

# Stu News Newport

*Tom Johnson's* Newport Beach News and Community Forum

## Orange County Bar Association awards \$10,000 grant to Human Options

Human Options, a nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence, was presented a \$10,000 grant from the Orange County Bar Association Charitable Fund. The grant will support the organization's Legal Advocacy Program, which has been operating since 1986, and offers legal information, education and more to those affected by domestic violence. The Orange County Bar Association is located in Newport Beach.

The Legal Advocacy Program provides services including education on legal rights and remedies, court preparation and accompaniment, assistance with completing and filing applications for restraining orders, victim compensation, confidential address programs, and VAWA/U-Visas. Legal Advocates also provide support in domestic violence specific housing/lease and employment issues. Additionally, Human Options offers nine free monthly legal clinics with volunteer attorneys throughout the county on family law and immigration law issues. If a victim's legal needs do not fit within the scope of the program, Human Options refers them to trusted community partners for services.



*Click on photo for a larger image*

Submitted photo

**(L-R): Michael Morris, partner at Minyard Morris with Human Options Legal Advocate Sandra Bear**

"Legal support is critical for victims of domestic violence. Individuals who have experienced domestic violence often find themselves overwhelmed by a variety of issues in addition to physical abuse, including protection available to them under the law to obtain relief from the abusive partner," said Maricela Rios-Faust, CEO of Human Options. "With this generous support from the Orange County Bar Association, we're able to provide these comprehensive victim advocacy services in local courts."

Human Options is leading the way to end domestic violence, reaching more than 20,000 community members who received education through their prevention programs. More than 500 individuals found a safe home at their emergency shelter, and their teams have responded to more than 6,500 callers that contacted them for immediate crisis support, information and referrals through their 24-hour hotline.

For more information about Human Options, please visit <https://humanoptions.org>.