



Ayuda
6925B Willow Street NW
Washington, DC 20012



Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia
P.O. Box 1011
Washington, DC 20013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2017

Contacts:

Ben Hernandez-Stern, HBA-DC President | President@hbadc.org |
Susannah Volpe, Associate Director DC Immigration, Ayuda | susannah@ayuda.com |
Anne Schaufele, Project END Coordinator, Ayuda | annes@ayuda.com |
Phone inquiries can be directed to Jenne Ristau at (202) 552-3619

To Mark International Migrants Day, Advocates Release Notario Fraud Prevention Videos

Washington, DC – Join the campaign to combat legal services scams targeting immigrants.

On International Migrants Day, Ayuda and the Hispanic Bar Association of DC (HBA-DC) announce the release of three innovative videos in Spanish to provide legal rights' information to immigrant members of the DMV community. These three short videos aim to prevent legal services scams in an era of increased immigration enforcement and the cancelation of multiple long-standing immigration programs that had provided lawful status and work authorization to tens of thousands of immigrants living in the DMV area. The videos, shot from the perspective of an immigrant consumer, contrast the experiences of working with a non-attorney “notario” to that of working with a qualified attorney. Ayuda and the HBA-DC intend these videos and fraud prevention tips to reduce the number of consumers affected by immigration fraud schemes and encourage media contacts and advocates to share these videos along with the memes featured in the videos, widely.

In the past four years, Ayuda, through the services of Project END (Eradicating Notario Deceit), has aided over 200 immigrant victims of legal services fraud, many of whom lost large sums of money, or even their lawful immigration status, due to flawed legal advice from a non-attorney. Anne Schaufele, Project END Coordinator, suggests that immigration scams are on the rise. “Unauthorized non-attorneys take advantage of the increased confusion and fear created by the termination of long-standing immigration programs like Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to deceive clients into paying them when there is no opportunity to gain lawful status. Ayuda encourages immigrants seeking lawful status to regularly get screened for immigration relief by an honest, reputable attorney or representative.”

HBA-DC initiated this video campaign and provided both technical advice, as well as the generous financial support of video production by filmmakers Michael Hernandez-Stern and Nolan Roy. “These videos are the latest iteration of public outreach HBA-DC has undertaken over the last 40 years to help ensure the

most vulnerable in the Latino community are not victims of charlatans posing as attorneys,” said HBA-DC President Ben Hernandez-Stern.

These videos were also made possible by Mayor Muriel Bowser of the District of Columbia as a production of the Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant program.

The videos and eleven short clips are available at: <http://ayuda.com/project-end-videos/>

[Consulta Legal](#) (4:03 minutes)

[Pagos y Preparación del Caso](#) (3:29 minutes)

[Aplicaciones y Contrato de Servicios Legales](#) (3:57 minutes)

The memes featured in the three videos are available at <http://ayuda.com/projectend-scamsbite-elfraudemuerte/>.

About HBA-DC

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the professional development of its membership, and to supporting the Latino community in the Washington D.C. area. Its membership includes several hundred lawyers practicing in Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia, law students, and other non-lawyer associate members. The HBA-DC is dedicated to promoting equal justice and opportunity for all Latinos, and educating the Latino community about relevant legal issues.

About Ayuda

Founded in 1973, Ayuda offers holistic legal, social, and interpretation services to low-income immigrants in the Washington metropolitan region. Ayuda’s programs include legal and social services in the areas of immigration, anti-trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and advocacy for immigrant children; language access services for linguistically isolated clients; and Project END to assist immigrant victims of legal services fraud.

###