

# SPEAKING

THE

# VICTIM'S

# LANGUAGE

In the past, the voices of domestic violence victims were too often silenced by fear, intimidation and the fact that many in our systems simply were not listening. With much effort over the years, this is beginning to change.

But now a related problem has become prominent involving victims with Limited English Proficiency (LEP): A recent report by the National Center for State Courts and Center for Court Innovation revealed a nationwide lack of specialized training pertaining to

domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Domestic violence/ sexual assault proceedings are especially stressful for non-English speaking individuals and particularly challenging for interpreters.

Caregivers, advocates, police and courts, willing as they may be to victims a voice, cannot be fully effective if they are unable to understand what victims are saying—and if victims cannot comprehend what they are hearing. That language barrier discourages victims from seeking what may literally be life-or-death assistance.

The Unified Court System and its Office of Language Access have begun addressing one of the issues with a pilot program in which temporary and final orders of protection are issued in an English/ Spanish interlinear and bilingual format to ensure that the orders are fully understood by LEP parties. But more needs to be done.

## FREE 3-CREDIT CLE PROGRAM Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 12:45 - 4:00 p.m.

Third Judicial District Training Room, 2500 Pond View, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033 (Exit 10 on I-90 East) just minutes from downtown Albany (free parking is available).

The Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee presents a free, three-credit (in order to receive credit, attendees must attend the entire program) continuing legal education program that will explore the issues and nuances regarding language access and domestic violence. A group of panelists and presenters will drill down to explore the problem, and potential solutions.

## CO-SPONSORS

Albany County Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, Albany County Bar Association, Capital District Women's Bar Association, Equinox, Inc., The Legal Project, New York State Bar Association, NYSBA Committee on Immigration Representation, Unity House, Women's Bar Association of the State of NY

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

For more information and to register please visit:

<http://www.nycourts.gov/IP/language-access-3jd/index.shtml>

If there are questions, please email Beth Diebel at [3rdjdadministration@nycourts.gov](mailto:3rdjdadministration@nycourts.gov)

