



**CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.**

**Introduction to Building Legal Capacity to Combat
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Against
Immigrants Project**

December 16, 2018 2:00-3:00pm EST

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CLINIC

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Webinar Agenda

- Introduction to CLINIC
- Overview of Building Legal Capacity Project
- Overview of Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation
- CLINIC Trainings Offered
- Format and Expectation of Trainings
- Training Schedule
- Technical Assistance
- Questions?



CLINIC

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Introduction to CLINIC: Who We Are

- Established in 1988
- Largest network of charitable legal immigration programs in the United States.
- 300+ Affiliates Nationwide
- 400+ locations in 47 states plus D.C.
- ~67% Catholic, ~33% not Catholic
- Many faiths and nationalities
- CLINIC and its affiliate agencies serve a quarter of a million immigrants each year.



Introduction to CLINIC: What We Do

- Capacity Building
- Training - Substantive Immigration Law and Program Management
- Technical Assistance
- Publications
- Advocacy
- Litigation
- Religious Immigration Services



Overview of Building Legal Capacity Project

- Large unmet need for immigration legal services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Abusers use lack of status as a principle control mechanism in abusive relationships.
- Lack of status keeps immigrants in the shadows of society with few legal protections & at the mercy of abusers. Many survivors qualify for relief under US immigration law.



Overview of Building Legal Capacity Project

- Building capacity through the Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation process to increase the number of low income immigration legal service providers
- Increase knowledge about immigration legal benefits that are available to abused immigrants
- Assist with starting an immigration program within already existing programs



What is DOJ R & A?

- The recognition and accreditation program permits recognized organizations and their non-attorney accredited representatives to represent clients in immigration proceedings.
- 8 CFR §1292.11 and §1292.12



What is DOJ R&A?

- Maintain or increase capacity
- Strengthen & professionalized program
- Prevent unauthorized practice of law
- Ensure better quality of immigration advice and client services
- Help the community
- Lower staffing costs



What is DOJ R&A?

- Agency must receive recognition for staff (non-attorneys) to be accredited
- **Recognition:** Non-Profit Religious, Charitable, Social Service, or Similar Organization
- **Accreditation:** Employee/volunteer of DOJ recognized non-profit agency
- Requirement: Knowledge and experience in immigration law
- Partial and Full accreditation

Poll

- How many are already helping clients with U and VAWA?
- How many are referring these cases to an immigration attorney?
- How many are familiar with DOJ R&A and the role of non-attorney practitioners?

Who can practice immigration law?

- Two main groups:
 - Attorneys
 - DOJ accredited representatives



2 Types of Accreditation

- Partial and Full
- Can request change from partial to full at any time
- Qualifications for full accreditation are greater than partial and will be carefully scrutinized by OLAP



Examples of Recognized Agencies

- Law School Legal Clinics
- Libraries
- Transitional Housing
- State Coalitions
- Community Centers
- Public Health Organizations
- Resource Centers
- Foundations
- Unions
- Cultural Community Centers
- Faith Based Organization
- Non Profit Legal Service Organizations



Recognition & Accreditation Roster

- <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognized-organizations-and-accredited-representatives-roster-state-and-city>





CLINIC Trainings

- **In - Person** – The Legal Advocate’s Perspective: Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation and Immigration Legal Services for Immigrants Experiencing Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- **Self Directed /Rapid e-learning**
 - Fundamentals of Immigration Law
- **E-Learnings**
 - Introduction to Immigration Law Practice: A Course for New Practitioners Working With Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
 - Selected Issues in U Status and VAWA Self-Petitioning
 - Ethical Issues in Immigration Law Webinar
 - Program Management Webinar

CLINIC E-Learning

- Overall structure
 - All materials found on e-learning website
- Reading
 - Weekly readings on designated topic or topics
- Exercises
 - Helps to understand the material
- Quizzes
 - Tests/Reinforces the material
- Webinars
 - Review material, ask questions

CLINIC E-Learning

- Course completion requirements:
 - Attend all live or recorded webinars and complete required weekly quiz or exercise
 - Have two weeks after last live webinar to complete

CLINIC Training Schedule E-Learnings

- Introduction to Immigration Law: A Course of New Practitioners [January 15- February 26, 2019](#), [July 2-August 13, 2019](#)
- Selected Issues in U & VAWA Self Petitioning [April 3-May 1, 2019](#)
- Ethical Issues in Immigration Law Webinar [June 27, 2019](#)
- Recognition Renewal Under the New Rule [Summer 2019](#)
- Fundamentals of U.S. Immigration Law [Self-Directed](#)
www.cliniclegal.org/ovw/fundamentals
www.cliniclegal.org/ovw/fundamentals-spanish



CLINIC Training Schedule In-Person

- The Legal Advocate’s Perspective: Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation and Immigration Legal Services for Immigrants Experiencing Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
March 26-27, 2019



CLINIC Technical Assistance

- Substantive immigration law training
- Assist with case and programmatic questions
- Counsel on completing a R and/or A application
- Editing of final draft application



ASISTA

- CLINIC partners with ASISTA Immigration Assistance on this project www.asistahelp.org
- They offer training to OVW grantees http://www.asistahelp.org/en/events_and_trainings/
- They offer technical assistance to OVW grantees http://www.asistahelp.org/en/technical_assistance/
- You can contact Amy Cheung, Senior Legal Counsel at amy@asistahelp.org



Resources

- DOJ toolkit with step-by-step guide that contains sample application documents: https://cliniclegal.org/clinic_toolkit/672/939
- OVW Project Webpage: www.cliniclegal.org/ovw
- CLINIC Training Calendar: www.cliniclegal.org/training/calendar



Questions?



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