVE Act could make voting *harder* for *millions of Americans*

including *married women* and *transgender people*, *naturalized citizens*, and *low-income individuals*.

What *YOU* should know ➔

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The SAVE Act:

- **Requires proof of citizenship in the form of a birth certificate or passport** to register to vote
- **Disproportionately impacts *married women*, *transgender individuals*, *naturalized citizens*, *low-income individuals*, and other marginalized groups**
- **Does not allow name-change documentation or marriage certificates to be used alongside birth certificates to prove citizenship (must update birth certificates).**

Take action today to tell your representatives to vote NO on the SAVE Act:

<https://act.aclu.org/a/save-act>

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At Bet Tzedek,

we assist transgender individuals with name changes and help them update their **legal documents** — like birth certificates and IDs — to reflect their current legal name.

Find out more at:

<https://bettzedek.org/our-services/justice-for-transgender-individuals/>

Media Alert: ‘Amity In-Home Care Services’ Demonstration for Fair Wages

Kelsey Chapple, Bet Tzedek Employment Rights Project (ERP) attorney, was featured in a [Long Beach Post](#) article for the Amity In-Home Care Services demonstration late last month.

The California Labor Commissioner’s Office has cited Amity and its CEO Nancy Reyes for \$2.3 million in stolen wages and other penalties. Over 100 workers, community members, supporters, advocates, and local leaders demanded Reyes repay employees’ stolen wages.

From the article: After a years-long investigation amid a 47,000-claim statewide backlog, the California Labor Commissioner’s office on Thursday ordered Amity In-Home Care Services to pay [\$2.3] million in unpaid wages and penalties to workers in Long Beach and across the South Bay...

Bet Tzedek Legal Services attorney Kelsey Chapple, who provided workers counsel, said the citation covers the cost of “failure to provide minimum wage, overtime, rest, and meal breaks,” as well as penalties for willful worker misclassification, a lack of compensation insurance, and liquidated damages.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Join the Bet Tzedek Team!

Have a passion for helping underserved residents in the community? Please apply for a chance to take a leadership position with dedicated staff and volunteers who help over 60,000 people per year.

Here are some critical positions we need to fill:

[ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT: JUSTICE FOR TAXPAYERS, WORKERS, AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS](#)

[DIRECTING ATTORNEY: ECONOMIC JUSTICE](#)

**See all job listings by clicking the button below*

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Have anything you’d like us to add to future newsletters? Respond to this email.

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