

NIWAP

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COLLEGE OF LAW

Strengthening Community and Organizational Responses: Serving Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

Representing Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Litigants in Custody Case: Advanced Custody

Workshop 1C
August 2023

NIWAP

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project
American University Washington College of Law

Faculty



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Learning Objectives

By the end of this workshop participants will be better able to:

- Use data to educate judges about immigrant survivors and the benefits of immigration relief
- Counter abuser's efforts to use immigration status against victims in custody cases
- Obtain SIJS judicial determinations in immigrant survivors' custody cases
- Focus abused immigrants' custody cases on best interests and safe visitation
- Obtain involuntary servitude findings for abused immigrant clients

Use Data to Educate the Judge

- Protecting abused immigrant mothers
- *Protects their children*
- Know and use data
- Available from sources trusted by judges
 - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - National Center for State Courts
 - National Judicial Network

Demographics

- 24.5% of the U.S. population is either foreign born or has one or more foreign born parents
- 25.8% of children in the U.S. under age 18 have one or more immigrant parents
- 88.2% of children in immigrant families are U.S. citizens

Rafaela Rodrigues, Leslye E. Orloff, Amanda Couture-Carron, and Nawal H. Ammar, Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant Crime Victims and Children: Findings of a National Survey and Recommendations (2018), National Center for State Courts: Courts and Society. <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/trends-in-state-courts-survey-findings>

Protecting Immigrant Mothers Reduces Co-Occurring Child Abuse

- Immigrant victims who receive help, including immigration relief, child abuse likelihood drops significantly (77% to 23%)
- Children of help seekers are 20% less likely to have abusers threaten them
- One third less likely to have an abuser threaten to take them away from their mother

Ammar, Orloff, Hass and Dutton, "Children of Battered Immigrant Women: An Assessment of the Cumulative Effects of Violence, Access to Services and Immigrant Status." (September 2004) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/co-occurencedvchildabuse/>

How Children Benefit

- After filing
 - Mothers seek protection orders –include children
 - VAWA self-petitioners 63%; U visas 67%
 - Mothers seek custody orders
 - VAWA self-petitioners 60%; U visas 64%
- After work authorization and deferred action
 - 78% decline in threats to snatch/cut off access to children

Transforming Lives: How the VAWA Self-petition and U Visa Change the Lives of Survivors and Their Children After Employment Authorization and Legal Immigration Status (June 8, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/transforming-lives-final-report> ; Krisztina E. Szabo, David Stauffer, Benish Anver, Authorization For VAWA Self-Petitioners and U Visa Applicants, NIWAP (Feb. 12, 2014) and Rodrigues et al. Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Crime Victims in an Age of Increased Immigration Enforcement: Initial Report from a 2017 National Survey (May 3, 2018);

Work Authorization and Deferred Action Lead to Improvements for Children

- 6.6 fold increase in victim's involvement in their children's schools
- Increases in victim's children
 - 101% being more socially active
 - 134% pursuing their own interests

Transforming Lives: How the VAWA Self-petition and U Visa Change the Lives of Survivors and Their Children After Employment Authorization and Legal Immigration Status (June 8, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/transforming-lives-final-report>

Further Improvements at Lawful Permanent Residency For Children

- 65% children's grades improve
 - Up from 29% increase at work authorization
- 125% decrease in children's' disciplinary problems
- 80% are less aggressive
- *This is why type of immigration case for victim's children matter*

Transforming Lives: How the VAWA Self-petition and U Visa Change the Lives of Survivors and Their Children After Employment Authorization and Legal Immigration Status (June 8, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/transforming-lives-final-report>

Clara and Eduardo Case Scenario

Clara met Eduardo a lawful permanent resident when he came back to his hometown to visit his family in El Salvador. Eduardo started dating Clara who was raising her 9 year old son Miguel. After Clara became pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl Lupe, Eduardo decided to bring Clara, Miguel and Lupe to the U.S. to live with him. When they arrived in the U.S. Eduardo took Clara, Miguel and Lupe's passports and became physically and sexually abusive of Clara and abusive of Miguel who tried to protect his mother from Eduardo's abuse. Eduardo also physically beat Lupe when he said she "misbehaved". Within a year following their arrival in the U.S. Eduardo forced both Clara and Miguel to work for his family's business and never paid them for their labor. One night when Miguel was 13 and Lupe was 5, Eduardo's rage led to severe beatings with a belt of Miguel and of Lupe. When Clara intervened to protect the children, Eduardo strangled her until she passed out. The neighbors call the police for help, Clara talked to police when they arrived. The police arrested Eduardo for attempted murder and child abuse, took Clara to the hospital and placed the children in the care of the state.

Large Group Discussion

- You are representing Clara in a custody case against Eduardo
- What immigration related requests might you make to the judge and why?

Matching Game: Duration to Lawful Permanent Residence For Abused Immigrant's Children

- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
 - A. 18 + 30 months (4 years)
 - B. 6 + 30 months (3 years)
- VAWA self-petition
 - C. 34 + 17.5 months (4.3 years)
- U visa
 - D. 60 + 25 months (7 years) + 17 years = (23.9 years)
- [Processing Times \(uscis.gov\)](https://uscis.gov)

Tell Judges About OTIP Letters

- The Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) at HHS issues
 - Certification Letters to foreign national adults
 - Bona fide T applicants and Continued Presence (CP)
 - Eligibility Letters to foreign national children
 - No DHS application required, may have (CP)
- OTIP Letters provide access to public benefits, as refugees, for life
- Must be accepted by Federal and State agencies

HHS Child Eligibility Letters

- TVPA requires government officials to report to Office on Trafficking in Persons with 24 hours of having credible information that an immigrant child “may be a victim of trafficking”
- HHS reviews Requests For Assistance (RFAs) and connects potential victims of trafficking with state and federal benefits and services
- Must file child’s RFA before age 18
- Receive interim assistance 90 days
- Eligibility letters give child trafficking victims access to benefits and services to the same extent as refugees indefinitely
 - Access to benefits throughout the time the child is applying for continued presence, T visa or U visa

T Visa Declaration

- Identify type of trafficking (sex, child sex, labor)
- Describe the victimization
- Identify relationship with the crime detected, under investigation, being prosecuted, conviction or sentencing and dates
- Comments on potential for retaliation or revenge from trafficker if victim is removed from U.S.
- Dates of trafficking
- Statutory citations to crimes
- Information about victims involvement in case(s) against trafficker
- Names and relationship of any family members involved in the human trafficking

Educating the Judge

- Small group activity
- Review the Transforming Lives Data at your tables
- If you wanted to have the judge consider this in Clara's custody case how would you go about that?

Custody For Immigrant Survivor Parents

Judges Reporting Increases in the Opposing Party Raising Immigration Status in State Court Cases

- 2017 at higher rates (vs 2016)
 - Criminal cases 39%
 - Civil protection order cases 32%
 - Custody cases 31%
 - Divorce cases 23%

Rafaela Rodrigues, Leslye E. Orloff, Amanda Couture-Carron, and Nawal H. Ammar, Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant Crime Victims and Children: Findings of a National Survey and Recommendations (2018), National Center for State Courts: Courts and Society. <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/trends-in-state-courts-survey-findings>

A Starting Principle for Analysis

- A person's immigration or citizenship status per se
- Is irrelevant to the determination of
 - Family law rights including
 - Divorce
 - Custody
 - Protection orders
 - Child support

Is Immigration Status Relevant to Custody?

- Relevant to: Immigrant crime victim presents evidence of immigration related abuse, power and control suffered
 - Either not filing or withdrawing immigration papers
 - Threats to turn victim in for deportation
 - Part of history of violence
- Not relevant to:
 - Core primary caretaker determination
 - Evaluation of parenting skills
 - Best interests of the child determination
 - Requirements regarding custody awards to non-abusive parent



Large Group Discussion

What are the assumptions you see or anticipate judges make about immigration status that you want to know how to best respond to?

True or False?

- True or False: If an abused immigrant parent is undocumented their deportation is imminent/likely to occur.



Victims and Witnesses Protected From Removal

DHS Memo 2011 Confirmed 6/18, 4/19 & 1/21

- Goal: “Minimize any effect that immigration enforcement may have on the willingness and ability of victims, witnesses, and plaintiffs to call police and pursue justice.”
- “Absent special circumstances or aggravating factors, it is against ICE policy to initiate removal proceedings against an individual known to be the immediate victim or witness to a crime.”
- Crime victims and witnesses should receive “release from detention and deferral or a stay of removal.”

Multiple Choice Exercise:

Which parents are the *most* likely to be removed from the U.S.?



- A. Immigrants with orders of removal
- B. Undocumented immigrant victim parents
- C. Immigrants with criminal convictions
- D. Immigrants with notices to appear in immigration court

ICE Removal Data

2013

- Convicted criminals 82%
- Repeat immigration violators 7.8%
- Ordered removed and failed to depart 1.6%
- Other immigrants 7.7%

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/2013-ice-immigration-removals.pdf>

2017

- Criminal convictions 73.7%
- Pending criminal charges 15.5%
- Outstanding notices to appear in immigration court 5.3%
- Ordered removed and failed to depart + reinstatement 2.8%
- Other immigrants 2.6%

<https://www.ice.gov/removal-statistics/2017>

2020

- Criminal convictions/ pending criminal charges 92%

<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/ice-ero-report-2020>

Civil Immigration Enforcement Priorities (DHS Memo, Sept. 30, 2021)

- Terrorism, espionage, or threat to national security
- Threat to Border Security if
 - Apprehended while attempting to unlawfully enter the U.S.; or
 - Apprehended inside the U.S. after unlawfully entering after November 1, 2020
- *Current* threat to public safety due to serious criminal conduct
 - Individual assessment based on totality of the circumstances
 - Gravity and sophistication of the offense, conviction, sentence
 - Nature and degree of harm
 - Serious prior criminal record; Use of dangerous weapons

Mitigating Factors In Favor of Declining Enforcement

DHS Enforcement Priorities 9.30.2021 and Doyle OPLA Memo 4.3.22 Memo

- *Crime victim, witness, party in legal proceedings*
- *Person is likely to be granted humanitarian or other immigration relief (temporary or permanent)*
- *Impact on family in U.S. of loss of caregiver/provider*
- *Advanced/tender age/pregnancy*
- *Poor health or serious medical condition*
- *Lengthy presence in U.S.;*
- *Military or public service by immigrant or family member*
- *History of work in the U.S.*
- *Pursuit or completion or education in the U.S.*
- *Time since offense, rehabilitation, conviction vacated or expunged*

“The fact an individual is a removable noncitizen therefore should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them. We will use our discretion and focus our enforcement resources in a more targeted way. Justice and our country's well-being require it.” Alejandro Mayorkas (DHS Memo, Sept. 30, 2021)

Multiple Choice Exercise:

Who is the *least* likely to flee with children from the United States?



- A. U.S. citizens
- B. Undocumented immigrant victim parents
- C. Dual national parents
- D. Multiple entry visa holder parents

Fact: Legal immigrants/naturalized citizens are more likely to flee with children

- **Particularly when**

- When have been threats of kidnapping children
- When they are dual nationals
- Because they can travel freely to and from U.S.

- **Research conducted by the U.S. Department of State**

- Janet Chiancone, Linda Girdner & Patricia Hoff, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Issues in Resolving Cases of International Child Abduction by Parents, JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN, (hereinafter “Issues in Resolving Cases”), (Dec. 2001) 1, 3, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/190105.pdf>

Flight Risk of Foreign-Born Parents with Children

- The Ninth Circuit found that “there is no evidence that undocumented status correlates closely with unmanageable flight risk.”¹

Assessing Risk Factors for International Child Abduction

- Consider whether the other parent:²
 - Has previously abducted or attempted to abduct the child;
 - Has threatened to abduct the child;
 - Has engaged in activities that may indicate a planned abduction including abandoning employment; terminating a lease; or closing bank accounts;
 - Has engaged in domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse;
 - Has refused to follow a child-custody determination; or
 - Has strong family, financial or emotional ties to another country.

1. National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project American University Washington College of Law

True or False?

- True or False: A parent with legal immigration status must be awarded custody in order to sponsor their child for legal immigration status



True



False

Custody not legally required for sponsorship

- Custody is not required for parents to file for immigration status for their children
 - Citizens
 - Lawful permanent residents
 - Visa holders
 - Work Visas
 - Student Visas
 - Diplomatic Visas
 - Religious worker and international worker visas

Multiple Choice Exercise:

What options might be available to a battered immigrant when the abuser seeks custody claiming that the victim has no livelihood?



- A. Child and/or spousal support
- B. Victim files immigration case and gains legal work authorization
- C. Public benefits available to the child or immigrant parent under state/federal benefits laws
- D. All of the above

When Victims File For Crime Victim Based Immigration Relief --

- They are on a path to obtain
 - Legal work authorization
 - A driver's license
 - Greater access to state and federally funded public benefits
 - Learn what victims qualify for in your state
 - NIWAP's public benefits map
- Their application is confidential so that their abuser cannot learn they have filed

Work Authorization by Immigration Status

- VAWA Self Petitioners
 - Abuser US citizen = 4 months
 - Abuser Lawful permanent resident = 1 -1.5 years
- U-Visa applicant = 4-5 years
- T-Visa applicant = 18 months
- SIJS applicants = 6 months

Seeking SIJS Findings in Custody Cases Involving Battered Immigrant's SIJS Eligible Children

Raise Your Hand Exercise

- Raise your hand if you have asked a state court judge in a custody case to make SIJS judicial determinations?



- Have you done this in other case types?

“Juvenile Court”

- “A court located in the United States that has jurisdiction under State law to make judicial determinations about the dependency and/or custody and care of juveniles.”
- 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(a).

SIJS Eligibility

- Under 21 years of age on date of filing SIJS petition with DHS.
- Unmarried through adjudication of SIJS petition.
- Physically present in the U.S. though adjudication of SIJS petition.
- Jurisdictionally valid juvenile/family court order with required findings and conclusions of law regarding:
 - Dependency or custody
 - Parental reunification
 - Best interest

SIJS Requirements

- Child is dependent on a juvenile court or legally committed to or placed under the custody of an agency or department of State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State court.
- Child's best interest would not be served by being returned to his or her country of origin.
- Reunification with one or both parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis under state law.

8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J)

SIJS Findings and Conclusions of Law Made By State Juvenile or Family Court

- **The state court uses state laws** to make child custody or placement decision and memorializes these as SIJS findings of fact & conclusions of law.
- The state court order reflects judge's expertise and application of state law – **it does not provide immigration status.**
- The order is just one required piece of evidence in a federal adjudication process.

“Judicial Determination”

- Findings of fact and conclusions of law that support SIJS
- A “judicial determination” is a conclusion of law made by a juvenile or family court. 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(a)
- “There is nothing in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) that allows or directs ...courts to rely upon provisions of the INA or otherwise deviate from reliance upon state law and procedure in issuing state court orders.” 6 USCIS-PM J.1.A (footnote 2)
- Note: regulation no longer uses the terms “SIJS finding” or “predicate order”

Best Practices For State Court Orders

- Make specific detailed findings of fact and
- Based on those findings make conclusions of law
- “USCIS generally defers to the court on matters of state law and does not go behind the juvenile court order to reweigh evidence or make independent determinations about best interests of the juvenile and abuse, neglect, abandonment or a similar basis under state law.”
- 6 USCIS-PM Chapter 2 J.2

Apply Same Jurisdiction and Procedural Rules as All Other Cases

- Include a statement of the court's jurisdiction citing the state statute, court rule, or other authority under which the court is exercising jurisdiction.
- Follow your state juvenile and family court procedures and note that you do so to demonstrate that the court made an informed decision.

Custody or Dependency Determination Required

- A custody determination or a declaration of dependency is required
 - Best practice: include detailed findings of fact and state the custody determination or declaration of dependency as the court's conclusion of law
- Where the child is placed is not controlling
- Placement must be in the U.S.
- Placement examples:
 - Guardianship, custody with non-abusive parent, foster care, kinship care, state or private agency

Findings/Conclusions of Law That Return to Home Country Not in Child's Best Interests

- Identify each potential custodian in U.S. and home country.
- Apply state best interest factors to each placement.
- State in the court order the factual findings that support chosen placement.
- Make findings that illustrate why under state best interest factors the court is not choosing placements in child's home country.
- Compare the support, help, services child needs in U.S vs. home country.

Ask a Judge

- You have decided to grant custody to Clara who is residing in your jurisdiction
- Clara's home country is El Salvador
- What if any additional information you need as a judge to find that it is not in the child's best interests to return to El Salvador?

Findings/Conclusions of Law:

Reunification Not Viable

- Order must include conclusion of law that reunification with the parent is not viable.
- Make specific findings- what ground (abuse, abandonment, neglect) applies to which parent.
 - Only mistreatment by one parent required.
 - Does not require termination of parental rights.
 - 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(c)(1)(ii)
- Viability of reunification does not necessitate no contact with parent – visitation can occur.
- Means granting the abusive parent custody is not envisioned by the court as a viable option
- Use state law. Do not cite to INA or regulations!

Staying Focused on Best Interests of the Child

Clara and Eduardo Case Scenario

Clara met Eduardo a lawful permanent resident when he came back to his hometown to visit his family in El Salvador. Eduardo started dating Clara who was raising her 9 year old son Miguel. After Clara became pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl Lupe, Eduardo decided to bring Clara, Miguel and Lupe to the U.S. to live with him. When they arrived in the U.S. Eduardo took Clara, Miguel and Lupe's passports and became physically and sexually abusive of Clara and abusive of Miguel who tried to protect his mother from Eduardo's abuse. Eduardo also physically beat Lupe when he said she "misbehaved". Within a year following their arrival in the U.S. Eduardo forced both Clara and Miguel to work for his family's business and never paid them for their labor. One night when Miguel was 13 and Lupe was 5, Eduardo's rage led to severe beatings with a belt of Miguel and of Lupe. When Clara intervened to protect the children, Eduardo strangled her until she passed out. The neighbors call the police for help, Clara talked to police when they arrived. The police arrested Eduardo for attempted murder and child abuse, took Clara to the hospital and placed the children in the care of the state.

Small Group Activity and Report Back

- At your tables use the “Best Interests of the Child Handout”
- What factors would you want to emphasize and present to in your case on Clara’s behalf?

Best Interest Factors

- Family violence
- Child's needs
- Parent's fitness and capacity to be a caregiver
- Substance abuse and Mental illness
- Continuity and stability of the child
- Children's family relationships
- Child's wishes
- Parental wishes
- Parental cooperation and conflict
- Joint custody
- Criminal history of a parent

Raising Immigration Status of Your Client Affirmatively in Your Custody Case

Large Group Discussion

How and why might you want to raise the victim's immigration status affirmatively as part of your custody case?

Coercive Control Over Immigration Status

- Among abusive spouses who could have filed legal immigration papers for survivors:
 - 72.3% never file immigration papers
 - The 27.7% who did file had a mean delay of **3.97 years.**

Hass, Dutton and Orloff (2000). "Lifetime prevalence of violence against Latina immigrants: Legal and Policy Implications." *International Review of Victimology* 7 93113

- 65% of immigrant survivors report some form of immigration related abuse (NIJ, 2003)

Edna Erez and Nawal Ammar, *Violence Against Immigrant Women and Systemic Responses: An Exploratory Study* (2003)

- Abuse rate rises to 59.5% when an immigrant's spouse/former spouse is a U.S. citizen

- Twice the national average

Hass, G. A., Ammar, N., Orloff, L. (2006). *Battered Immigrants and U.S. Citizen Spouses*

Perpetrators Efforts to Trigger Victim's Removal

- Perpetrators actively reporting victims with pending immigration cases for removal
 - VAWA self-petitioners 38.3%; U visa 25%
- Perpetrators got the victim arrested when the victim called police for help with domestic violence
 - VAWA self-petitioners rose 2013-2017 from 15.4% -17%
 - U visa rose 2013-2017 from 7.5% -36%

Krisztina E. Szabo, David Stauffer, Benish Anver, *Work Authorization For VAWA Self-Petitioners and U Visa Applicants*, NIWAP (Feb. 12, 2014) and Rodrigues et al. Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Crime Victims in an Age of Increased Immigration Enforcement: Initial Report from a 2017 National Survey (May 3, 2018)

Coercive Control Tactics

- Threatening to report/turn over the victim to Department of Homeland Security
- Attempt to interfere in victims' immigration case filed by the abuser
- Hiding, destroying, or restricting access to identification and other important documents
- Giving victim misinformation about immigration status, process and/or available relief

Best Practice: Screen for Immigration-Related Abuse

- 10 times higher in relationships with physical/sexual abuse as opposed to psychological abuse
- May predict abuse escalation
- Corroborates existence of physical and sexual abuse

Mary Ann Dutton, Leslye Orloff, and Giselle Hass, Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications (Summer 2000)

Ask a Judge?

- What are the pros and cons of this strategy in cases of battered immigrant mothers?
- Tips that could lead to best outcomes



Small group activity

- Consider judicial assumptions discussed earlier
- Review the hand outs
 - “VAWA Confidentiality Protections, Courthouse Enforcement, and Protected Areas Policies at a Glance”
 - Best Interests Factors
- How would you advise Clara in preparation for litigating her contested custody case

Large Group Discussion Depends on the Judge!

- What do you know about:
 - Judges' knowledge about/stance on
 - Domestic violence
 - Immigration relief for victims
 - How immigrant friendly or not they might be?
 - What else would you want to know?

Impact of domestic violence on a child's developing brain



The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children Vary and Include:

- **Physical** – injuries, health concerns
- **Emotional** – fear, reverting to safe behaviors, anxiety, self-blame
- **Social** – problems interacting with peers, high risk behaviors
- **Neurological** – effects on brain development
- **Cognitive** – school performance issues, anxiety/depression, PTSD

Behaviors of Abusive Parent

- Exposure to domestic violence
- Role model – rigid inappropriate roles, abusive tactics
- Undermining victim parent
- Isolating, limiting resources, restricting choices
- Threatening harm or removal of children (pets)
- Focus on their (the abusive parent's) needs
- Engendering fear in children

The Importance of Identifying and Seeking Findings From State Court Judges Regarding Involuntary Servitude Occurring in Domestic Violence Cases

Large Group Exercise

- Working at tables groups will identify facts in the Clara case that indicate that she and Miguel are victims of involuntary servitude
- Use Involuntary Servitude handout to list what evidence of the involuntary servitude and human trafficking you would want to present to the judge in the custody case to obtain an involuntary servitude finding

USCIS: Involuntary Servitude in Domestic Violence Relationships

- Officers should evaluate whether the situation involves compelled or coerced labor or services or forced sexual activity and is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.
 - *Peonage*: a status or condition of involuntary servitude based upon real or alleged indebtedness.
 - *Debt Bondage*: status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by the debtor of the personal services of the debtor or those of a person under the debtor's control as a security for a debt.
 - *Slavery*: not strictly defined but generally understood to mean the state of being held under the complete and total ownership or control of another person or entity and being deprived of liberty, autonomy, and independence.
- In some circumstances, the unequal assignment of household tasks among household members may signal an abusive relationship but does not automatically constitute the creation of a condition of servitude.

Benefits for Abused Immigrant Clients of Obtaining Findings of Human Trafficking In Custody and Family Law Cases

- Victims and their children eligible for
 - T visas and continued presence
 - Many more public benefits
 - Victim's children eligible for OTIP letters
- Improves abused immigrant's economic security when
 - Victim's children become benefits eligible
 - Victim is on a path to legal work authorization

Join NIWAP's Family Law or Victim Advocate Community of Practice



- To register for:
 - *Family law community of practice*
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVGDCCV>
 - *Victim Advocate community of practice*
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBHR3X3>

Encourage Judges You Know to Join the National Judicial Network



- If you are a judicial officer -- *Please Join the National Judicial Network*
<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/national-judicial-network>
- Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VGY9VJM>

Technical Assistance and Materials

- NIWAP Technical Assistance:
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 - Web Library:
www.niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu
- Materials for this Workshop:
 - <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/BostonCustody>
- Contact NIWAP to provide training for your jurisdiction