



TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

BECAUSE SMART GUN LAWS SAVE LIVES

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SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

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ACTION: _____

August 21, 2012

Senator Diane Feinstein
San Francisco Office
One Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence (formerly *Legal Community Against Violence*), we thank you for your recent demand that "the nation needs to have a 'sane' discussion on gun control and ban military-style assault weapons." We applaud your call for a reinstatement of the federal assault weapons ban and offer our support as the most trusted source of expertise and information on America's gun laws.

I am writing because we would like to honor you with our Courageous Leadership Award and have you deliver the keynote address at our 20th Anniversary Dinner to be held in the summer of 2013 in San Francisco. The event will celebrate our 20 years of tireless work to prevent gun violence in America, and your courageous efforts to fight for stronger gun laws in America is something we deeply value. Your leadership and ongoing commitment, especially as it has intertwined with our own history, would be a perfect fit for this milestone event. We expect 500 – 700 of our strongest supporters to attend.

As you know, Legal Community Against Violence (now with our new name, the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence) was founded after the 101 California Street massacre in 1993 in San Francisco and is the country's only organization devoted exclusively to providing legal assistance in support of gun violence prevention. We provide free legal assistance in response to hundreds of requests each year from governmental entities, advocacy organizations working to advance gun violence prevention measures, and the media.

Particularly in the wake of the two Supreme Court decisions, and the recent tragedies in Tucson, Aurora, and Oak Creek, our legal work is in high demand by cities and states fighting for better legislation, as well as fighting challenges to existing legislation. We are particularly proud of our work in California, where we have supported and sponsored cutting-edge legislation and helped make California a leader on this issue.



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Our 20th Anniversary Dinner will be our most high profile event ever. Our past speakers are a distinguished list of leaders in government and the private sector who are dedicated to reducing gun violence:

- + Former Attorney General Janet Reno
- + Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.
- + U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
- + Former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley
- + Chicago Mayor Richard Daley
- + Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
- + Actor Robin Williams
- + Documentary filmmaker Michael Moore
- + Legal Analyst Jeffrey Toobin

The event is tentatively scheduled for June 27, 2013, which is our strong preference. However, we are aware your availability may be constrained by the congressional calendar, and are very open to discussing the possibility of alternate dates that might better suit your schedule.

As you know, gun violence in America continues to occur at epidemic proportions. Weeks after mass shootings in Colorado and Wisconsin, and more than a year after the tragic shooting in Tucson that severely injured your colleague Congresswoman Giffords and killed six people, Americans are struggling to find reasonable ways to address the culture of firearm violence that surrounds us.

Your unique perspective — as a courageous legislator in California and in Congress — is one we would warmly welcome. In addition, your involvement with the mass shooting at 101 California Street that led to our formation makes you an ideal candidate to mark this meaningful milestone. Most importantly perhaps, you have the ability to inspire and motivate our guests to get involved in the important effort of reducing gun violence in our country, and we would be honored to have you join us.

Thank you in advance for considering our invitation and I hope to be in contact with you soon. If you have any questions about our organization or the Anniversary Dinner, please contact me at 415.433.2062, ext. 310 or at rthomas@smartgunlaws.org.

Sincerely yours,

Robyn Thomas
Executive Director

cc: Helen Hilton Raiser
Shaeda Ahmadi
Bryer Davis
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