



EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR 35 YEARS

Introduction to the Human Trafficking Prevention Project at MVLS

The Human Trafficking Prevention Project at Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service is a partnership with the University of Baltimore School of Law Human Trafficking Prevention Project Clinic (“HTPP”).¹ The HTPP works with survivors of human trafficking² who have acquired criminal records as a result of their victimization, and those populations put at high risk for being trafficked. We work with these specific populations in an effort to prevent revictimization or initial exploitation. In an attempt to reduce the collateral harms associated with having a criminal record, the HTPP will be providing post-conviction relief for these clients, including, but not limited to expungement, shielding, and vacatur.

In order to identify potential clients, we are partnering with victim service providers and Human Trafficking Task Forces around the State by providing them with free trainings on human trafficking and post-conviction relief, and offering to provide legal representation to clients who meet the above criteria.

Furthermore, we have been reaching out to the private bar to engage attorneys who would be interested in donating their pro bono time to helping survivors of trafficking and other high-risk groups clear their criminal records, which makes them better able to move forward with the healing process and lead a better quality of life.

If you have any further questions about the project, have a client referral, or would like to donate some of your pro bono time, I can be reached at LCulkin@mvslaw.org, or 443-951-4075. Additionally, we are always looking for new pro bono partners, so please feel free to circulate this memorandum to your networks.

Warm regards,

Laurie E. Culkin

Project Coordinator – Human Trafficking Prevention Project

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS)

¹ The HTPP at the University of Baltimore provides legal services through the licensure of law students to practice as student attorneys under the supervision of a licensed attorney. For more information, please contact Jessica Emerson at (410) 837-4566, or jemerson@ubalt.edu.

² Under the federal law, “sex trafficking” is defined as a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

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