A Forum on Immigration Issues in Hampden County

Friday, February 3, 2017
12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

The recent Presidential Election has focused significant attention on potential changes to the nation’s immigration laws and policies. While immigration issues have national implications, the ultimate impact can be very local.

With this in mind, Western New England University School of Law is hosting A Forum on Immigration Issues in Hampden County to discuss how communities in western Massachusetts may be affected.

The forum will feature representatives from local community organizations and law firms that work on immigration issues on a daily basis. The panelists will introduce their organizations and discuss their perspectives on current events, including how anticipated changes in immigration policies may affect their operations and the services they provide to their immigrant constituents. The presenters will also explain how interested students and community members can become involved.

This forum is intended to provide accurate and current information, to reduce misinformation in our community, and to further the conversation and collaboration among local organizers, advocates and affected communities.

This event is open to the public and geared toward local residents concerned about immigration issues, advocates, and all affected constituencies.

Professor Sudha N. Setty, Associate Dean for Faculty Development & Intellectual Life and Professor of Law will moderate.

If you have any questions regarding the forum, you can contact Assistant Clinical Professor Bob Statchen at rstatchen@law.wne.edu or 413-782-1469.

Scheduled and Participants

Complimentary Light Buffet Lunch Served: 12:15

Panel 1: The Legal Framework: 12:45 – 1:25
- Attorney Marie Angelides, Angelides Law Firm, Longmeadow, MA
- Attorneys Joseph P. Curran and Megan E. Kludt, Curran & Berger, LLP, Northampton, MA
- Staff Attorney Hilary Thrasher, Community Legal Aid/Center West Justice Center – Immigration Unit

Panel 2: Service Providers for Immigrants in the Community: 1:30 – 2:10
- Staff Attorney Ellen Viscuso, Ascentria Care Alliance, Westfield, MA
- Executive Director Kathryn Buckley-Brawner, Catholic Charities Agency, Springfield, MA
- Executive Director Laurie Millman, Center for New Americans, Western MA; Attorneys Joseph Best and Scott Clark, Best & Associates LLP Immigration Law Group, Pittsfield, MA
- Program Director Deirdre Griffin, New Americans, Jewish Family Services of Western MA

Panel 3: Community Organizational Responses to Support Immigrants in the Community: 2:15 – 2:55
- Organizer Diana Sierra, Pioneer Valley Worker Center
- Attorney Bill Newman, Director, Western Massachusetts Legal Office, ACLU
- Attorney Michael Fenton, Esq., Springfield City Council

Additional Q&A: 3:00 – 3:30

Hosted by Western New England University School of Law