

NCLC Presented CLE Seminars on Immigration and Mortgage Foreclosure

In addition to providing preventive law education to the low-income residents of our community, NCLC is likewise committed to encouraging pro bono service by offering the legal community Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars in practice areas critically needed to serve our low-income communities. This year, NCLC presented two seminars on the “Basics of Immigration” and one on “Bankruptcy and Mortgage Foreclosure.” NCLC is fortunate and thankful to host these seminars with the efforts and support of our community partners.

On December 3, NCLC partnered with the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) in Ft. Wayne, IN and conducted a CLE program on the fundamentals of U.S. immigration law. The program covered a number of issues including an overview of immigration law, family-based immigration, adjustment to legal permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and other immigrants, as well as special immigration relief for victims of crime, such as domestic violence and human trafficking. NCLC’s Executive Director, Abigail Kuzma along with attorneys Angelin Fisher, Ida Coleman Lamberti, Lee O’Connor of Indiana Legal Services, and John Broyles of Broyles Kight & Ricafort presented this critical material that trained attorneys to serve the more than 5,000 refugees in the Fort Wayne area. In the face of this critical need, we are pleased to report that most of the attendees volunteered to take an immigration case on behalf of NCLC or VLP.

On December 5, NCLC, the Heartland Pro Bono Council, the Indianapolis Bar Association, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee’s Office presented a CLE seminar in Indianapolis dedicated to training attorneys to take consumer bankruptcy and mortgage foreclosure cases. NCLC housing attorney, Stephanie Fairfield, joined a number of U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee Office presenters and spoke on the issue of “loss mitigation” as an alternative strategy to bankruptcy when a client is facing foreclosure. It was a success. In fact, event feedback cites this as one of the most valuable CLE seminars of its kind.

On December 12, NCLC, along with the support of Baker & Daniels, LLP, and the Julian Center, presented another “Immigration Basics” CLE in Indianapolis. Abigail Kuzma and staff immigration attorney, Angelin Fisher joined the Julian Center and other expert immigration attorneys in presenting the essentials of immigration law, including special remedies for domestic-abuse victims, and ethical concerns in immigration cases. Overall, 37 attorneys, law students, and immigration paralegals were in attendance.