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Improving Access to Justice for Survivors by Ensuring Meaningful Language Access in the Courts in the Time of COVID-19 and Beyond

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WEBINAR:
**Improving Access to
Justice for Survivors by
Ensuring Meaningful
Language Access in the
Courts in the Time of
COVID-19 and Beyond**



Join Us for Improving Access to Justice for Survivors by Ensuring Meaningful Language Access in the Courts in the Time of COVID-19 and Beyond

Monday, May 18, 2020 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. CST

Presenters:

Judge Sylvia LaMar, District Court Judge, New Mexico First Judicial District, Division IV, Family Court

Hon. Sylvia LaMar presides over the Family Law Court of the First Judicial District Court of New Mexico. She was appointed to the bench in late 2012. Judge LaMar's courtroom is located in Santa Fe; her docket covers three diverse Northern New Mexican counties. Judge LaMar received a Bachelors of Fine Arts from New York School of Ceramics at Alfred University; her JD is from American University, Washington, D.C.

Judge LaMar witnesses the daily destruction inflicted by intimate partner violence, poverty, and the drug crisis on the parents and grandparents who appear in her court—and of course on the children who are caught in these conflicts and conditions.

Judge LaMar is New Mexico's representative on the National Judicial Opioid Taskforce. In addition, she has attended several drug abuse and the law trainings, and speaks frequently on the substance use crisis in New Mexico and The U.S..

Paula Couselo-Findikoglu, Senior Statewide Program Manager of Language Access Services, New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts

Ms. Couselo-Findikoglu was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she completed her Doctorate coursework in English at the Universidad del Salvador after earning a B.A. in Translation from the same university. She is a nationally recognized speaker in the language access field and she has

spearheaded numerous initiatives that combine technologies to improve access to justice. She received a UNM-STC Innovative Award from the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 2012 for the Language Access Specialist Certificate Program. As part of this ongoing program, she has co-authored several software applications for training purposes. She is also a Certified ADA Coordinator.

The audience for this event is:

Judges, court staff, domestic violence and sexual assault advocates, attorneys, state DV/SA coalitions, national technical assistance providers, and other service providers.

Description:

The National Center for Access to Justice has ranked the New Mexico Judiciary among the top states in the nation for its language access initiatives. This webinar will describe their multi-faceted approach for assisting survivors of Intimate Partner Violence who have limited English proficiency, are deaf or hard of hearing, have communication disabilities, or have low literacy levels. Presenters will focus on how they are adapting to address these critical needs during the public health emergency and beyond.

This interactive webinar will highlight some of the following promising practices:

- In-court and out-of-court remote interpreting;
- A multilingual interactive digital avatar and courthouse kiosks which integrate artificial intelligence, voice command, speech recognition and other technologies, to significantly improve access to court services for underserved communities in New Mexico;
- Development of policies and procedures to allow for the acceptance and rapid translation of pleadings in languages other than English, including petitions for orders of protection, as well as translations of orders of protection and custody determinations; and
- Improved services at first point of contact, such as training and certification of bilingual judiciary employees and the use of live chat machines, to assist LEP individuals and those with disabilities.

[Register here](#)

About the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities is a network of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of Latin@ communities. The National Latin@ Network is led by Casa de Esperanza, a national Latina organization whose mission is to mobilize Latinas

and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence. The National Latin@Network for Healthy Families and Communities builds on Casa de Esperanza's experience working in local communities to support families, end domestic violence, and increase meaningful access to services for Latina@s and incorporates a research center, public policy initiative, and training.

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