**Protima Pandey**

Protima Pandey has been working with domestic violence and sexual assault survivors for over a decade. She has extensive experience counseling, advising and assisting families and survivors of domestic violence here and in South Asia. As a staff attorney at Bay Area Legal Aid, the largest provider of free legal services to low income residents, she represents clients in family law, immigration, housing protection and public benefit cases. She is trained faculty for American Bar Association Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence. She has trained in-house counsel and law firms on pro-bono representation, has guest lectured at UC Berkeley Law and Golden Gate Law and served as a panelist at Statewide and regional conferences for lawyers and community advocates. She served as faculty at Practicing Law Institute in San Francisco where she trained on issues relating to Housing discrimination for immigrant tenants and will be training in 2015 on the procedures in Domestic Violence Prevention Act cases as well as housing rights. She serves on the Advisory Board of Family Violence Appellate Project, the only appellate agency working with appeals for cases on behalf of domestic violence survivors. She received the Public Interest Attorney of the year award in 2012 from the South Asian Bar Association Northern California Foundation and was also featured in the August 2012 issue of the California Lawyer magazine which profiled the work Bay Area Legal Aid does for survivors of domestic violence. <http://www.callawyer.com/Clstory.cfm?eid=923947> She is the Chair of the San Mateo County Bar Association Diversity Committee for 2014. Most recently she was awarded the Community Impact Award (2014) by the South Asian Bar Association. Prior to joining Bay Area Legal Aid, she was the Public Policy Specialist for the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, California’s statewide domestic violence coalition, where she worked closely with legislators and policy makers on several keys laws impacting survivors of domestic violence, including providing legal analysis, testimony during senate and assembly hearings and serving on working committees crafting legislation. In her spare time, she serves as a volunteer for Asha For Education, Silicon Valley, that raises funds to support education for underprivileged children in India. She holds a license to practice law in India and California and spent her early years working in the field of Intellectual Property. Protima holds a B.A.LL.B (Honors) from National Law School, Bangalore, India and an LL.M. in U.S. Laws from Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri.

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