



Quarterly E-Newsletter

Volume 5

Fall 2006

Commission Activities

1) Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence is thrilled to announce our inaugural Domestic Violence Legal professionals shadowing program. Learn more about this exciting program and opportunity to shadow judges and attorneys working on behalf of survivors of domestic violence [here](#).

2) Law School Writing Competition Winners Announced

Thanks to the generous support of Lois Beekman Oliviera the Commission is happy to announce our 2006 Law School Writing Competition Winners:

- **First Place:** Amanda Knief, Drake University Law School, "Gender Bias in Asylum Law: Recognizing Persecution Against Women and Girls"
- **Second Place:** Heidi Boas, Boalt Hall School of Law, "Lessons from Ghana: The Challenges of a Legal Response to Domestic Violence in Africa"
- **Third Place:** Melissa Marks, University of Michigan Law School "The Dilemma of Establishing a Causal Nexus in Asylum Claims Brought by Victims of Domestic Violence"

3) Policy Recommendation Adopted by ABA House of Delegates

At the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting in August 2006, the ABA House of Delegates unanimously passed the following policy. ABA policies in the past have been used by state and local governments to change local law, as well as cited in court rulings.

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges federal, state, territorial, local, and tribal governments to enact or to amend domestic violence civil protection order statutes to provide protection to victims who are in a romantic or intimate relationship with the perpetrator of domestic violence or have been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the perpetrator, but do not necessarily have a child with, live with, or are married to the perpetrator of the violence.

4) Youth at Risk Highlighted by ABA

ABA President Karen Mathis has chosen to highlight Youth at Risk and their access to the court system as a yearlong initiative of the ABA. During the next bar year (2006-07), the American Bar Association will focus its resources on at-risk teens and a number of the legal issues that affect them. Including access to the legal system and the living violent homes. To learn more about this initiative click [here](#).

Upcoming Commission Programs

The Commission on Domestic Violence will offer several national and local trainings for attorneys who represent survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Here is a preview of some of the trainings we will be hosting in the next few months.

Interstate Enforcement of Protection Orders in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia

Friday, November 3, 2006
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

George Washington University Law School
2000 H St. NW, Room L202
Washington, DC

Please join us to learn from national experts and local judges and practitioners who will provide an overview of the federal and state laws related to interstate enforcement of protection orders as well as tips and strategies in handling these cases.

For more information and to register contact Ellie Banakis
Banakise@staff.abanet.org

National Institutes

Employment Rights and Economic Remedies of Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking National Training Institute

The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence (the “Commission”), in partnership with the Office on Violence Against Women (“OVW”), Department of Justice, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, and the National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women, American Prosecutors Research Institute will host an **Employment Rights and Economic Remedies of Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking National Training Institute** on Thursday, November 16, 2006, at the Baltimore Wyndham Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD.

Developing and expanding one’s base of substantive expertise in the intersections of employment law and economic remedies in representing victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking is key for attorneys to effectively advocate for these populations. Through a mixture of learning opportunities, including hands-on practice and substantive workshops, the Commission will provide an opportunity for entry-level through advanced attorneys to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Registration is limited to OVW, U.S. Department of Justice grantee attorneys, and priority will be given to Legal Assistance to Victims grantees. There is no registration fee to attend the Institute and grantees may use OVW funds to cover travel costs to attend.

Please visit www.abanet.org/domviol to register. The Institute will be capped at 50 participants and registration ends October 31, 2006.

National Civil Law Custody Institutes

The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence (“the Commission”), in partnership with the Office on Violence Against Women (“OVW”), U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy will host two two-day **National Civil Law Custody Institutes** on January 4-5, 2007 at The Sheraton Riverwalk in Tampa, FL and June 21-22, 2007 in San Francisco, CA. These two-day Institutes will provide entry-level to experienced attorneys with an opportunity to develop and improve their litigation expertise in the representation of victims of domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault cases involving custody and visitation through mini-lectures, demonstrations and small group exercises. Eligible participants are Legal Assistance for Victims grant recipients, particularly attorneys funded by this program. Registration for the National Civil Law Custody Institutes will be limited to OVW grantee attorneys, and priority will be given to Legal Assistance for Victims grantees. Registration will be first come, first served. There will not be a

registration fee to attend the Institutes and grantees may use OVW funds to cover travel costs to attend. The content for the Institutes will be the same, so participants may only register and attend one.

If you have any general questions about these Institutes, information updates, and registration information, please visit the Commission's website at www.abanet.org/domviol, or contact Tiffany Tull at tullt@staff.abanet.org.

Use and Integration of Interpreters in Civil Representation of Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking National Training Institute

The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence ("the Commission"), in partnership with the Office on Violence Against Women ("OVW"), Department of Justice, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, and the National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women, American Prosecutors Research Institute will host an two-day **Use and Integration of Interpreters in Civil Representation of Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking National Training Institute** in May 2007 in Seattle, WA. Eligible participants are Legal Assistance for Victims grant recipients, particularly attorneys funded by this program. Registration for the Institute will be limited to OVW grantee attorneys, and priority will be given to Legal Assistance for Victims grantees. Registration will be first come, first served. There will not be a registration fee to attend the Institute and grantees may use OVW funds to cover travel costs to attend.

If you have any general questions about this Institute, information updates, and registration information, please visit the Commission's website at www.abanet.org/domviol, or contact Tiffany Tull at tullt@staff.abanet.org.

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