

Consumer Rights for Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors: Project Launch & Discussion

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
2:00 – 3:00pm ET

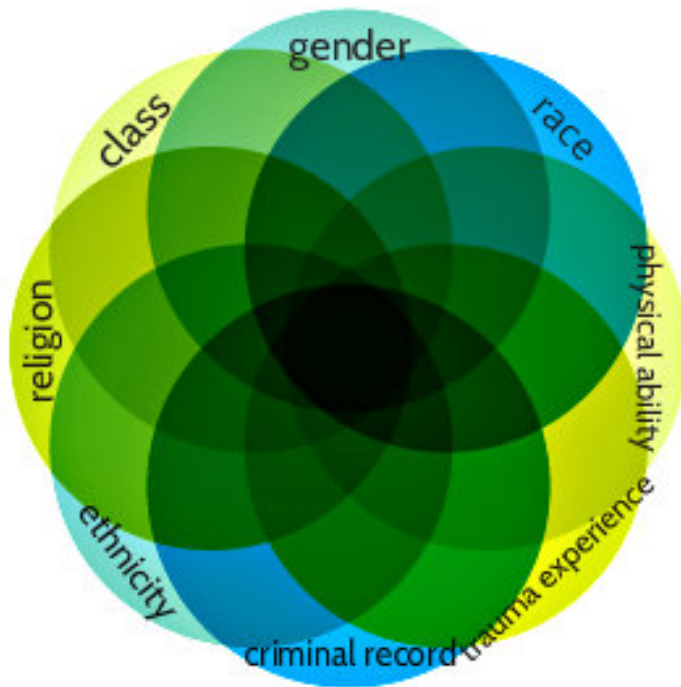


**CENTER FOR SURVIVOR
AGENCY & JUSTICE**

Erika Sussman, Founder & Executive Director
Sara Wee, Director of Research & Programs

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CSAJ's Mission & Vision



■ **Mission:**

The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice promotes advocacy approaches that remove systemic barriers, enhance organizational responses, and improve professional practices to meet the self-defined needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors.

■ **Vision:**

The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice envisions a world where all people have equal access to physical safety, economic security, and human dignity.

Today

CSAJ'S Framework

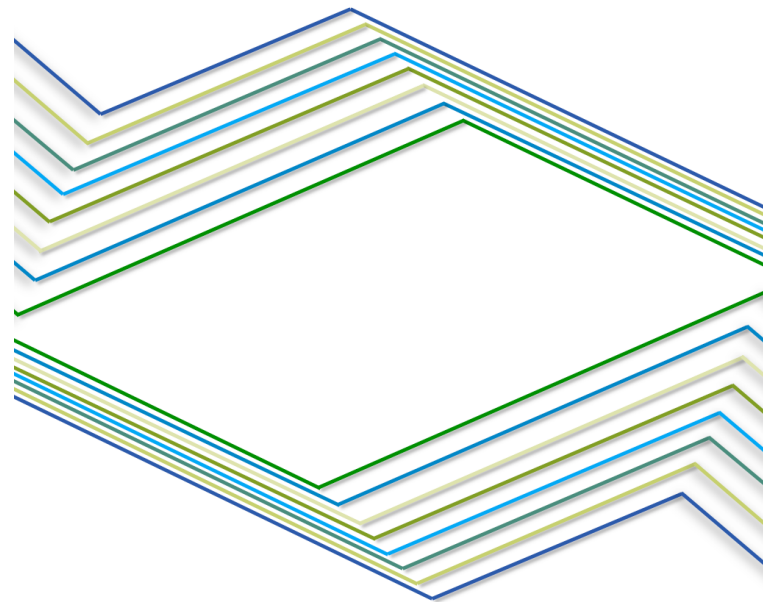
- What are you seeing?

CSAJ's Work

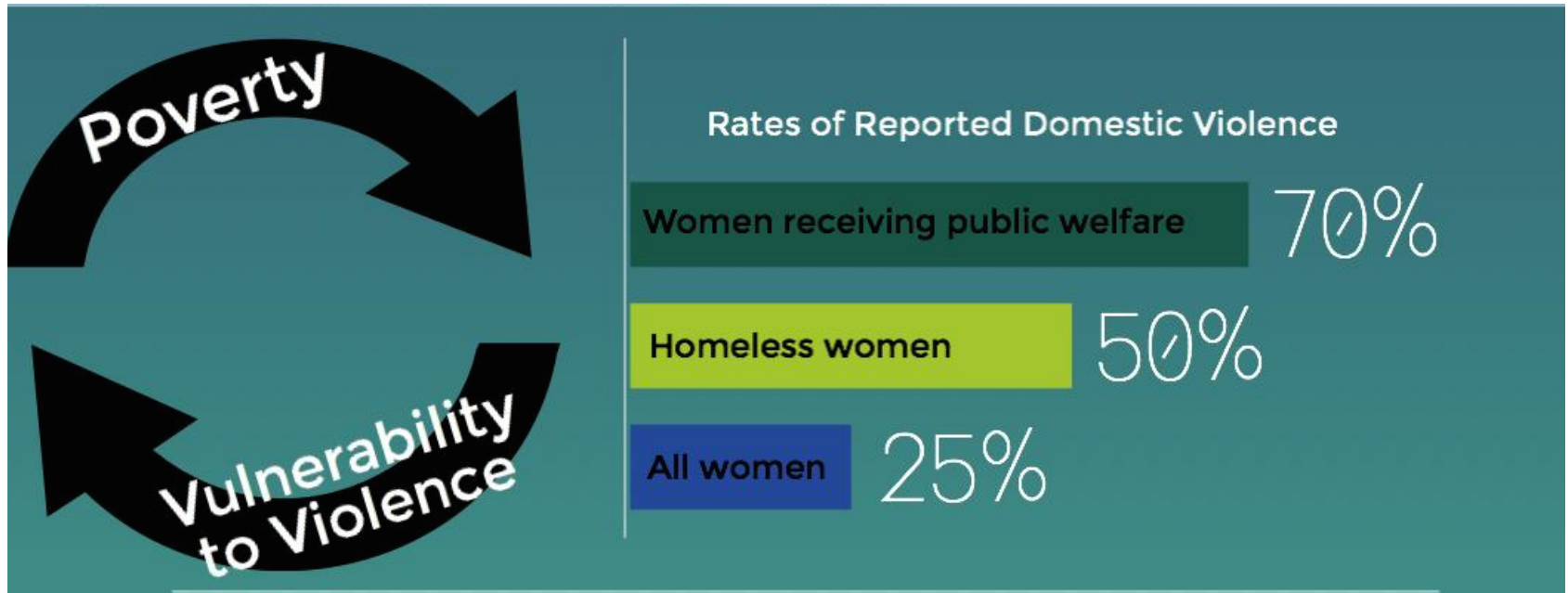
- What are you doing?

Consumer Initiative Activities

- What do you need?



CSAJ'S Framework



Reciprocal relationship of abuse and economic hardship

Women living in poverty experience violence at twice the rate of those who do not.

Economic abuse

“Economic abuse involves behaviors that control a woman’s ability to *acquire, use, and maintain* economic resources, thus threatening her economic security and potential for self-sufficiency.”

Adams, Sullivan, Bybee, Greeson, [Development of the Scale of Economic Abuse](#), 14(5) Violence Against Women Journal 563 (2008).

Economic impact of domestic violence

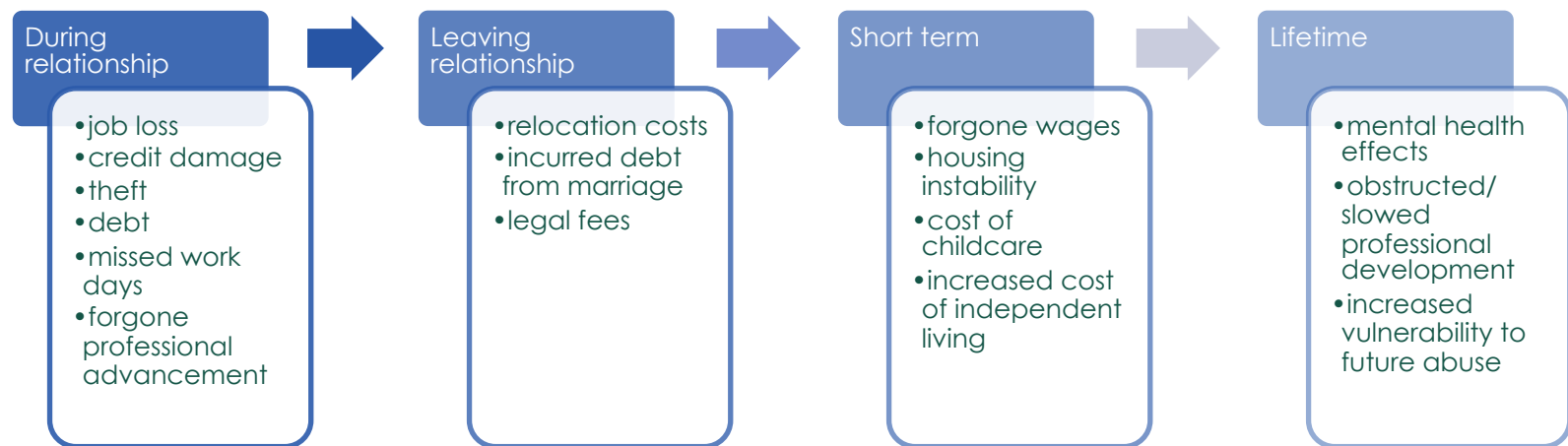
Domestic violence is linked to a range of negative economic outcomes, including:



▣ Decreased safety options

▣ Increased risk of future violence

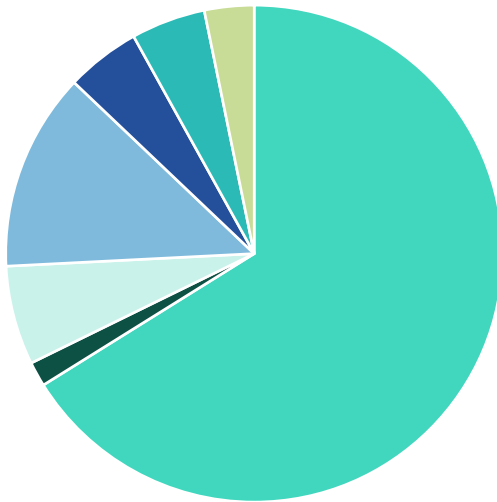
The “Economic Ripple Effect” of Domestic Violence



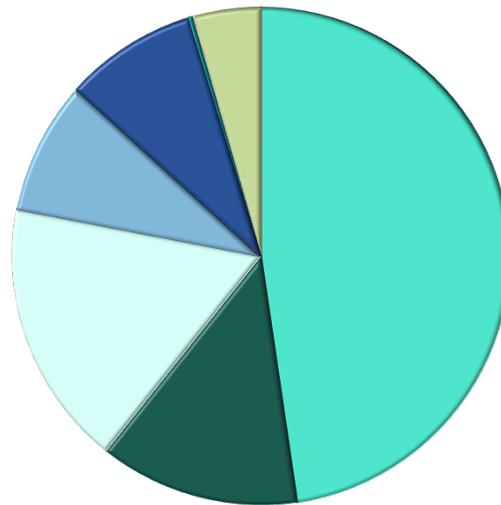
Shoener & Sussman. (2013). Economic Ripple Effect of IPV: Building Partnerships for Systemic Change. *Domestic Violence Report*. Aug/Sept, 83-95.

Predictors of IPV Across Race

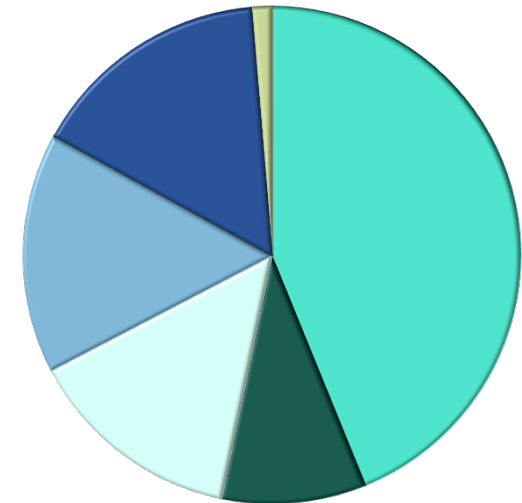
Black



White



Hispanic



- Income
- Employment
- Education
- Childhood victimization
- Age
- Number of children
- Marital status

What are the unique structural barriers facing survivors?

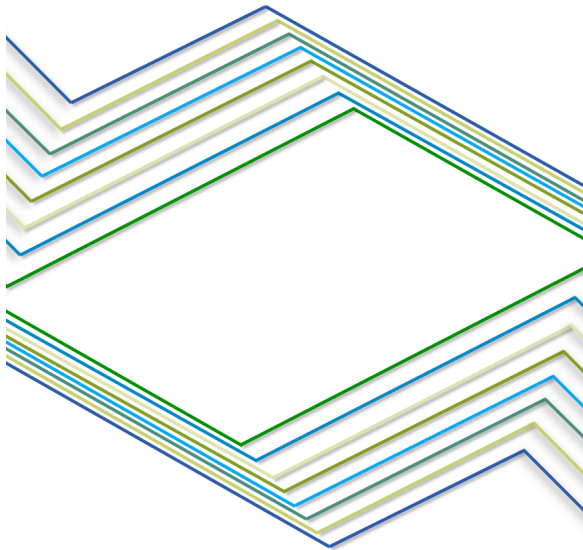
		
Resource Availability	Service Response	Impact of Policies
Access to: Transportation, Housing, Education, Employment	Experience with: Few, dispersed, short-staffed services; lack of staff information/ awareness	Outcomes of: Geographic isolation combined with a lack of privacy
Looks Like: • Distance to court or services (across the state) • Slow response time • Have to stay in same court for all legal actions	Looks Like: • Judges preference for 2-parent homes • Turn over of court decision makers • Caseworkers make survivors jump through hoops (requirements, eligibility)	Looks Like: • Reduction of absuer's charges/ increased plea deals • Women on parole who call 9-11 violate probation • Institutions defer responsibility, "passing the buck" • Time frame from arrest to conviction is too long

What economic or consumer
issues are showing up for survivors
you work with?

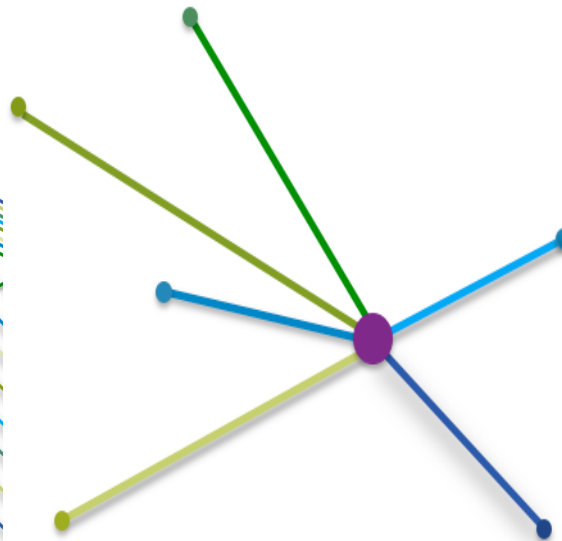
CSAJ's Work

CSAJ Key Projects

Consumer Rights for Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors Initiative



Racial and Economic Equity of Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors Project



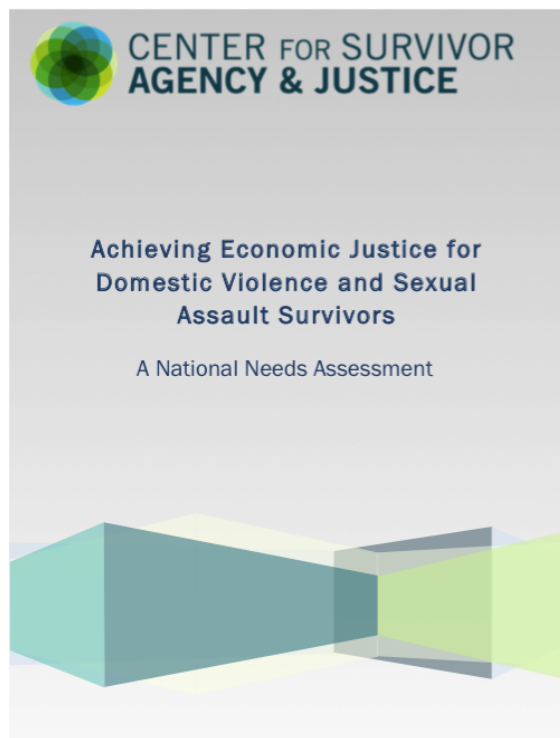
Accounting for Economic Security: An Atlas for Direct Service Providers



Consumer Rights for Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors Initiative

- A national project that enhances economic justice for survivors by building the capacity of and forging partnerships between domestic violence and anti-poverty lawyers and advocates in programs, communities, and states throughout the nation.
- Began in 2007 with funding from OVC.
- TA Project funded by OVW in 2011, 2014, and again in 2017
- Targeted Grantees: Open to all and potential OVW grantees, including: LAV, Rural, and State/Territory Coalition Grantees

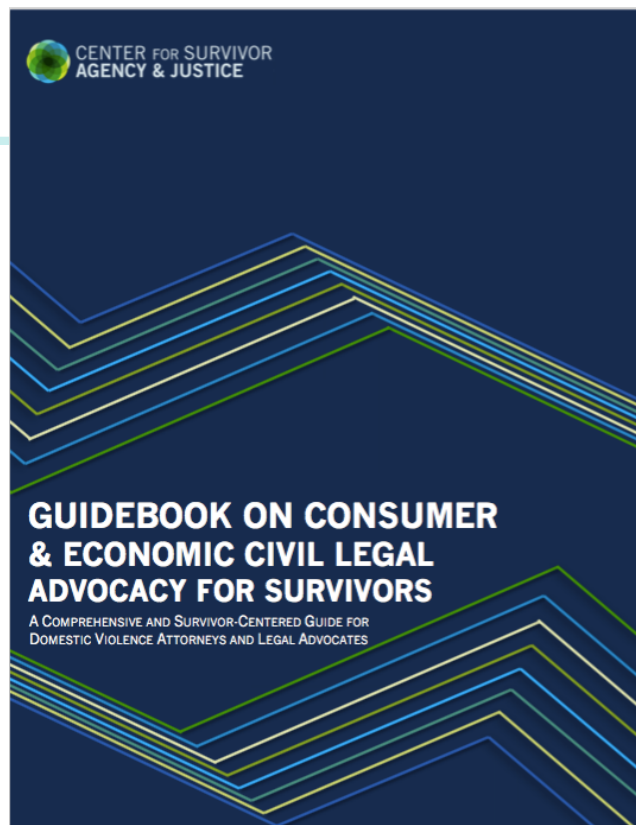
CSAJ's 2012 Economic Advocacy Needs Assessment



[CSAJ's National Needs
Assessment Report](#)

- Over 220 lawyers and advocates participated
- Both consumer and DV advocates do some CR for DV survivors work, but there is a gap in intersecting expertise.
- DV advocates often do not:
 - Address ways in which coercion manifests as economic abuse
 - Screen for economic issues that require more technical legal expertise
 - Develop institutionalized policies, protocols, and practices to encourage inter-and intra-agency collaboration with economic experts.

Guidebook on Consumer and Economic Civil Legal Advocacy



<https://csaj.org/Guidebook>

Topics Include:

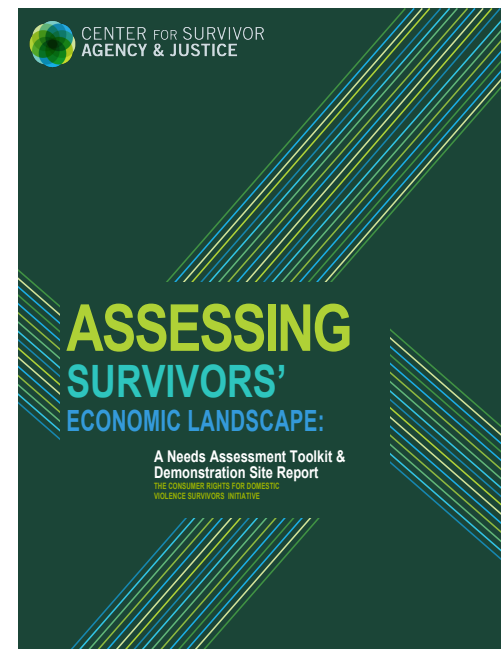
- Credit reporting and repair, including discriminatory credit and identity theft
- Debt collections and defense, including navigating student loans
- Bankruptcy and foreclosure
- Federal tax advocacy
- Economic relief in civil protection orders
- Economic issues in family law
- Barriers in civil court
- Rights and protections in housing and employment, including for survivors with criminal records

Past Pilot Sites



[Download](#)

2012-2013 Pilot Sites:
Partnership Building



Forthcoming

**2014-2016: Multilevel
Advocacy Strategies**

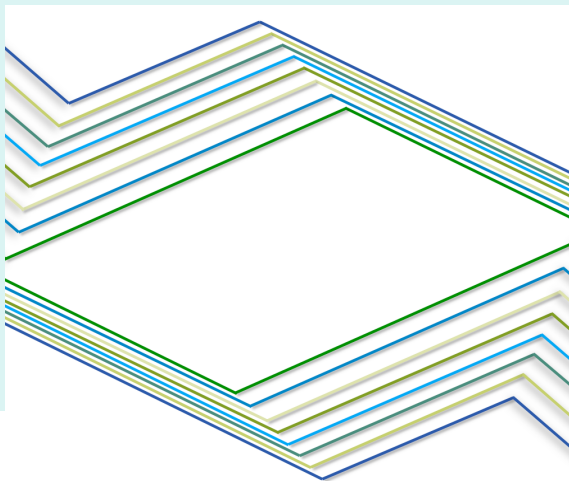
How are you or others in your
community addressing the
consumer rights of survivors?

Consumer Rights for Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors Initiative

2018 – 2019 OVW Project Activities

Goal, Objectives, Activities

Goal: Enhance consumer and economic civil legal advocacy for survivors



1. **Build Consumer Advocacy Capacity:** build the capacity of grantees in consumer and economic civil legal remedies for survivors,
2. **Strengthen Organizational and Community Change:** strengthen collaboration and promote partnership building between DV/SA and consumer lawyers and advocates, and
3. **Engage in Systems Change:** engage lawyers and advocates in systems advocacy that advances consumer rights and removes barriers to economic security.

Consumer Rights Working Group

Center for Court Innovation

Futures Without Violence

National Consumer Law Center

Prosperity Now

Indiana Legal Services, Inc., Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

Legal Aid of Western Michigan

The Legal Aid Society (New York City)

Katie VonDeLinde, Washington University

Adrienne Adams, Michigan State University

Angela Littwin, University of Texas Law School



Technical Assistance



- It's about Supporting your projects and advocacy
- It's about Peer Exchange & Connecting

Training Toolkits on Consumer & Economic Civil Legal Advocacy for Survivors



- Intro Webinar: ***Issue Spotting Consumer & Economic Civil Legal Issues (Guidebook)***
- Five Topics covered in Training Toolkits:
 - debt/credit
 - federal tax advocacy
 - foreclosure
 - court-related economic barriers
 - credit/criminal record barriers to employment
- Each Toolkit will be 2 webinars:
 - Part 1: Issue basics + strategies/legal remedies
 - Part II: partnership and systems change mapping

Spotlights on Innovative Consumer Justice Initiatives



- **Purpose:** Spotlights are a Peer Exchange opportunity to share best-practices in consumer and economic advocacy with the field.
- Interested? **Complete this form by March 31**
 - <https://goo.gl/forms/jDpmAlQKDZqpoG3t2>
 - We'll follow-up!

Conference & Technical Assistance



Workshop at NCLC's Annual Conference: Workshop at the Annual Litigation Conference to train on the *Guidebook* and building partnerships between consumer and DV lawyers

2018 Consumer Rights Calendar

March

- Finalize Spotlights

April

- Webinar: Issue Spotting

May

- Spotlight #1
- Consumer Newsletter

June

- Toolkit #1: Debt & Credit (2 webinars)

July

- Spotlight #2

August

- Consumer Newsletter

September

- Spotlight #3
- Toolkit #2: Tax Advocacy (2 webinars)

October

- NCLC Conference (Denver)

November

- Spotlight #4
- Consumer Newsletter

December

- Toolkit #3: Bankruptcy/ Foreclosure (2 webinars)

What would be most helpful to
you in enhancing survivors'
economic security?

Training, technical assistance, resources, etc.

Don't Forget!



**Spotlights on Innovative
Consumer Justice Initiatives**

[https://goo.gl/forms/
jDpmAlQKDZqpoG3t2](https://goo.gl/forms/jDpmAlQKDZqpoG3t2)

Thank you!!

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