



Mercedes V. Lorduy:

Mercedes V. Lorduy is co-founder and co-Director of VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc. Ms. Lorduy has been working with victims of violent crime and primarily with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault for over 16 years. Ms. Lorduy's experience representing battered immigrant women includes representation in family court, civil court and before the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service), and the Executive Office for Immigration Review. She currently represents farmworker women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Ms. Lorduy serves as faculty for national training conferences offered by the various projects of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, and the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Additionally, she participates as faculty in trainings on issues related to domestic violence in the military. Ms. Lorduy conducts trainings for law enforcement, advocates, attorneys and social service providers on the intersection of immigration, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and human trafficking on a local, national, and international level. Ms. Lorduy also participated as faculty and advisor for the Economic Empowerment Curriculum for Survivors of Domestic Violence a project of the Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Ms. Lorduy assisted in the creation and the development of the training curriculum, manual and video "Improving Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors," a training curriculum offered by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Lorduy also conducts community Know Your Rights forums with the local community on immigrant's rights as victims of crime. Ms. Lorduy has trained and provides technical assistance internationally to organizations that work with victims of domestic violence and sexual violence.

Ms. Lorduy received a B. S. in Social Science from Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida; and a J.D. from St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami, Florida. She is admitted to the Florida State Bar.