

Immigrant Consumer Protection Issues in DC, MD, and VA

Location: Washington Field Office, US Citizenship and Immigration Services
2675 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, VA
July 16, 2013

AGENDA

Introductions: 8:45 – 9:15

- Jessica Rich, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Branch, Civil Division, US Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Sarah Taylor, District Director, US Citizenship and Immigration Services

Panel 1: 9:15 – 10:20

Notario Fraud and Immigration Services Scams

Panelists will examine immigration services fraud and its impact. They will also discuss techniques to fight this pernicious fraud and resources for advocates working to prevent it.

- Moderator: Kati Daffan, Attorney, FTC Division of Marketing Practices
- Panelists:
 - o Cori Alonso-Yoder, Staff Attorney, Ayuda
 - o Brad Winter, Attorney, FTC Division of Enforcement
 - o Heather Goldman, Associate, Bryan Cave
 - o Michelle Singleton, Attorney, American Immigration Lawyers Association

Break: 10:20 – 10:35

Panel 2: 10:35 – 11:40

Scams Targeted at Immigrants

Immigrant communities are targeted for a variety of scams that seek to capitalize on their perceived vulnerabilities. Whether it is an education scam promising a path to citizenship, unscrupulous debt collectors making abusive and threatening calls, or scam artists targeting people with a shared culture or language, immigrants have to contend with numerous types of fraud. This panel will highlight some scams aimed at immigrants, how they lure people in, and how we can help consumers avoid them.

- Moderator: Tracey Thomas, Attorney, FTC Division of Marketing Practices
- Panelists:
 - o Yaa Apori, Attorney, FTC Division of Financial Practices
 - o Thomas Domanoske, Of Counsel, Legal Aid Justice Center
 - o Ashley Waddell Tingstad, Skadden Fellow, Consumer Unit, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
 - o Richard Goldberg, Assistant Director, DOJ Consumer Protection Branch
 - o Michael Herndon, Consumer Outreach Officer, US Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Panel 3: 11:40 – 12:45

The wave of the future: what issues are on the horizon for immigrants?

Over the next few years, what are likely to be some of the most important challenges for immigrant communities? Immigration reform could be just around the corner, health care programs are undergoing some major changes, and other emerging issues will have major impacts on immigrants. This discussion will address some of those topics and will ask not only how fraudsters may try to benefit from such changes, but also how we can work together to assist the immigrant community and stay ahead of the curve.

- Moderator: Monica Vaca, Assistant Director, FTC Division of Marketing Practices
- Panelists:
 - o Rebecca Smullin, Program Manager, Money Services, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
 - o Michelle Sardone, Legalization Program Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
 - o Patricia Chiriboga-Roby, Office Director, World Relief, Baltimore
 - o Mia Martinez, Chief Deputy, National Asian American Coalition
 - o Dan Choi, Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Justice Center

Closing Remarks: 12:45 – 1:00

- Lois Greisman, Associate Director, FTC Division of Marketing Practices