

NIWAP



**Family Law Attorneys
Advocating For Immigrant
Survivors:
A Community Of Practice**

March 24, 2015

THIS TRAINING IS SUPPORTED BY GRANT No. 2013-TA-AX-K009 AWARDED BY THE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE OPINIONS, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION/PROGRAM/EXHIBITION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

NIWAP Introductions



□ Rocio Molina, Associate Director

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□ Leslye Orloff, Director

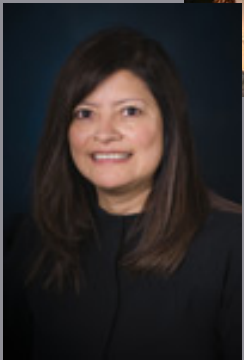
□ Spencer Cantrell, Gender Violence Fellow

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□ Veronica Thronson, Professor, Michigan State University

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Today's Agenda

- ▣ Brief introductions
- ▣ Discussion with Judge Gonzalez
- ▣ Overview of Community of Practice (COP)
- ▣ COP process
- ▣ Discussion of Priorities
- ▣ Choosing topics for the next 2-4 COP meetings
- ▣ Resources
- ▣ Next Steps

Group Introductions

- ▣ In the chat box, share your:
 - Name;
 - State;
 - Organization; and
 - Briefly the primary reason you joined this COP



Discussion: Explaining dynamics of domestic violence or sexual assault for immigrant survivors to the courts



A Judge's Perspective



The Hon. Ramona Gonzalez
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Poll Question

- ▣ What kinds of experiences have you had representing domestic violence or sexual assault survivors in an immigration context would you like to share?
 - Raise your hand or type in the chat box.



Discussion of Best Practices from a Judge's Perspective



Common Misconceptions

- ▣ “She only wants the CPO to get immigration status.”
- ▣ “He should get custody of the children because he is a citizen and she’ll just take the kids to another country.”
- ▣ “I’m afraid to call the police; if I do I will be deported.”
- ▣ “She just made up the sexual assault charge to get a visa.”

Questions for Judge Gonzalez



Discussion- Best Practices

- ▣ In the chat box, share what has been useful to you in explaining dynamics:
 - Particular resources?
 - Certain way of phrasing/ framing an issue?

Highlighted Resources

- ▣ Ch. 1.1- Dynamics of Domestic Violence Experienced by Immigrant Victims
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/cultural-competency/dynamics-of-violence-against-immigrant-women/1.1-Dynamics-of-Domestic-Violence-in-Immigrant-Families-MANUAL-BB.pdf/view>
- ▣ Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications
http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/cultural-competency/dynamics-of-violence-against-immigrant-women/CULTCOMP_Georgetown-Imm-Victim-Helpseeking2000.pdf
- ▣ Technical Assistance- info@niwap.org or 202-274-4457

What exactly is a COP?



COP Keys to Success

- ▣ Prepare your thoughts.
- ▣ Minimize disruptions.
- ▣ Actively participate.
- ▣ Protect confidences.
- ▣ Be candid.
- ▣ Respect others and their ideas.
- ▣ Stretch yourself.
- ▣ Build relationships.



Maximizing your Experience

- ▣ Raise your hand if you want to speak
- ▣ Type questions or comments in the chat box.

Group Interests: Most Common Challenges

- ▣ Child custody/visitation
- ▣ Getting magistrates & judges to understand the impact/ dynamics of domestic violence
- ▣ Obtaining child/spousal support orders
- ▣ Proof of abuse
- ▣ Positive divorce outcomes
- ▣ Getting U visas certifications signed
- ▣ Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- ▣ Obtaining restraining orders
- ▣ Hague Cases
- ▣ Working with Guardian ad litem

Group Interests: Most Interested in Learning About

- ▣ Child custody
- ▣ Protection orders
- ▣ Divorce
- ▣ Juvenile court proceedings
- ▣ Connecting to culturally specific resources
- ▣ U & T Visas
- ▣ Intersection between an immigration case & family law case
- ▣ Dealing with opposing parties abroad
- ▣ Economic relief for survivors

Discussion of Priorities

- ▣ Type in the chat box- what issues should we cover first?
- ▣ Among the issues listed in applications, where do we want to start as a COP?



Choosing Priorities

- ▣ Discussion: Which issues should we focus on first?
 - For the next 2-4 COP convenings?
- ▣ Let's take a poll of on what appear to be the top priorities based on our discussion.



Tools To Support Your Work

- ▣ In your ideal world what types of tools would you most want to have to support your work with immigrant survivors in family court?
 - Raise your hand to discuss, Or
 - Type in the chat box



NIWAP Web Library



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The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund

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RESOURCE LIBRARY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

WELCOME

To further our vision of a society in which all women and girls are economically secure, empowered to make their own choices, and can live and work free of discrimination, this Resource Library and Technical Assistance Center provides timely information on a vast array of topics of interest to those working across the country to help victims of violence against immigrant women. The National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP, pronounced *new-app*) produces materials on a range of issues facing women and families. This searchable library of resources is designed to be used by OVV grantees and other advocates, attorneys, judges and service providers. The Technical Assistance section of this site provides OVV grantees and the general public access to questions frequently asked of Legal Momentum and an online Technical Assistance Request Form.

Legal Momentum, the nation's oldest women's legal defense and education fund, is dedicated to advancing the rights of all women and girls. NIWAP is the nation's expert on the rights and services available to immigrant victims of domestic and other violence, sharing this expertise through training, comprehensive publications, and technical assistance for lawyers and advocates nationwide. NIWAP leads national advocacy efforts for legal protections, social services, and economic justice for immigrant women.

This project is supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K002 and Grant No. 2005-WT-AX-K005 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in the publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF PROGRAMS WITH EXPERIENCE SERVING IMMIGRANT VICTIMS

A directory of service providers with experience working with immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, U-visa crimes and human trafficking, by state. *If you are an individual or organization working with immigrant survivors, please make sure that your contact information is correctly represented within the directory.*

Use the following link to search for service providers in your state. This directory is also useful to identify organizations in another state to which an immigrant victim may be considering moving. If you are working with an immigrant victim for whom you need resource materials on immigrant victims legal rights or you need a referral to another jurisdiction to a program that has staff or volunteers who speak the victim's language you can search this data base by language to identify such programs.

We recommend that you start your search with wider terms, such as state, city or language, and look for more specific options within these searches:

[Directory of Service Providers](#)

ICE ANNOUNCES NEW COMMUNITY HOTLINE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

WASHINGTON – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is pleased to announce the launch of its new Community Hotline.

Individuals may call the new Community Hotline at 1-888-351-4024 during regular business hours (8 AM to 8 PM EST). These operating hours were recently extended in an ICE announcement that can be accessed here: [ICE Hotline Hours Extension Announcement](#). Members of the public may continue to contact ICE through the Public Advocate mailbox at EROPublicAdvocate@ice.dhs.gov but now have a complementary option in the Hotline.

This effort, led by the ICE Public Advocate, transforms the existing Deferred Action for Certain Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Hotline into a toll-free hotline for members of the public and ICE stakeholders. The expansion allows ICE to promptly address a number of inquiries from the public including:

- **Community outreach inquiries and requests;**

niwap.org

niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu

Upcoming Calls/ Meetings

- ▣ **Tuesday, April 14 – 2:00pm EST**
- ▣ Thursday, May 28- 2:00pm EST
- ▣ Tuesday, June 16, 2015- 3:00pm EST
- ▣ Tuesday, July 28, 2015- 2:00pm EST
- ▣ Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2015- 2:00pm EST

Follow-up to this Call

- ▣ **Check-ins with Rocio & Spencer**
 - Will call entire group over the course of the year; will check in with 10-15 members before the next call.

- ▣ **Survey Monkey Questionnaire**
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommunityofPractice1>
 - Format & Helpfulness of call?
 - Additional resources that would be helpful?
 - Any other comments?

Questions?

community@niwap.org