

## National Association of Women Judges Provides Training on Immigration and Human Trafficking

Through an SJI grant, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) has developed materials and provided training for hundreds of judges across the nation on a variety of topics surrounding the complicated nexus of immigration status and state court case processing (SJI-11-E-086). Additional national and regional training focused on human trafficking will continue to be provided in the coming year.

Training sessions held at 2011 and 2012 annual and mid-year NAWJ meetings in California, New Jersey, Florida, Massachusetts, and 2011 and 2012 annual Congressional caucuses (as well as at a District meeting in Connecticut), have addressed a range of topics including:

- immigration consequences of state court criminal convictions;
- implications of *Padilla v. Kentucky* on the role of defense attorneys, prosecutors, and state trial court judges;
- potential tools for state courts available in federal immigration law – such as trafficking and crime victim visas, and special immigrant juvenile status – that can help state courts process cases involving immigrants;
- implications of immigration status on family, juvenile, and child protection case processing;
- language issues impacting access to justice for persons who are not native English speakers; and,
- implications on the state courts of international treaty agreements in cases involving non-U.S. citizens.

In the coming year, training sessions will be provided on human trafficking issues through



**John Martin addresses NAWJ members at the 2011 Annual Conference in Newark New Jersey on the conference topic, "Immigration Considerations in Your Courtroom." Other panelists included: Professor Lori Nessel, Seton Hall Law School; Hon. Annie Garcy, U.S. Department Of Justice, Newark, NJ; Amy Gottlieb, Esq., American Friends Service Committee; and, Professor Margaret Martin, Seton Hall Law School.**

a recently awarded SJI grant (SJI-12-E-168). These topics include:

- why human trafficking is an important issue for the state courts;
- the various forms and dynamics of human trafficking and the impact on both U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens;
- how human trafficking can be identified in various types of state court cases; and
- the nexus of federal and state immigration and human trafficking law, policy, and practice and its impact on state court operations generally, and the work of judges on the bench in particular.

Key partners working with NAWJ on these efforts have included John Martin and Steve Weller from the SJI-supported [Immigration and](#)

[The State Courts Initiative](#) of the Center For Public Policy Studies, Dawn Seibert of the Immigrant Defense Project, and Leslye Orloff of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at American University, as well many state court judges, and immigration judges and lawyers from across the United States.

For additional information about NAWJ's immigration and human trafficking efforts, contact Marie Komisar, NAWJ Executive Director, 202-393-0222 or [mkomisar@nawj.org](mailto:mkomisar@nawj.org)