National Judicial Network Forum on Human Trafficking and Immigration in State Courts

Ensuring Judicial Safety: Strategies to Protect Judges and Court Staff

February 6, 2024

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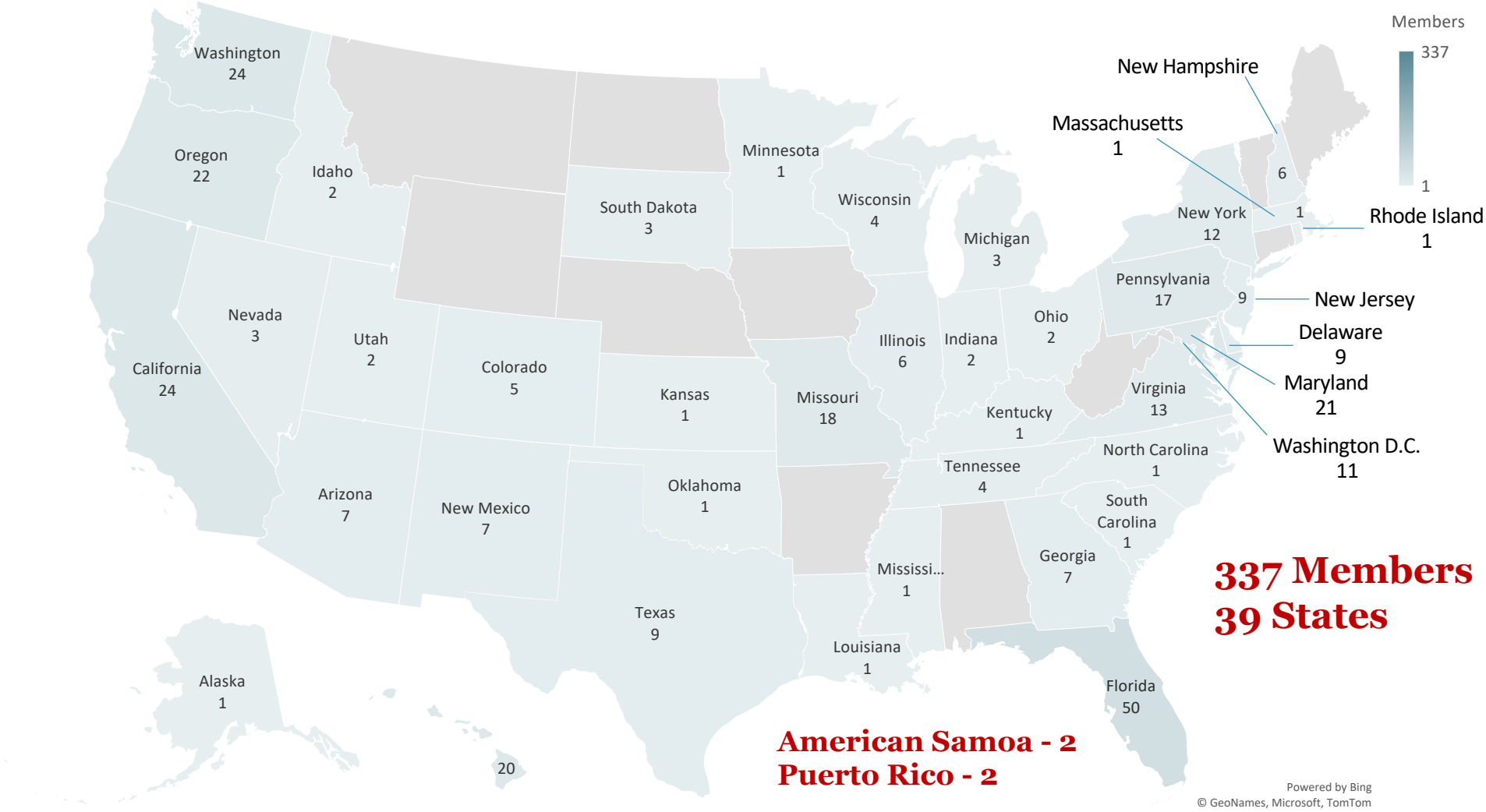
State Representation in The National Judicial Network as of February 6, 2024



NATIONAL JUDICIAL NETWORK
Forum on Human Trafficking and Immigration in State Courts

State Justice Institute

NIWAP

Reminders About Today's Presentation

- Please note that today's session will be recorded and made available at the following webpage as well as other useful materials from this presentation:
  - https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/njn-ensuring-judicial-safety-feb-6-2024

Upcoming Peer-to-Peer Sessions & Webinars

March 5, 2024 –TBD

April 2, 2024 – TBD

May 7, 2024 – TBD

June 4, 2024 – TBD

Session Evaluation

- Please don't forget to complete the evaluation at the end of the session!
- Link to the poll
  - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FKF6RP8
- We will also send the link in a separate email after the session.

STALKING DEFINITION: BEHAVIORAL

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Context

- Something may be frightening to the victim but not to responders
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior

CRIMES INCLUDING

IDENTITY THEFT, COMPUTER CRIMES

VANDALISM, PROPERTY CRIMES

VOYEURISM, PRIVACY VIOLATION, IMAGE CREATION & DISTRIBUTION

EAVESDROPPING, TRESPASSING, NONCONSENSUAL RECORDING

FALSE REPORTS, WITNESS INTIMIDATION

AND MORE

MAY BE PART OF A STALKER'S COURSE OF CONDUCT

SURVEILLANCE

- Follow
- Watch
- Wait
- Show up
- Tracking software or devices
- Obtain information about the victim from others
- Have others stalk the victim
- Monitor online activity
- Access accounts

LIFE INVASION

- Unwanted, non-consensual contact
- Show up without warning
- Property invasion
- Public humiliation
- Harass victim's friends/family
- Impersonate the victim online
- Hack into the victim's accounts

INTIMIDATION

- Explicit and implicit threats
- Property damage
- Symbolic violence
- Forced confrontations
- Threats to or actually harm self
- Threats to harm others
- Deportation threats
- Blackmail
- Threats to share private information
- Threats to interfere with employment, finances, custody

INTERFERENCE
THROUGH SABOTAGE OR ATTACK

- Financial, work sabotage
- Ruining reputation
- Custody interference
- Keep victim from leaving
- Road rage
- Attack victim's family, friends, pets
- Physical or sexual attack
- Property damage and/or vandalism
- Posting private photos, videos, information
- Controlling accounts
- Posing as victim and creating harm

Technology-Facilitated SLII Tactics

SURVEILLANCE

- Smart home devices
- Tracking software
- GPS or Bluetooth tracking devices
- Cameras or audio/video recording devices
- Monitoring online activity
- Accessing online accounts

LIFE INVASION

- Unwanted contact online, through text messages or phone calls, other platforms
- Impersonating victim
- Hacking victim's accounts
- Impersonating others to access the victim

INTIMIDATION

- Online threats
- Blackmail
- Sextortion
- Threats to release private information, photos, or videos, real or fake
- Threats to interfere with online accounts

INTERFERENCE
THROUGH SABOTAGE OR ATTACK

- Posting private photos, videos, information online, real or fake
- Spreading rumors online
- Doxing
- Swatting
- Controlling online accounts
- Posing as victim and creating harm
- Using technology to encourage others to harm the victim

Narrative Report & Risk Profile

Safety Planning Suggestions

14 Risk Factors in Stalking Cases

BIG PICTURE

- Course of Conduct
- Escalation, Triggers
- Nature and context of threats
- Threat follow-through, capability

STALKER HISTORY

- History of abuse to victim
- History of abuse to others
- Guns, weapons & training
- Criminal history, mental health, substance abuse

STALKER MINDSET

- Resistance & Persistence
- Stalker Motive
- Proxy Stalking

VICTIM VULNERABILITY

- Fear, life impact
- Use of Technology
- Victim Vulnerability

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning, Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222.

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Court & Judicial Security Unit State of New Jersey

Robin Morante, Chief

Security in NJ (Our Secret Sauce)

- 2014 Creation of Court & Judicial Security Unit
- Centralized Instantaneous Reporting System
- Threat Advocacy Hotline -24/7
- New Construction Assessments
- 2015 Creation of NJ JSMART
  - Statewide Trainings and Annual Conference
  - Information Sharing and Response Coordination
  - Facilities Assessments
  - Legislative Initiatives NJSA 2C:33-4e, NJSA 2C:12-14, 15, and 16
  - Security Related Services

Personal Safety for Judges

Before Threat:	Situational Awareness
	Communication Tactics
	Proactive Planning/Drilling (including people you care about)
	Internet Presence
After Threat is Made:	Risk Assessment
	Protection
	Investigation
	Advocacy

Thank you

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The Effects on Judge's Stress Based upon Safety Concerns

- Stress is Inherent in the work
- Judges in Studies have felt that their work was only mildly compromised by stress, but there are some who feel that their work has been moderately compromised
- How were they compromised: Avoiding the workplace, inability to maintain demeanor, procrastination

Personal Safety Concerns:

- Moderate amounts of safety concern with Women Judges being more concerned
- However, increased concern if already experienced safety concern
- Safety of the family more than their personal safety

Specific Concerns

- Inappropriately approached
- Face to face confrontation
- Threatening letters and phone calls
- Being followed
- Being physically assaulted

Actual Experience

- Letters/phone calls
- Death/Bomb Threats

Precautionary Measures

- Buying a cell phone
- Added Courtroom Security
- Purchasing a firearm

AWARENESS, AWARENESS, AWARENESS

- Handled gang cases
- Shooting of a judge and lawyer
- Divorce cases with law enforcement officer

Some Situations

- Always aware of where I was and who was around me. Different to live in awareness than living in fear
- Did place myself in situations trying to live a ”normal’ life only to have to leave a place

Q & A