



## **Gael Strack, Esq.**

Alliance for HOPE International  
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder

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Gael B. Strack is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Alliance for HOPE International. Programs of the Alliance include: National Family Justice Center Alliance, Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, Camp HOPE America, Justice Legal Network and VOICES Survivor Network.

- The National Family Justice Center Alliance ([www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org)) provides consulting to over 150 existing and pending Family Justice Centers across the world, helping communities open and sustain Family Justice Centers.
- The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention ([www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com](http://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com)) provides basic and advanced training on strangulation prevention to 5,000 professionals annually.
- The Justice Legal Network is an innovative public interest law firm made up of solo attorneys who have pledged to work with the Alliance in providing civil legal services to victims and their children.
- Camp HOPE America, under the leadership of Casey Gwinn, provides summer camping, mentoring, hope and healing to children exposed to violence.
- The VOICES Survivor Network is comprised of survivors who volunteer their time to provide awareness, education, outreach and feedback to their local Family Justice Center.

Prior to launching Alliance for Hope International with Casey Gwinn, Gael served as the Founding Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center from October 2002 through May 2007. In that capacity, she worked closely with 25 on-site agencies (government and non-profit) who came together in 2002 to provide services to victims of domestic violence and their children in one location. The San Diego Family Justice Center was featured on Oprah in January 2003, was recognized as a model program by President Bush and was the inspiration for the President's Family Justice Center Initiative launched in October 2003.

Prior to her work at the Family Justice Center, Gael was a prosecutor at the San Diego City Attorney's Office. She joined the office in 1987 and served in many capacities including Head Deputy City Attorney responsible for the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Unit. Gael has also worked as a Deputy Public Defender and a Deputy County Counsel for the San Diego County Counsel's office handling juvenile dependency matters. She graduated from Western State College of Law in December 1985.

Gael is a former board member of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, former President of the San Diego Domestic Violence Council and former commissioner of the ABA's Commission on Domestic Violence. In her spare time, Gael is an adjunct law professor for California Western School of Law where she teaches "Domestic Violence and the Law." Gael has been honored with numerous awards, including San Diego Attorney of the Year for 2006, and was the 2010 Recipient of the National Crime Victim Service Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services by United States Attorney General Eric Holder.

Gael has also co-authored a series of strangulation articles and five books with Casey Gwinn, JD, on the Family Justice Center movement.

Gael and her husband, Jan, have two grown children, Samantha and Taylor, and are the proud grandparents of two grandchildren – Emmett and Margo.