

Tips for Attorneys and Bar Associations: How You Can Help End Human Trafficking

1. Know and help improve the laws in your jurisdiction.

- Learn the basics of federal and local human trafficking laws, policies and regulations. A good place to start for US information: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/spotlight/trafficking/Summary.html>
- Join list serves that provide regular updates. A good resource for both US and international information is: <http://www.humantrafficking.org>.
- Compare your jurisdiction's efforts with others and lobby for needed law and program changes. Are there areas in the law where there can be statutory changes and better implementation of laws? (See <http://www.abanet.org/ceeli/publications/htat/home.html> for CEELI's *Human Trafficking Assessment Tool* and see www.cahr.fsu.edu for *Florida Responds to Human Trafficking*, for one state's comprehensive look at the issue.)
- Collaborate with others who are working to change the law, such as anti-trafficking bill sponsors and NGO's such as CAST (www.castla.org) who worked on California's new laws to promote change and improvement in the laws if you cannot lead the way.

2. Educate and inform other lawyers and judges.

- Sponsor a speaker on human trafficking from an anti-trafficking organization, a survivor (who is ready and can speak safely in public) or someone who has represented human trafficking victims to speak at your next Bar meeting. Speakers could address the basics of what constitutes human trafficking or get more specific as to the law and details of representing victims and could be certified as a continuing education program (CLE). See www.freedomnetworkusa.org for information about possible speakers and training programs.
- Create training materials on trafficking dynamics and laws, working closely with experts, for dissemination to members of the Bar. Many of the websites cited here have materials already developed that you could adapt to your jurisdiction. See also the Dept. of Health and Human Services for presentation materials, posters and other helpful information: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/> .
- Dedicate a special issue of a *Bar Journal* or other regular publication to human trafficking. Articles on the many aspects of human trafficking could be included, such as current laws, legal liability, victim rights, labor and employment issues, representing victims (and understanding their needs), prosecution of traffickers, and community resources. A good basic primer (in English, Spanish and Creole) on human trafficking can be found at <http://www.fcadv.org/projectsTrafficking.html>.
- Contact reporters for legal publications – do they know about human trafficking? Are they active in covering stories of trafficking

prosecutions, successful jury awards in human trafficking cases and outstanding work done by attorneys in the field?

- Reach out to “young lawyers” organizations to see if they can have human trafficking on their list for pro bono or community outreach. Their energy and creativity is well-suited to this humanitarian kind of effort. (Make sure they are strongly allied with organizations that have the expertise to provide them with requisite technical assistance and substantive understanding of dynamics, laws, and issues surrounding human trafficking.)

3. Organize *pro bono* representation of human trafficking victims.

- Add human trafficking to the list of *pro bono* activities encouraged in your firm. (There is a good manual for civil litigation, current as of 2005 at <http://www.lafla.org/clientservices/specialprojects/VictimsTrfficking0405.pdf> and information on filing for legal advocacy, especially for obtaining T visas at: <http://www.urbanjustice.org/pdf/publications/IDLegalAdvocacy.pdf>. It is important that lawyers link with NGO anti-trafficking experts when handling these cases.)
- Make sure the local bar association credits work with human trafficking victims toward *pro bono* efforts.
- Target efforts toward representing victims in immigration and civil matters and assist victims in criminal matters where needed. Each jurisdiction’s laws differ, but civil damages may be available to victims and traffickers’ assets may be attached under civil forfeiture laws.

4. Beyond the world of the law, engage and inform your community about human trafficking.

- Give speeches, help set up a speakers bureau, or simply share information about human trafficking with other groups in which you active. Just having a “did you know” conversation can spur interest and the involvement of others.
- Spread the word in your faith community (traffickers sometimes allow some victims to attend religious services).
- Alert Chambers of Commerce and other business associations about the prevalence of human trafficking. (For instance, they need to be aware of activities of traffickers and not inadvertently hire trafficked labor through labor contractors.)
- Join or help spearhead the creation of local anti-trafficking task forces (across the US, these are funded by the Department of Justice. There are also many others). Legal expertise is always appreciated and needed. See http://www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwedo_ctip.html for federal task force information and <http://ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1278> for an example of California’s efforts.
- Write letters to the editor or opinion articles.

5. **Support local anti-trafficking organizations as well as legal services organizations that assist trafficked persons.**
 - Volunteer to help them, *pro bono*. Keep in mind creative ways to assist, such as appellate advocacy, in-kind support, gaining access to particular venues and people in positions of authority.
 - Offer your offices as meeting places; buy lunch.
 - Serve on their boards.
 - Give money!

6. **Understand how human trafficking may affect your current practice.**
 - Understand how human trafficking can impact many areas of the law including both criminal and civil arenas. Areas of practice affected by human trafficking include immigration, marriage and family, tort and insurance, domestic violence, labor and employment, business transactions, taxation and many others.
 - Evaluate whether your clients are in compliance with all human trafficking laws and regulations.
 - Conduct or ask an expert to come to an informal firm lunch and do a presentation on human trafficking; write a “legal alert” for key practice groups in your firm or area of expertise.

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