

# **Working with Immigrants: The Intersection of Basic Immigration, Housing, and Domestic Violence Issues in California 2014**

**May 13, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

## **Why You Should Attend**

You should attend this training if you would like to provide pro bono services to immigrant clients in the areas of housing, immigration, or domestic violence or you would like to improve your representation of immigrant clients generally. Many immigrant clients require assistance with a constellation of related yet distinct issues. This day-long program attempts to address these particular areas of overlap. Experienced practitioners in the areas of immigration, family law, and housing will share their expertise by providing insight into cultural 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 for federally subsidized housing.

## **What You Will Learn**

- Cultural competency issues to be aware of when working with immigrant clients generally and specific issues that arise in housing and domestic violence cases
- What is domestic violence and how does it impact immigrant and LGBT communities
- How immigration status affects eligibility for federally subsidized housing
- Fair Housing laws that protect immigrants and domestic violence survivors
- Special housing protections for domestic violence survivors in the Violence Against Women's Act and other California laws
- What family law issues are implicated when working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence
- How to get your client legal immigration status based on domestic violence

## **Who Should Attend**

Legal aid and private practitioners who work with immigrant clients or who would like to provide pro bono services to immigrant clients in the areas of immigration, housing, or domestic violence would benefit from attending this program.

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## **Program Schedule**

9:00

### **Program Overview and Introductions**

*Brenda Star Adams, Sharon Djemal*

9:15

### **Client Counseling & Advocacy: The Role of Race, Class and Culture**

The goal of this session is to explore the lawyer-client relationship with a focus on the role of race, class, and culture. Through two interrelated exercises, we will look at the nature of discrimination in the “post-Obama” era and how culture operates on the cognitive, affective, and behavior levels in order to increase our own cultural literacy and empathy in order to address and eliminate bias experienced by minority and foreign-born clients (and advocates) in legal counseling and representation.

*Tirien Steinbach*

10:15

*Networking Break*

10:30

### **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, Lindsay Sweetnam*

11:30

### **Housing and Immigration**

This session covers cultural competency and fair housing issues that arise when representing immigrant clients on housing issues in addition to how immigration status affects eligibility for subsidized housing.

*Monique Farris, Protima Pandey*

12:30

*Lunch*

1:45

### **Domestic Violence and Housing**

This session covers how the Violence Against Women’s 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.

*Brenda Star Adams, Karlo Ng*

2:45

**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.

***Khanh T. Nguyen, Hongvilay Thongsamouth***

3:45

*Networking Break*

4:00

**Getting Legal Status Based on Domestic Violence**

This session will cover the most common forms of immigration relief for undocumented survivors of domestic violence to gain legal status: political asylum, U visas, T visas, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) applications.

***Susan Bowyer, Lisa Frydman, Cindy C. Liou***

5:00

*Adjourn*

## **Faculty**

### **Co-Chairs**

#### **Brenda Star Adams**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
Oakland, California

#### **Sharon Djemal**

Supervising Attorney & Clinical Instructor, Housing Practice  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Berkeley, California

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#### **Susan Bowyer**

Deputy Director  
Immigration Center for Women and Children  
San Francisco, California

#### **Monique Farris**

Managing Attorney  
Collective Legal Services, Eviction Defense Center  
Oakland, California

#### **Lisa Frydman**

Associate Director  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
San Francisco, California

#### **Nancy K.D. Lemon**

Director, Domestic Violence Practicum  
Lecturer, Domestic Violence Law Seminar  
University of California, Berkeley School of Law  
Berkeley, California

#### **Cindy C. Liou**

Staff Attorney  
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach  
San Francisco, California

#### **Karlo Ng**

Staff Attorney  
National Housing Law Project  
San Francisco, California

**Khanh T. Nguyen**

Staff Attorney  
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach  
Oakland, California

**Protima Pandey**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
Redwood City, California

**Tirien Steinbach**

Executive Director  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Berkeley, California

**Lindsay Sweetnam**

Community Programs Director  
La Casa de Las Madres  
San Francisco, California

**Hongvilay Thongsamouth**

Partner  
Murphy, Vu, Thongsamouth & Chatterjee, LLP  
Oakland, California

**Program Attorney:** Christina Thompson