STANDING TALL

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, April 5, 2018 – 10:15 AM

Expecting a T-Visa Approval, Preparing for an Appeal: Careful Preparations of T Visa Petitions

Attorneys who are new to working with T visas and advanced T practitioners will learn tips for putting together successful T visa applications, best practices in responding to Requests for Further Evidence (RFEs) and appeals, and suggested strategies for preparing strong appeals.

Advocating for Potential Human Trafficking Survivors Experiencing Police Misconduct

Through open source arrest data as well as direct client reports, the Exploitation Intervention Project (EIP) of The Legal Aid Society in New York City is able to observe patterns of policing and police misconduct. Two populations in particular report experiencing frequent misconduct: cisgender immigrant women and transgender women of color. More specifically, these groups report experiencing police misconduct during the course of being policed for commercial sex. This police misconduct subsequently impacts our clients' ability to disclose trafficking and other forms of exploitation to us, their defense attorneys, and therefore affects our capacity to engage in effective trauma-informed advocacy.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking: Intersectionality and Building Bridges

The anti-trafficking movement has propelled forward with the help of lessons learned and partnerships gained from the domestic violence movement. Power and control is the thread that ties domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking together. We know these victimizations co-occur and intersect in obvious but also complex ways. This presentation will explore these similarities, intersectionalities and differences in the context of building bridges across movements to work collaboratively and effectively to serve the wide array of needs with which survivors present. Attendees will learn from experts and agencies that have successfully built bridges between domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking programming, resources, and services.

Ethical Partnership with Survivors

From witness testimony to legislative advocacy, survivor voices are a crucial element of all anti-trafficking efforts. In recent years, survivors have joined the leadership of the anti-trafficking movement, powerfully advocating for policy change nationally and internationally. But survivor leaders are often not treated as professionals in the movement. Many have raised concerns that they are asked to tell their stories, raise funds, draft policy guidance, and provide advice to partner organizations without remuneration. Partnerships with survivors must be conducted in an ethical and responsible manner. In this session, survivor-advocates will discuss their personal experiences as survivor-leaders and present findings from a survey of survivors. The survivors will also present a proposed code of conduct for engagement with survivor-leaders in the United States.

The View from the Top: Federal Anti-Trafficking Efforts

Hear from a panel of federal agency leaders working to address human trafficking in the US. Learn about the work of their agencies, meet their staff, and ask your burning questions!

Wednesday, April 5, 2018 – 1:00 PM

Understanding Immunity in Trafficking Investigations or Prosecutions

This session will address the issue of considering, and seeking or not seeking criminal immunity for trafficking survivors at many stages of their interaction with law enforcement. It addresses both service providers and legal advocates work with law enforcement and may need to consider seeking immunity for a survivor. This panel will discuss what types of immunity exist, the pros and cons of seeking immunity, or being offered immunity, and the dynamics involved in this process.

Myth, Facts, Masculinity: Cultural Considerations when working with Male Survivors of Human Trafficking

In this workshop a male survivor of trafficking, will discussed the myths and facts about being victim of sex trafficking. This workshop will explore Masculinity pre and post victimization, effective ways of engaging men into services, and ways of breaking the cultural barriers that prevent men from accepting services.

Junk Science=Junk Policy: the challenges of data collection

Funders, task forces, policy advocates, academics and service providers are clamoring for data about human trafficking, but in reality "data" can be elusive or misleading. This hybrid presentation/discussion will explore these challenges -- sound methodology, prevalence vs. incidence, large data (international) vs. small data (local), and the politics of collecting data on human trafficking -- in the context of local, state, regional and international efforts, including ongoing efforts to study prevalence nationally and ways to streamline reporting. The panelists have experience in community-based research, international data collection and evaluation at the state/task force level.

Forming a Survivor Leadership group

At this workshop, we will discuss steps to form a support/leadership group for survivors of human trafficking as well as successes and challenges we have encountered when running a group. We will discuss ways to work with language needs, cultural diversity, and transportation when the participants live far away from the agency. We will also discuss ways to hold group with minimum or no funding. And most importantly, we will discuss how to transform a support group into a survivor leadership group where survivors can gain leadership skills and eventually become leaders in the anti-human trafficking movement at both local and national level.

Building Resilience: Transformative Self-Care Tools to Survive and Thrive in Times of Change

Self-care is often discussed as a personal responsibility of individual workers to prevent burnout. This workshop aims to expand the discussion to consider collective behaviors that can support cultural shifts and enact a more grounded expression of trauma-informed practices. This session is especially relevant in the current political climate in order to cultivate accessible, sustainable practices to survive and thrive amidst challenging periods of change. The long arc of anti-trafficking advocacy requires mental, emotional, and physical health of both providers and those directly impacted. This workshop will equip participants with concrete skills and materials to apply to their personal and professional lives to support long term wellbeing and effective advocacy.

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Dollar-a-Day: Immigrant Detention and Labor Trafficking

This panel will discuss recent trafficking cases and trends regarding the use of immigrant detainee labor by private detention corporations that are under contract with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). The panel will primarily focus on legal claims and theories, but the discussion will also include strategies for on-the-ground advocates to investigate and document unlawful labor practices in their local immigrant detention centers.

Understanding cultural nuances while working with human trafficking survivors

This panel will explore and discuss the challenging work of understanding the cultural nuances for the very diverse populations impacted by human trafficking.

Are you LGBTQQAPPHHDI inclusive? Building better programs for LGBTQ+ communities

Discussion on intersectionality and LGBTQ+ misses this year, building better support and adding to the inclusive policies to make organizations stronger on LGBTQ+ needs.

Labor Trafficking at Sea: A Case Study

Join those who worked with the first labor trafficking case challenging practices of an American longline fishing fleet. Learn about successes and challenges in the immigration process, civil litigation, and providing social service support to the survivors.

Creative Collaboration: New Tricks in Tricky Times

International Institute of Buffalo (IIB) has been piloting a model of technical assistance that involves an on-site presence within systems that were experiencing low identification of trafficking survivors. This session will explore the challenges and successes of this model, emphasizing the need for more strategic and creative systems' collaboration at a time of shrinking resources.

Thursday, April 6, 2018 – 10:15 AM

Narrating Documented/Undocumented Migration: Intersecting Movements of Immigration, Rights and Human Trafficking

Citizenship is summarized as - a person who has the right to have rights. Immigrants oftentimes do not fit into this right holding status. In the twenty-first century an ongoing hot topic issue in the United States is immigration. From recent discussions on immigration, a misperception about immigrants circulates where they are misrepresented as “murderers and rapists” to Executive Orders, immigration is more than newsworthy. It has social and legal consequence on family and individual lives. The ongoing Immigration debates and responses by law enforcement agents have created legal challenges for survivors of human trafficking when survivors are deemed criminal, illegal, and/or deportable. This panel will highlight the general picture of immigration on human trafficking. Immigration and human trafficking intersect in important ways - labor, border control, a path-to-citizenship, intersecting violence (i.e., DV and SA), and Undocumented/documented youth migration. For trafficked people who cross international borders, they are deeply impacted by the discourse, policy, and practices on immigration. This session offers an in-depth discussion on how legal and social service providers are working on immigration in the current climate.

Building Vacatur Practice & Legislation: A Strategy Workshop for Legislation & Outreach

This workshop will provide participants with a current view of criminal record advocacy for trafficking survivors. The session will highlight new and emerging state law and a comprehensive update on efforts for federal criminal record relief. Workshop participants will learn how to better move legislation forward in their jurisdictions, identify survivors who might be eligible to clear their records, and build a collaborative pro bono legal response. This session is appropriate for advocates in states with strong post-conviction relief laws, laws that need improvement, as well as those working in states that currently do not have vacatur laws for survivors.

Let's work together: Creating a collective response to human trafficking through collaboration and critical dialogue

As advocates, practitioners, and professionals involved in the anti-trafficking movement, we are pressed for deadlines, have large caseloads, and are often jumping from one case to the next. This session will focus on creating an opportunity to take a step-back, evaluate current issues in the anti-trafficking movement, and discuss the trajectory of the movement and promises practices to serve survivors of trafficking. We will host a community dialogue session where 3-4 articles relating to the current trends in the anti-trafficking movement will be critically analyzed through impactful small group dialogue.

Youth Housing

This session will explore best practices in securing housing for runaway and homeless youth. This population is highly vulnerable to trafficking. This session will highlight innovative ways to creating new collaborations with existing housing programs and review special considerations that should be made when working with trafficked youth.

Triumphs and Challenges in Family Reunifications: Best Practices and Survivor Voices

The process of family reunification, while having many positive implications, can also be accompanied by challenges arising from differing interests and needs of family members. In the current political climate, as is true of nearly all- immigration related issues, those surrounding family reunification can have or be perceived by clients to have more critical and long lasting consequences.

Thursday, April 6, 2018 – 1:15 PM

That's a Relief: USCIS Discusses Immigration Options for Survivors

This panel will share the latest trends, statistics, and updates in immigration law and practice for trafficking survivors with a particular emphasis on T and U nonimmigrant status. The session includes panelists from USCIS and Vermont Service Center and will offer an opportunity to get your questions regarding T & U practice answered.

A Time of Turmoil: Speed Dating for Case Managers

With fear increasing within many vulnerable communities and resources simultaneously dwindling, case managers have had to be even more creative than usual in meeting the needs of survivors. This session will highlight several practical and creative ideas in leveraging resources and expanding collaborations. The majority of the session will involve a "speed dating" format in an effort for all participants to share as many ideas as possible to increase organizational capacity. **Attendees please arrive with at least one tip/intervention/creative idea you/your organization has implemented within the past year.

Survivor-informed Practices – Are We There Yet?

Are your organization's practices and protocols survivor informed? Fellows of the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center's Human Trafficking Leadership Academy pilot program share the proposed definition they developed, as well as related best practices and implementing recommendations, which were presented to OTIP and other federal agencies in the fall of 2017.

Civil Remedies for Human Trafficking Survivors

In 2016, the federal government prosecuted just 241 human trafficking cases. Of those, just 13 prosecutions were for forced labor. In the current environment, it is highly unlikely that these statistics will improve. Civil litigation provides an option to hold traffickers accountable for their crimes. As of October 2017, trafficking survivors had brought 257 federal civil cases for trafficking since 2003. Of those, 238 of the cases, or 93%, were for forced labor. This panel will discuss trends in human trafficking civil litigation in the United States. Using data collected by the Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center, panel participants will discuss the power of civil litigation, much of it done by pro bono attorneys. The panel will focus on four trends: 1) the significant number of domestic worker civil cases; 2) successes in civil litigation in trafficking cases; 3) the use of expert witness testimony at trial; and 4) the potential to sue third parties who "knowingly financially benefit" from human trafficking, particularly in sex trafficking cases.

A Labor Trafficking Case: Service Providers and Enforcement Collaborating for Good Results

Although enforcement agents and service providers have different ultimate goals, working together they can fulfill the goals of both, as well as the basic intent of the TVPA, which is, as its title implies, a survivor-centered law. This case study will examine the details of an interesting, complex case of labor trafficking from the perspective of the federal agent, the clients' attorney, and the case manager.

Thursday, April 6, 2018 – 3:15 PM

Subsidized Housing for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Look at the Chicago Housing Authority Collaboration

In July 2016, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board of Commissioners approved 60 tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers for survivors of human trafficking in Chicago—the first initiative of its kind in the country. In this sustained collaborative effort, which stems directly from the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services to Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States, the CHA partners with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and six community service providers to design, implement, and administer a program that aims to set survivors up for success in housing and in life. Panelists will discuss program details from eligibility to the referral process, from supportive services to the reporting structure; review program data; and share successes, limitations, challenges, and lessons learned to help session attendees determine whether and how a similar housing intervention might work for survivors in their communities.

Reproductive Rights and Human Trafficking: Collaboration for Human Rights

Trafficking survivors are being denied access to the full range of reproductive care. This session will discuss the recent assault on reproductive rights and how this impacts trafficking survivors in the United States.

State Initiatives to Combat Labor Exploitation and Trafficking

Panelists from California, Texas, and New York will discuss current efforts to investigate and prosecute labor exploitation and trafficking. The session will also review creative litigation to obtain restitution and put money back in the survivor's hands.

Confidential Informants and Forced Labor

Forced labor can take many forms and is exacted from victims by many different perpetrators. At times, the government acts as a trafficker by forcing individuals vulnerable because of criminal history to participate in dangerous and otherwise illegal activity with the goal of furthering a criminal investigation. What is the anti-trafficking community doing to protect this vulnerable population?

Utilizing Harm Reduction & Decreasing Stigma

This session will look at the importance of utilizing strategies which reduce negative consequences without asking an individual to stop that behavior, to reach clients and develop the trust needed for complex service provision. When clients feel judged or controlled, trust and services are compromised. Harm reduction meets clients where they are and affirms lives. Focused on survival sex and substance use among vulnerable populations, participants will learn what harm reduction is, and how to incorporate strategies for addressing stigma, navigating institutional barriers and strategic collaboration to provide information and support.