**First Day – August 1, 2018**

**Pre-Conference Workshops – Interviewing Vulnerable Populations**

7:30am **Conference Registration Opens**

8:30am **Welcome and Opening Remarks – Interviewing Vulnerable Populations –***This   
overview will set the scene for what will be covered over the next two days.*

9:00am **Session 1 –****Overview of Non-Adversarial Interviews** – *As a neutral decision-maker, adjudicators must effectively elicit information from an applicant to determine whether he or she qualifies for a benefit. Non-adversarial interviews encompass not only the manner of questioning, but also the tone and atmosphere in which an adjudicator elicits information to make a legal determination in a given case. This session will provide an overview of non-adversarial interviewing methods and techniques within the legal framework of asylum adjudications and examine the preconceived notions and biases adjudicators may bring to their work.*

10:00am **BREAK**

10:30am **Session 2 - Adjudicating Children’s Claims** - *This session will examine unique sensitivities and challenges associated with adjudicating claims from children and provide participants with child-sensitive interviewing techniques.*

12:00pm **LUNCH**

1:00pm **Session 3 –** **Adjudicating Gender-Based Claims** – *This session will provide participants with interviewing techniques and gender-related factors that for consideration when interviewing and adjudicating claims related to gender, including claims based on violations of societal norms associated with gender.*

2:15pm **BREAK**

2:45pm **Session 4 – Panel Discussion – LGBTQ –** *This discussion will explore the legal framework related to the adjudication of LGBTQ cases, and the key challenges and issues faced by this population within the asylum framework.*

4:00pm **BREAK**

4:15pm **Session 5 – Facilitated Discussion and Wrap-Up of Day 1**

5:00pm **END OF DAY 1**

**Second Day – August 2, 2018 – Pre-Conference Workshops – Assessing Credibility of Vulnerable Populations**

8:15am **Welcome and Opening Remarks from UNHCR –** *This session will open up day two of the conference.*

8:30am **Session 6 - Eliciting Testimony from Vulnerable Populations –** *This session will focus on tools and techniques, for the effective use of an interpreter, in eliciting testimony during adjudications of vulnerable populations.*

10:00am **BREAK**

10:30am **Session 7 - Theories and Techniques for Analyzing Credibility in the Context of Vulnerable Populations** – *This session will examine issues to be considered during the interview process and helping adjudicators recognize biases they may bring to the legal adjudication.*

12:00pm **LUNCH**

1:15pm **Session 8 – Country of Origin Information (COI) on Gang Related Issues in the Americas -** *This panel will provide information on reliable COI resources with a focus on gang related issues and generalized violence in the region.*

2:30pm **BREAK**

3:00pm **Session 9 – Interviewing Survivors of Torture –** *This session will consider the effects of torture and severe trauma within the legal framework of the asylum process.*

4:00pm **BREAK**

4:15pm **Session 10 – Facilitated Discussion and Wrap-Up of Day 2**

5:00pm **END OF DAY 2**

**Third Day – August 3, 2018 – Plenary Sessions**

7:30am **Registration Opens**

8:30am **Welcome and Introduction** – **IARMJ Americas Chapter President**

9:00am **Key Note Address #1**

10:00am **BREAK**

10:30am **IOM Video for Judges –** *From the Perspective of a Trafficking Victim In the alternative if the video is not available, then TED Talk – Let’s Help Refugees Thrive, Not Just Survive*

10:50am **Session 1 –Adjudicative Considerations for Eliciting Testimony and Probing Credibility of Applicants Impacted By Violence and Trauma**

12:00pm **LUNCH**

1:30pm **Session 2 – Examining the Impact of Violence and Trauma on Adjudicators**

3:30pm **BREAK**

4:00pm **Session 3 - Panel Techniques and Considerations for Effectively Interviewing Survivors of Violence and Trauma**

5:00pm **Wrap Up and overview of Day 3**

5:15pm **END of DAY 3**

5:30pm **Optional – Cocktail reception**

**Fourth Day – August 4, 2018 – Plenary Sessions**

8:30am Housekeeping and Opening Remarks

8:45am Key Note Speaker # 2

9:00am **Session 4 – Panel Discussion –Building Resilient Asylum Systems: Systemic Considerations in Effective Compliance with International Treaty Obligations - A Comparative Analysis and Discussion–** *This session will focus on how states have set up local processes and examine the impact of limited resources and political pressures in light of increasing caseloads on legal adjudicators.*

10:30am **BREAK**

11:00am **Session 5 – Facilitated Discussion and Small Group Exercises - Examining How Protection Claims Based on Generalized Violence are Adjudicated in Different Regions – Americas vs. Middle East – Case Studies –** *This session will have participants review two short case studies of generalized violence from two regions and break out into small groups to discuss the role of state protection and the legal elements that lead to generalized violence rising to the level of persecution in one region, but not in the other region.*

11:45am **Session 6 – Facilitated Discussion – Full Plenary – Examining How Protection Claims Based on Generalized Violence are Adjudicated in Different Regions – Americas vs. Middle East – Case Studies** – *In this session the small groups will reconvene into the full plenary to discuss the findings of the small groups and continue the discussion in the larger forum.*

12:30pm **LUNCH**

1:45pm **Session 7 – Panel Discussion - Minimizing the Impact of Bias on Adjudicative Processes** – *This session will examine the concept of “implicit bias” and how it may factor into adjudications.*

3:00pm **BREAK**

3:30pm **Session 8 – Panel Discussion- My Experience as an Asylum Seeker** – *This session will feature a panel of asylum seekers and/or refugees describing their experience, from flight through the process of seeking protection and the challenges encountered along the way, including experiences in detention. Individual stories will be followed by a moderated discussion and a Q&A session for the full plenary.*

5:00pm **Wrap-Up and Overview of Day 4**

5:30pm **END of DAY 4**

8:00pm **Optional – IARMJ Banquet**

**Fifth Day – August 5, 2018 – Plenary Sessions**

9:00am Meet at GULC for transport to the Holocaust Museum

10:00am **Permanent Exhibition: The Holocaust** – *Spanning three floors, the museum’s   
self-guided Permanent Exhibition, The Holocaust, offers a chronological narrative of the Holocaust through historical artifacts, photographs, and film footage. Throughout the exhibition, visitors will also encounter personal objects and the eyewitness testimonies of individual survivors.*

12:00pm **Lunch on Your Own** – *To provide participants with flexibility and sufficient time to tour the exhibit, lunch will be on your own. Being mindful of the time, participants are encouraged to dine at the on-site museum café, or at one of the numerous food trucks outside.*

1:00pm **Holocaust Museum - Law, Justice, and the Holocaust** – *This program challenges legal professionals to critically examine the decisions German jurists made and the pressures they faced under the Nazi regime. In understanding this history, participants gain new insight into their responsibilities as professionals and as individuals in a democracy today.*

*The Museum provides this one-day program for judges, prosecutors, and court administrators both on-site in Washington, DC, and at state bar and judicial conferences around the country. Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit is available.*

*Guided by Museum historians and educators, participants analyze legal documents and case studies from the Nazi era and grapple with the ethical questions they raise. This close scrutiny of the past provides a framework for a debate on the role of the judiciary in states today, specifically, what is the responsibility of judges to the legal system as a whole and what have been the challenges to a fair and impartial administration of justice to date.*

<https://www.ushmm.org/professionals-and-student-leaders/judiciary>

3:15pm **BREAK**

3:30pm **Reflections and Facilitated Discussion**

4:30pm **Feedback Survey**

5:00pm **Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks**

5:30pm **END OF CONFERENCE**