

Working with Domestic Violence Immigrant Survivors: The Intersection of Basic Family Law, Immigration, Benefits, and Housing Issues in California 2020

San Francisco, Live Webcast and www.pli.edu, April 22, 2020

Why You Should Attend

You should attend this training if you would like to provide pro bono services to immigrant domestic violence survivors. Immigrant domestic violence survivors may require assistance with a constellation of related yet distinct legal issues, more commonly in the areas of family law, domestic violence, housing, and public benefits. While it may be difficult for a single attorney or legal service provider to provide all of these services, it is important to understand the comprehensive and holistic legal needs of an immigrant domestic violence survivor, and the intersectionality between these legal matters. This day-long program will develop the practitioner's understanding of how to provide culturally and linguistically responsive services to immigrant survivors, and provide guidance on how to issue spot various legal issues for immigrant survivors of domestic violence. Experienced domestic violence advocates and legal practitioners in the areas of immigration, family law, public benefits, and housing will share their expertise by providing insight into issues that arise when working with immigrant clients, how these areas of law overlap to provide special protections and remedies to immigrants and domestic violence survivors, and how immigration status impacts eligibility availability of safety net programs for housing, public benefits and healthcare.

What You Will Learn

- Cultural and linguistic issues to be aware of when working with immigrant clients generally and specific issues that arise in working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence
- What is domestic violence and how it impacts immigrant and LGBT communities
- What family law issues are implicated when working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence
- What immigration legal remedies and benefits are available for immigrant domestic violence survivors, and recent immigration updates impacting immigrant domestic violence survivors
- How immigration status can impact access to public benefits
- Special housing protections for immigrant domestic violence survivors in the Violence Against Women Act, Fair Housing laws, and other California laws

Who Should Attend

Legal aid, nonprofit and private practitioners who work with and/or would like to provide pro bono legal services for domestic violence survivors and immigrant communities.

AGENDA

Morning Session:

9:00

Opening Remarks

Cindy C. Liou, Mélody Saint-Saëns, Morgan M. Weibel

9:05

Orientation to Domestic Violence

This session provides an overview of what is domestic violence, types of abuse, the cycle of violence, why individuals stay in abusive relationships, cultural contexts of domestic violence, and special considerations relating to same-sex domestic violence relationships.

Nancy K.D. Lemon

9:35

Providing Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Services for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence in the Elimination of Bias

The goal of this session is to explore how factors affecting work with immigrant survivors of domestic violence such as culture, language, race and immigration status affect the advocate-client relationship.

The session will focus on how to use cultural and linguistic responsiveness to become better advocates and focus on how to eliminate bias experienced by immigrant clients.

Elisabet Medina, Hedianita Utarti

10:35 Networking Break

10:55

Immigration Legal Remedies and Recent Legal and Policy Updates for Immigrant Domestic Violence Survivors

This session will cover the most common forms of immigration relief for undocumented survivors of domestic violence to gain legal status: asylum, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitions, U nonimmigrant status, and T nonimmigrant status. It will also cover emerging, recent issues related to these forms of relief, such as recent policies, regulations, procedures, and best practices in light of the ever-changing legal landscape.

Anna Cabot, Cindy C. Liou, Catherine Seitz, Morgan M. Weibel

12:25 Lunch

Afternoon Session:

1:25

Benefits and Immigration

This session covers issues that arise when representing immigrant clients seeking public benefits and how new public benefits policies and regulations may impact future eligibility for domestic violence survivors and mixed status families.

Tanya Broder, Lisa M. Newstrom

2:25

Family Law and Immigration (TRO, Custody, Divorce)

This session addresses common family law issues that arise when immigrants are dealing with domestic violence, such as restraining orders, custody and divorce matters.

Trina Chatterjee, Nicole Ford

3:25 Networking Break

3:45

Domestic Violence and Housing

This session covers how the Violence Against Women Act and Fair Housing laws protect survivors of domestic violence from evictions and denial of housing with a special emphasis on working with immigrant clients.

Kara Brodfuehrer, Kemi Mustapha

5:00 Adjourn

Faculty:

Co-Chairs:

Cindy C. Liou

State Policy Director
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
San Francisco, California

Mélody Saint-Saëns

Regional Immigration Counsel
Bay Area Legal Aid
Richmond, California

Morgan M. Weibel

Executive Director
Tahirih Justice Center
San Bruno, California

Tanya Broder

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Senior Pro Bono Program Attorney: Christina Thompson