

ABA/ NLADA 2007 Equal Justice Conference

When Immigration and Pro Bono Intersect in Transactional Pro Bono Programs

Panelists

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Brief Description

America's diversity starts with her immigrant population. Providing transactional pro bono services to an immigration population presents its own set of issues. Learn how programs overcome the challenges of outreach, culture, training, client screening and funding; how they develop a network of immigration lawyers and consultants for client referrals or for consultation; and how they partner with ethnic bar associations to develop a network of qualified, language-proficient lawyers for client referrals and for consultations with pro bono business lawyers who are assisting clients on transactional matters.

Topical Outline

I. Introductions

- A. Panelists
- B. Transactional pro bono programs
- C. What is an "immigrant"?

II. Clients

- A. Reaching new clients in the immigrant population
- B. LEP issues in new client outreach
- C. New clients
 - 1. Client intake / screening practices
 - 2. Identifying / not identifying a client's legal status
 - 3. Legal advice that may impact a client's status

III. Language Access

- A. Needs assessment
 - 1. Document translation
 - 2. Live interpretation
- B. Recruiting volunteer translators and interpreters

IV. Volunteers

- A. Outreach
 - 1. Attracting volunteers committed to working with immigrant populations
 - 2. Broader legal community outreach
 - a. Business bar leader endorsement
 - b. Local lawyer / community lawyer partnerships
- B. Volunteer Training
 - 1. Cultural
 - 2. Immigration law basics

V. Special Issues

- A. Funding implications
- B. Other issues impacted by a client's legal status

VI. Immigration Bar

- A. Outreach to local chapter
 - 1. For consultation
 - 2. For referrals
- B. Immigration laws impacting undocumented immigrants
 - 1. Recent changes
 - 2. Anticipated changes

VII. Ethnic Bar

- A. Outreach to state / local chapter
 - 1. Bar leadership partnership
 - 2. Section partnerships
 - a. Bilingual business lawyers
- B. Ethnic bar volunteer activities
 - 1. Pro bono work / legal representation
 - 2. Document translation, live interpretation
 - a. Language-proficiency
 - b. Substantive proficiency
 - 3. Consultation