AILA CHICAGO CHAPTER
CHAPTER PRO BONO PROGRAMS

Chapter name: Chicago Chapter

Chapter Pro Bono Contact

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Pro Bono Programs

Program name: National Immigrant Justice Center ("NIJC")
(formerly Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center ("MIHRC"))

Description: *Pro bono* asylum representation- The NIJC *Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan Project for Protection of Asylum Seekers* provides *pro bono* representation to asylum seekers. NIJC has a staff of attorneys, accredited representatives, and paralegals that provide support to a large panel of volunteer attorneys representing asylum seekers. NIJC carefully screens asylum, withholding, and CAT claims of prospective clients before matching them with volunteer attorneys. .

Pro bono citizenship clinics- NIJC provides opportunities for attorneys to provide legal assistance to immigrants seeking to become U.S. citizens. NIJC conducts trainings for *pro bono* attorneys who provide legal assistance to lawful permanent residents at citizenship clinics.

Pro bono Gender Justice Project- NIJC provides representation for victims of gender-based persecution under the Violence Against Women Act. These cases are screened by NIJC and NIJC provides legal training and support to *pro bono* attorneys interested in representing immigrant victims of domestic violence seeking to obtain lawful permanent residence.

Pro bono Counter Trafficking Project- NIJC provides opportunities for *pro bono* attorneys seeking to provide legal representation to immigrant victims of human trafficking. NIJC conducts trainings for attorneys seeking to represent victims of human trafficking collaborates with the *pro bono* attorney in working with law enforcement, as necessary.

Contact information: Mary Meg McCarthy - NIJC Director
Jefferson Mok - *Pro Bono* Coordinator

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Program name: Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Rights ("ICIRR")

Description: *Pro bono* naturalization representation- ICIRR administers a citizenship program that is supported by experienced immigration attorney who do legal screening for potential naturalization applicants to evaluate eligibility, including removability, abandonment, and good moral character issues..

Election day legal support- During election years, ICIRR requests the support of *pro bono* attorneys to provide legal advice and intervention for voting problems that arise at polling stations. ICIRR provides legal training by veteran election lawyers and provides backup support during the polling times.

Pro bono legal trainers- ICIRR utilizes *pro bono* attorneys to provide intensive legal training for community based organizations and staff who seek to qualify for accreditation by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Direct *pro bono* representation- ICIRR occasionally seeks *pro bono* representation on behalf of foreign nationals in high profile situations.

General volunteers- ICIRR is involved in numerous immigration advocacy and public policy efforts, both locally and nationally. ICIRR frequently utilizes the support of volunteer attorneys in these efforts.

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Program name:	Chicago Volunteer Legal Services ("CVLS")
Description:	*Pro bono* representation for all immigration matters - CVLS provides *pro bono* legal services, including representation in immigration law matters, to low-income Chicagoans. CVLS clients may seek *pro bono* representation for any immigration related matter, but cases tend to be primarily family based, VAWA, and removal defense. *Pro bono* attorney representation is coordinated through the AILA Chicago Chapter. Additional information about CVLS can be found at their website at www.cvls.org.
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