

## That's pretty foxy!

Center client Linda M.\* (name changed to protect privacy) has much praise to offer the Los Angeles office of **Fox Rothschild LLP**. Firm attorney **Michelle McCarthy** rescued her from the streets. Living in homeless shelters and month to month hotel rooms, Linda was penniless after leaving her husband of 13 years. Though entitled to some of his pension, she got none when she handled her divorce alone without help. Desperate, Linda was referred to the Harriett Buhai Center as the only family legal aid program in LA which regularly accepts pension cases like hers.

Although her volunteer commitment was completed when she prepared the "Qualified Domestic Relations Order" (QDRO) for Linda, firm lawyer Michelle McCarthy took her public service pledge to another level by offering to represent Linda in court. Successful in obtaining the court order to divide the pension, Michelle is saluted by the Center for her work providing the Center's client with a new start and an end to her homelessness.

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## Center CLE Focuses on Division and Allocation of Retirement Benefits

"It was an excellent seminar, full of information and helpful tips in a very difficult substantive area," said one attendee of the CLE on retirement benefits on March 15th hosted by the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law Continuing Legal Education Program. At the CLE, local pension law attorneys, Louise Nixon and Linda Morra presented an interactive program titled "What Every Family Law Attorney Should Know about Retirement Benefits" at Loyola Law School.



Linda Morra (L) and Louise Nixon

Together, Nixon and Morra have nearly 60 years of legal experience, specifically in the areas of employee and retirement benefits. Each attorney shared her wealth of knowledge regarding the division of benefits upon divorce and death, and how allocation of benefits varies between each type of retirement plan. They dedicated a significant portion of the CLE to complex issues that arise during the preparation and execution of Qualified Domestic Relations Orders and the effects federal law has on employee benefits in the private sector. Attendees found the CLE to be "very comprehensive" and remarked that Nixon and Morra are "amazing speakers who are very clear and helpful."

## It's A Girl!

On January 31, 2013, Client Assistant Camille Arca-Nuno and husband Hector Nuno welcomed their first child into the world! Beautiful Zaria Lucia weighed 6lb, 10oz.



## Stay Connected!

Join the Center's online community! Connect with volunteers and supporters, stay up to date with news, events and photos.

Harriett Buhai Center Website [www.hbcfl.org](http://www.hbcfl.org)



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## 2013 New Volunteer Training

The Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law is pleased to announce this year's New Volunteer Training! Join a remarkable team of 300 volunteers that aid the Center's mission to empower individuals and families living in poverty, improve access to the courts and stop domestic violence.

### When & Where:

- **Date:** Saturday, May 4, 2013
- **Time:** 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
- **Location:** Loyola Law School

### Accepting Volunteer Applications From:

- Attorneys
- Law Students and Graduates
- Certified Paralegals
- Spanish Language Fluent Interpreters



**Registration deadline: Wednesday, May 1, 2013.**

Volunteers who attended past trainings have high praise for the event. One commented "it is a great program with extremely informative and thorough materials that are unquestionably the best available ." Another said, "it's especially helpful for practitioners looking to transition into family law."

**For Registration: Contact Volunteer@hbcfl.org  
(213) 388-7505 ext. 319**