

**Projects on a Platter:
Encouraging Young Lawyers to do Pro Bono**

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Brief Description:

The Denver Bar Association Legal Services Immigration Sub-committee organized a series of pro bono legal education clinics specifically designed to attract and assist immigrants in areas of law likely to affect the immigrant population. This clinic series takes place monthly at Centro de San Juan Diego, an organization that services low income Hispanic people in the Denver metro area.

Topical Outline:

- I. Organization and Structure of the Pro Bono Legal Education Clinics
 - a. Eight Clinic Topics – one per month, each focusing on different area of law
 - i. Small Business: useful information for small business owners (i.e. incorporation, partnership, limited partnership, tax issues, employee issues, etc...)
 - ii. Wage Claims and Employment: issues regarding employment rights (i.e. eligibility for overtime pay, risk of deportation if employee complaint is made, etc...)
 - iii. Family Law: issues regarding domestic relations will be addressed (these clinics will be modeled after the family law clinics that are already provided by the DBA Legal Services Committee and may include additional information about the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)).
 - iv. Constitutional/Criminal Procedure - issues regarding police procedure and civil rights (i.e. when identification must be/does not have to be shown to the police, what is a proper stop-and-search, effect of other criminal offenses, etc.).
 - v. Education Law – Information regarding the requirements that parents face if they wish to travel abroad with their children, procedures available in education-related proceedings such as truancy and suspension, and access to education

- vi. Consumer Rights – Information regarding consumer protections that apply to all consumers, regardless of immigrant status and how not to be a victim of consumer fraud.
 - vii. Public Benefits – issues regarding medical benefits will be addressed (i.e. eligibility for medical benefits, whether or not acceptance of food stamps and other services can interfere with immigrant children’s eligibility to medical benefits, etc.)
 - viii. Landlord/Tenant – issues regarding housing rights will be addressed (i.e. when is a landlord obligated make repairs, if rent is paid in cash a receipt must be obtained, all related documents must be organized and kept in a safe place, etc.)
 - b. Legal Education Presentation with handouts
 - c. Question & Answer session
- II. Recruitment of Volunteer Attorneys and Interpreters
 - a. Attorneys – One immigration attorney and one attorney specializing in substantive area for each clinic
 - i. Denver Bar Association
 - ii. American Immigration Lawyers Association (“AILA”) local chapter
 - iii. Hispanic Bar Association
 - b. Interpreters
 - i. Same as above
 - ii. Paralegal and Law school student groups
 - iii. Local interpreter association
- III. Advertising of Legal Education Clinics
 - a. Centro de San Juan Diego (part of Archdiocese of Denver) – advertise to its parishes
 - b. DBA Public Legal Education Director
 - c. Spanish television and radio stations
 - d. Social services network
 - e. Other Immigrant and Human Rights groups in area

Website Links:

1. <http://www.denbar.org/group/index.cfm?category=1111&EntityID=DBA>
information on other Denver Bar Association sponsored legal education clinics