

Recommend not stop going to court and to consult a lawyer about immigration relief available

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Durham.- A group of lawyers offered a day of free legal aid last Saturday in which they urged community members who may be at risk of deportation, to stop not attend appointments at the Immigration Court and seek competent legal advice because they may qualify for any immigration relief.

"People should know that even if they have a lawyer and are in removal proceedings, must appear in court and ask the judge more time. Otherwise, they can be put in a very bad situation though possibly immigration relief available of whom do not know, "said Derrick J. Hensley, one of 11 lawyers involved in the legal day.

Hensley, who participated in the three shifts of the conference organized by the Committee for Refugees and Immigrants United States (USCRI) in three high schools in Durham, said he could see that many immigrants lose the opportunity to get some immigration relief for not consulting an attorney.

"Many people did not know they had relief options available and it was very rewarding to help them know that. But a couple of people did not have legal representation before and had to give them bad news about their cases, "said the lawyer.

Claudia Hurtado Myers, USCRI lawyer, said almost 40 families participated in the legal journey whose goal was to inform the community that might be at risk of deportation on legal options available and what their rights if an agent immigration touch your door.

"I think it was very positive, we really reach the community," said Hurtado Myers. "We hope that now they spread the word, talk to your neighbors, your friends, the brothers of his church, to educate the entire community."

The day of legal aid was held in high schools Jordan, Riverside and Southern, in three shifts each.

Each session included a presentation on the rights of immigrants in case they are arrested or receive a visit from an immigration agent.

Lawyers reiterated that they should not open the door if the agent does not have a search warrant or an arrest warrant with his name and signed by a judge.

In addition, they recommended the community to remain silent and ask to speak to his lawyer.

The day also included a general presentation on three immigration benefits: asylum, the special status juvenile and Visa U.

At the end of each presentation, the lawyers offered free individual consultations to attendees.

USCRI involved three lawyers, and eight private defenders: Valeria Cesanelli, Yesenia Polanco, Esteban Diaz, Nitin Goyal, Lourdes Arenas, Joanna Gaughan, Derrick J. Hensley and Meghan Deutsch-White.

"These lawyers donated their time Saturday, which is his day off, because they see the importance of helping our community," Hurtado-Myers said.

In addition, as part of the day, three legal offices offer free consultations until June 10 at 5 pm.

These are Patrick Hatch & Jack Rockers in Durham, Greenville, Raleigh and Asheville; Ginky Lee-Torres in Mooresville and Justice Matters in Durham.

"I hope people use the tools we have given them, not only for their own benefit but also for their neighbors and friends," Hurtado-Myers said.