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On March 20, 2015, Manhattan Legal Services, at 40 Worth Street, hosted AHSSC's presentation "Overview of Immigration Law and More". AHSSC's Senior Advisor, Selina Chan offered opening remarks and introduced the morning's presenter, Lynn Ventura, Senior Staff Attorney for the 1 West 125th Street office.

Immigration law involves the process by which individuals may obtain, keep and transfer their legal status in the United States. The governing laws and regulations include the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR). The process may involve varying types of applications and forms of relief that could be complicated and difficult to master. A consultation with an immigration attorney may be the best course of action before pursuing an application, petition for relief or remedy. The most common types of immigration cases include: *Naturalization*, *Adjustment of Status (to permanent resident)*, *Relative Petitions (I-130s)*, *Asylum (including Withholding of Removal and Convention Against Torture)*, *VAWA*, *U Visa and T Visa Applications*, *Green Card Replacements*, *Temporary Protected Status (TPS)*, *Deferred Action for child arrivals (DACA)* and *Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA)*, *Cancellation of Removal*, and *Removal/Deportation cases*.

All submitted paperwork are legal documents and advice sought on how to process, support and/or apply must be knowledgeable about personal liabilities or responsibilities. An ill-advised action can create difficulty in someone's legal status or jeopardize their ability to petition for citizenship. Once an application or petition is activated, it cannot be withdrawn or cancelled. An application or petition submitted under false information or pretenses will still be held accountable and the applicant will be held responsible. Unfortunately, there are many cases of false representation by persons impersonating legal counsel in the immigrant Asian communities. Ask to see the person's law degree, license to practice law and if they are registered with the NY Bar Association or another trade/law organization. Ensure a receipt and documentation of all meetings, be suspicious of those asking for only cash payment for legal counsel, and require copies of all completed legal documents and forms. If false representation is suspected, report them immediately to the local authorities.

The Manhattan Legal Services have multi-language capabilities as well as varying legal council departments including: Bankruptcy, Consumer and Related Problems, Employment Discrimination, Family Related Problems, Food Stamps, Housing Related Problems, Immigration, Legal Issues of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, Pinnacle Class Action Claims Legal Help, Public Benefits, SSI/SSDI Related Problems, Unemployment, Veterans, and a West Harlem Youth Program. Inquires can be directed to (646-442-3100).