

Human Trafficking Committee
Notes from meeting on October 16, 2014 in San Diego

Participants: John Martin, Bev Cutler, Steve Weller, Julie Weatherly, Cathy Serrette, Marla Moore, Sally Kader, Patricia Lynch, Ann Breen Greco, Carol King and Elizabeth Lee.

Members discussed the upcoming Mid-Year Leadership Conference in Chicago. Ann advised that one of the key note speakers will be Laurel Bellows, former President of the ABA and founder of the ABA Human Trafficking Task Force. Judge Kendall has also been asked to speak. John Martin advised that one of the sessions will cover gangs and their involvement in Human Trafficking. Sergeant Mike Geiger was also mentioned as a potential panelist. Members provided feedback to Ann and John concerning planning the Human Trafficking panels.

A discussion was held on the continuing issue of ethics and how they affect us when handling a case involving Human Trafficking. Members thought more specific training on this topic would be helpful to the membership attending the conference.

Renee and Arline are putting the finishing touches on the Trafficking in Persons: Modern Day Slavery Program Manual. A discussion was held as to whether District Four's Program reaching out to high school and middle school youth might be incorporated into the Program Guide. Cathy and Julie gave the group more details about the success of this program which was done with Fair Girls. Their target audience was high school youth, boys and girls. Everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to include whatever materials they were willing to share with Arline and Renee into the Program Guide if possible. A concern was raised as to the proprietary rights of Fair Girls in their training materials. District Four will determine whether to include any of the training in the NAWJ's Program Guide.

New Projects: Members discussed ways in which to get the word out to more members about the need to raise awareness of Human Trafficking in various jurisdictions. Bev suggested that we might look into the Model Task Force model for jurists in the larger cities. She recalled that this is what was done with domestic violence years ago. A question was raised as to what the court's role would be in any such Task Force. Members also discussed the need for better methods of data collection in human trafficking cases. The courts might play a big role in this area since they see all the cases and are in the best position to keep track of them. Members discussed the difficulty of coming up with consistent ways to measure outcomes, success, and the need for uniform measurements to track outcomes. Also, the issue was raised as to whether we might be stigmatizing victims through the keeping of court records and tagging them as victims, etc.