



# Alaska Institute for Justice

Alaska Immigration  
Justice Project

Language Interpreter  
Center

Research and Policy  
Institute

## Exciting News!

AIJP has a new name the Alaska Institute for Justice with three exciting programs to help meet the diverse needs of Alaska. The Alaska Immigration Justice Project providing direct immigration legal representation, Language Interpreter Center providing trained and qualified interpreters across the state, and the new Research and Policy Institute led by Robin Bronen who recently completed her Ph.D.

*“Special thanks to Sophie and Oscar Alexie with the UAF Alaska Native Language Center who presented at the Interpreter Training in Bethel.”*



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## Successful Bethel Interpreter Training



From left to right: Back Row-Richard Slats, David Nicholai, Adolph Lewis, Rachel Igkurak, Marjorie Strauss, Nastasia Ulroan, Stanley Tom, Charlene Erik, Sally Billy, Carolyn Peter, Hilda Oscar. Front Row-Barb Jacobs, Denise Tommy, Vanessa George, Mary Beaver, Jacki Noh, & Kari Robinson.

The Alaska Immigration Justice Project in partnership with the Association of Village Council Presidents, Tundra Women’s Coalition, Kuskokwim Campus with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Alaska Court System held a hugely successful interpreter training in Bethel. Nineteen Alaskans bilingual in Yup’ik and

English participated in the training. The September training in Bethel covered the roles and skills of interpreting including working with domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking victims. A community summit on the second day of the training brought together over thirty-two participants from the local community and state agencies,

and tribal organizations to discuss language access needs. The community summit provided a valuable forum to discuss current interpreter resources as well as barriers and challenges to working with interpreters and ensuring access to services.

## Thank you Rasmuson!



The Rasmuson Foundation recently awarded a four year grant totaling \$500,000 to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Language Interpreter Center. With the \$500,000 the Language Interpreter Center will develop language access plans to help service providers institutionalize policies which ensure limited English proficient (LEP) Alaskans have comprehensive access to services. This funding will also be used to help expand and develop the Language Interpreter Center’s statewide interpreter training program. Thanks to the Rasmuson Foundation for its continuing support of the Language Interpreter Center and their vision of ensuring equal access to services for all Alaskans.



The Alaska Immigration Justice Project in partnership with Alaska Legal Services Corporation and the Justice Center at the University of Anchorage Alaska just received a Wraparound Victim Legal Assistance Network Demonstration Project award from the Office for Victims of Crime. Within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, Alaska was one of only six

sites competitively chosen from across the United States to participate in this exciting grant opportunity. The other grantees include the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Lone Star Legal Aid of Texas, Metropolitan Family Services in Chicago, Minnesota Council on Crime and Justice, and Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center in Colorado. This grant opportunity will address the

wide range of legal needs that arise for all crime victims in connection with their victimization. The grant award supports the development of a model legal service network to collaboratively provide free, comprehensive, holistic legal assistance to victims. Funding in the first 15 month phase supports extensive planning with the development of a comprehensive needs

*“I am honored to have the opportunity to work with AIJP’s amazing staff on social justice issues within the state”*



**Kari Robinson hired as new Statewide Language Access Rural DV Coordinator/Attorney**



## New Juneau Office!

Kari Robinson started her new position as the statewide Language Access & Rural Domestic Violence Coordinator/Attorney with AIJP in January of this year. Kari is excited about her new position with AIJP and the opportunity to improve access to services for many victims statewide. Kari has worked with AIJP staff since the opening of the agency in 2005. Prior to her staff position with AIJP, she was a long-time AIJP board member helping build and develop sustainability for the agency. Kari is committed to ensuring that all survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking have access to critical legal, medical and support services to enhance their

safety. Kari will be developing model language access plans with domestic violence and sexual assault programs as well as ensuring that linguistically and culturally appropriate services are available for victims. Kari will work to increase access for underserved immigrant and limited English proficient victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking to critical resources within the state. Kari has worked with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1987 and most recently directed the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault’s (ANDVSA) Legal Advocacy Project (LAP) for fifteen years. As director of

the LAP she provided legal consultation, technical assistance, and cutting edge legal training on best practices for legal advocates with domestic violence and sexual assault programs across the state. She also supervised the ANDVSA Pro Bono Program, which provides direct representation to victims primarily in divorce, custody and protective order cases. Kari has taught classes at the University of Alaska Southeast on Women’s Issues in the Law. She has several published law review articles including Women’s Ghetto within the Legal Profession and Gender Bias in the American Bar Association Journal.

## FBI AWARD

The Alaska Immigration Justice Project was recently awarded the FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award in recognition of outstanding service to the local community and of enduring contributions to the advancement of justice.

