

The Intersection of Human Trafficking with America's Courts: Identifying Hidden Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation and Implementing Trauma Informed Court based Solutions



Speaker Summer Stephan will focus on the intersection of human trafficking with the justice system. Spotting human trafficking in a variety of courtrooms by judges and legal professionals can be difficult as victims of human trafficking may appear as criminal defendants, in family court proceeding in a child custody setting, in domestic violence and juvenile delinquency proceedings. The ability of judges and legal professional to identify victims of human trafficking is essential and can be lifesaving. The role of judges in handling victims of human trafficking in a trauma informed manner will allow the truth to be revealed and can be critical to attaining justice. This session will also preview a short portion of a new NAWJ educational video that will focus on the role of the judiciary in identifying victims of human trafficking and treating them with dignity in the justice system.

Ms. Stephan's presentation will allow participants to:

- Understand the current state of human trafficking in the United States
- Spot victims of human trafficking in a variety of courtroom settings
- Understand the complex trauma victims experience and create a trauma informed environment in the courtroom
- Preview a new NAWJ educational video about the identification of victims of human trafficking in America's courtrooms
- Preview best practices in handling human trafficking cases from beginning to the aftereffects of clearing criminal records under the applicable laws

Speaker Nicole Dolack's presentation will focus on the following: The cycle of prostitution can't be broken without understanding the root problems and recognizing that for years we have been arresting victims of sexual exploitation. In 2012, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Selah Freedom began conversation with the Sarasota Police Department to form a community partnership to tackle sexual exploitation/prostitution. These talks led to the formation of the prostitution diversionary program TYLA – Turn Your Life Around. The basis behind TYLA is to change an unsuccessful process by dealing with the core issues by finding more permanent and fiscally responsible solutions and doing so in a humane and rightful way. TYLA exists to identify individuals/victims who are being sexually exploited and/or trafficked and provide them with resources and strategies to help them escape the sex trade industry.

Ms. Dolack's Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn about the formation and phases of the TYLA court program.

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- Be introduced to trauma-informed best practices when speaking to victims in the courtroom
- Gain an understanding of the benefits of partnering with a NGO for a court diversion program.

Speakers:



Summer Stephan, San Diego County District Attorney and Co-chair of NAWJ- Human Trafficking Section

As a prosecutor, District Attorney Summer Stephan has been delivering justice for victims of crime in San Diego County for nearly three decades. She is recognized as a national leader in the fight against human trafficking.

As the County's top law enforcement official, she leads an office of about 1,000 employees who pursue fair and equal justice and keep San Diego one of the safest urban counties in the U.S.

She's leading efforts to address the issue of homeless individuals and those with mental health challenges who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

And, Summer is known for her balanced approach to public safety, which includes providing second chances to low-level offenders while still protecting public safety and supporting victims of crime.



Nicole Dolack, Outreach Coordinator, Selah Freedom

Nicole Dolack is a graduate from University of New Haven with a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Investigative Services, Minor in Psychology, and certification in Victim Services Administration. She then furthered her education with a Master's in National Security. Nicole has been employed with Selah Freedom since July 2019, currently serving as one of the outreach coordinators. With a lifelong passion for women's empowerment and the virtue of freedom, Nicole has always been

motivated to build her education and career around combating sex trafficking.

Nicole is designated as a Victim Services Practitioner through the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute with the Attorney General's Office. Nicole has guest lectured for multiple human trafficking and victimology courses at The University of Tampa and The University of South Florida. Nicole is the coordinator over TYLA (Turn Your Life Around) Court in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Nicole supervises all jail groups, Selah's sex trade support group, and facilitates curriculum such as codependency, boundaries, overcoming love addiction, Ending The Game, self-identity, and other life skills. Lastly, Nicole creates and maintains ongoing partnerships between the outreach team and the community.