

NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON ABUSED WOMEN'S SERVICES  
COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT IN NORTH DAKOTA

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### **NDCAWS/CASAND AWARDED IOLTA GRANT**

**(June 19, 2009)** Bismarck, ND - The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NDCAWS/CASAND) was awarded a \$12,000 grant from the IOLTA Committee of the North Dakota Bar Foundation.

Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) is a unique and innovative way to increase access to justice for individuals and families living in poverty and to improve our justice system. Without taxing the public, and at no cost to lawyers or their clients, interest from lawyer trust accounts is pooled to provide civil legal aid to the poor and support improvements to the justice system.

NDCAWS/CASAND is responsible for training domestic violence advocates to meet the requirements for advocate certification under the North Dakota Supreme Court Administrative Rule 34. The Advocate Certification Curriculum was established by the State Bar Association and the Supreme Court to ensure that advocates have a solid background in the court procedures, domestic violence statutes and roles of law enforcement, advocates and court systems in the Protection Order process. Training is conducted by attorneys, judges and law enforcement to ensure that advocates are well trained and meeting the needs of both victims and the courts.

With the IOLTA Grant, NDCAWS/CASAND intends to offer additional opportunities through education and training to enhance and maintain the skills of advocates with more than three years experience. In recent years it has become apparent that the complexity and diversity of Protection Order requests and decisions of the court require advocates to maintain a high level of understanding regarding the current environment in which Protection Orders are awarded.

In 2008, domestic violence programs provided victim assistance with 631 emergency protection orders. "The Advanced Legal Issues Training will help ensure that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are better served," states Janelle Moos, executive director of NDCAWS/CASAND.

For more information please contact Janelle Moos at (701) 255-6240 ext. 26.

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*It is the mission of NDCAWS/CASAND is to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. NDCAWS/CASAND has 21 member programs across the state which provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.*