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**What do State Courts Need to Know About Immigration and Why:
Human Trafficking and Family Violence**

Audience: Training for Illinois Judges and Court Staff
Date: November 3, 2017
Time: 1 pm to 5 pm
Location: Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center- lower level training room
650 West State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61102

Why is it important for state courts to have accurate information on immigration law?

In the past decade, the U.S. has experienced an unprecedented increase in the number of linguistically and culturally diverse foreign-born individuals living in the country. In the Illinois, the immigrant population rose by 19.4% between 2000 and 2015, resulting in:

- 14.2% of the state's population is foreign-born (1,826,156 people);¹
- 27.1% of Illinois children under the age of 18 have one or more immigrant parents;
- 90.2% of Illinois children in immigrant families are U.S. citizens; and
- 50.6% of the foreign-born population is limited English proficient² (regions of origin: Latin America (45.7%); Asia (29.2%); Europe (20.0%); Africa (4.0%); and Canada (1.0%)).

State courts are among the first in the justice system called upon to provide access to justice for these new immigrant populations. Family and juvenile courts across the country are seeing growing numbers of immigrants seeking civil protection orders, custody, child support, divorce, U visa certification, and judgments in a range of other proceedings involving children including dependency, termination of parental rights, unaccompanied minors, and juvenile cases. Working with newly arrived immigrants who live in families with differing citizenship and immigration statuses can present challenges for state courts.

Access to legally accurate information about immigration laws, and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations and current crime victim protection policies will promote the fair administration of justice in cases involving immigrant families. This includes information about immigration protections for immigrant victims for domestic violence, child and elder abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) that have been an essential part of U.S. immigration laws for almost two decades.

¹ Source: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/LA>.

² Source: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/LA>.



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What is the training that NIWAP will offer?

This training will provide judges and court staff with tools, bench cards, and materials containing up-to-date, legally correct information they need identify victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and child abuse who appear in state court proceedings. Attendees will learn about the types of immigration relief designed to protect immigrant trafficking and family violence victims and how trafficking victims, in particular, qualify for multiple forms of immigration relief. The course will discuss the special role that Congress delegated to state court judges to assist victims of trafficking, child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and domestic violence victims: U and T visa certification and special findings needed by immigrant children filing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases. As immigrant victims file for the special protections created for them under U.S. immigration laws, access to services, publically funded benefits, protection from deportation, work authorization and willingness to turn to the justice system for help grows. The course will provide an tools and information that help courts ensure that immigrant families before the courts are only required by court orders to access benefits and services that the immigrant victim is legally eligible to access in Illinois.

NIWAP’s collection of SJI-approved tools for state courts on immigration relief for immigrant crime victims and children³ may be accessed here: www.niwap.org/go/sji.

PRESENTING AT THE TRAINING:

Commissioner Loretta Young – Newcastle County Family Court, State of Delaware

Leslye E. Orloff, J.D.- Director, National Immigrant Woman’s Advocacy Project, American University Washington College of Law

Veronica Thronson, J.D.- Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Immigration Law Clinic, Michigan State University College of Law

David Thronson, J.D.- Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Professor of Law, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and co-founder of the Immigration Law Clinic, Michigan State University College of Law

**This offering is being cosponsored by the 17th Judicial Circuit Court
Family Violence Coordinating Council,
Chairperson Honorable Rosemary Collins**

**To register for this training please contact Andrea Carlson at
acarlson@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov or 815-516-2446**



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³ The materials include bench cards, charts, and other tools to assist courts and judges in cases involving immigrant parties, victims and witnesses. The development of this section of the web library was developed under grant number SJI-12-E-169 from the State Justice Institute. The points of view expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State Justice Institute.