

Dr. Lauris Wren

Increasing Access to Legal Services for LGBT Immigrants on Long Island

Abstract

This project was designed to identify the legal needs of the immigrant LGBT community on Long Island and develop a response to those needs. Working together with an immigration non-profit in Hempstead (Central American Refugee Center – CARECEN), The Hofstra University Law Clinic began to do outreach within the immigrant community targeting LGBT immigrants. The primary legal needs that were identified included immigration legal needs, civil rights/discrimination legal needs, and lobbying/advocacy needs. The primary non-legal needs identified were psychological/emotional support (specifically, attendees felt a support group would be important), social programs, medical services for transgender people (specifically hormones for transitioning gender), general medical services and information.

The people involved with the LGBT Immigrants of Long Island meetings felt it was important to remain together as a formal group. Meetings of the group have been continued and, in spring 2015, the regular schedule of meetings (twice a month) is expected to begin.