# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA: PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING IMMIGRATION SERVICES

**Chapter Name**: AILA Northern California
**Chapter Pro Bono Contact**
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The following organizations provide many opportunities for pro bono service in the Northern California area:

## 1) Program Name: The Lawyers' Committee Pro Bono Asylum Program

Description: Asylum law should offer a broad umbrella of protection for refugees targeted for persecution in their homelands on account of their opinions, personal characteristics, or their religious, social, ethnic or national identity. Thanks to you and a wonderful community of refugee advocates, the U.S. Government is acknowledging that women, and gays and lesbians, may suffer persecution in their homelands that is directly attributable to gender or sexual orientation. Spousal abuse, restrictions on women's liberty, and gay-bashing may be tolerated by a society and ignored or abetted by a country's laws and police. Adding these types of human-rights violations to violations based on a person's political opinion, religious faith, race, nationality or social group, which are well recognized in U.S. asylum law, sends a powerful message to our own government and to foreign governments that we want the human rights of all people to be protected.

A refugee is not entitled to a government-appointed lawyer to assist her in applying for asylum or any immigration remedy. The need for pro bono representation is apparent now more than ever. Congress in the 1996 immigration act authorized an immigration officer at an airport or border to summarily remove out of the United States an arriving asylum applicant who fails to satisfy to the INS officer that she has a 'credible fear' of persecution in her homeland. For those of you who have represented refugees know that a true refugee is likely to fear talking about their political difficulties to a uniformed official. The refugee may speak little English and is likely to arrive tired, disoriented and possibly traumatized, in no condition to undergo a life-and-death interview that may result in her being returned to her persecutors. We invite your participation in our effort to provide representation to arriving refugees, and to refugees already in the United States who fear to return to their homelands.

We seek pro bono representation for refugees who have strong asylum claims and who do not have financial resources. We provide you as the pro bono attorney of record with a volunteer interpreter, if necessary, and a pro bono mentor attorney who is expert in immigration or asylum law. An excellent manual for asylum representation is available. A network of experienced volunteers is ready to help you. Please call now for further

information regarding their cases, or to let us know of your special human-rights concerns.

Contact Information:

Name: Philip Hwang, staff attorney
Address: 131 Steuart Street, Suite 400,
City, State & Zip: San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415 543 9444
Email: phwang@lccr.com

Date Information Provided: May 2006

**2) Program Name: Jewish Family & Children's Services**

Description of organization and volunteer opportunity:

JFCS is a nonsectarian, nonprofit organization that provides services to individuals and families of all ages and backgrounds. We are like an extended family for so many in our community:

* Seniors
* Children and families
* Individuals and couples
* Refugees and emigres
* People with chronic diseases and/or disabilities

Numerous volunteer opportunities exist - mentoring, teaching English, office assistance.

For more information on the organization and volunteer opportunities, you may check the website: www.jfcs.org.

Contact Information
Name: Masha Gutkin
Address: JFCS, 2534 Judah Street
City, State & Zip: San Francisco, CA 94122
Phone: (415) 449-2919
Email: mashag@jfcs.org

**3) Program Name: International Institute of the East Bay**

Description: IIEB has deportation defense and VAWA pro bono opportunities as well as humanitarian parole cases for attorneys at several levels of experience.

Contact Information:
Name: Susan Bowyer, Managing Attorney
Address: 449 15th Street, Suite 201
City, State & Zip: Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 451-2846, ext. 304

Email: sbowyer@iieb.org

Date Information Provided: May 2006

**4) Organization /Program Name: Mujeres Unidas y Activas**

Description of organization and volunteer opportunity: Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA) is a grassroots organization led by and for Latina immigrant women with offices in San Francisco and Oakland. MUA could benefit from the following types of pro bono legal assistance: VAWA cases, immigration cases, Visa U, restraining order processing, asylum cases, workers' rights violations, child custody/family law/alimony cases. In addition, the organization at times needs legal assistance reviewing rental contracts and other legal documents. Bilingual Spanish/English lawyers preferred as our members are mostly Spanish speaking.

Contact Information:
Name: Andrea Lee/Juana Flores
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Email: andrea@mujeresunidas.net, Juanita@mujeresunidas.net-

Date Information Provided: May 2006

**5) Program Name: La Raza Centro Legal, Asian Law Caucus and Lawyers Committee For Civil Rights**

Description: Thursday night immigration clinics. Meet with low income immigrant families and individuals concerning immigration status and relevant concerns. Attorneys tutor and get interview help from law student volunteers, adding a teaching dimension to the clinics. Attorneys have conducted mini-seminars for the student volunteers. The students learn a great deal through regular participation in the clinics. Clients get the advice they need, and where relief is available, get referred to dependable sources of help.

Contact Information:
Name: Dave Rorick, Legal Assistant, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights
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Date Information Provided: May 2006

**6) Program Name: National Center for Lesbian Rights**

Description: NCLR sponsors regular, free immigration legal clinics in San Francisco that give you the opportunity to meet with attorneys familiar with the specific circumstances of immigrants in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. All consultations are private and strictly confidential.

Contact Information:
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Date Information Provided: May 2006

**7) Program Name: Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legal Outreach Free Monthly Clinic**

Description: Monthly Free Clinic. Clinics are every third Wednesday of each month.
Languages: Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Mandarin, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese

Contact Information:
Name: Ivy Lee
Address: 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 202, San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 567-6255 x34
Email: ilee@apilegaloutreach.org

Date Information Provided: May 2006

**8) Program Name: API Legal Outreach/Veterans Equity Center Joint Clinic**

Description: Monthly Free Clinic. For Veterans and Their Families.
Languages: Cebuano, Tagalog, English

Contact Information:
Name: Laureen Laglagaron
Address: 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 202, San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 567-6255 x30

Email: llaglagaron@apilegaloutreach.org

Date Information Provided: May 2006

**9) Program Name: API Legal Outreach/Filipino American Social Services Joint Clinic**

Description: Monthly Free Clinic.
Languages: Cebuano, Tagalog, English

Contact Information:
Name: Laureen Laglagaron
Address: 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 202, San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 567-6255 x30
Email: llaglagaron@apilegaloutreach.org

Date Information Provided: May 2006

**10) Program Name: API Legal Outreach/Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center Joint Clinic**

Description: Monthly Free Clinic. Languages: Cebuano, Tagalog, English

Contact Information:
Name: Laureen Laglagaron
Address: 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 202, San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 567-6255 x30
Email: llaglagaron@apilegaloutreach.org

**11) Program name: Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach VAWA and Trafficking Project**

Description: Immigrant victims of criminal activity, including domestic violence and human trafficking, are paired with volunteer attorneys with varying degrees of experience in immigration law to prepare and submit applications for immigration relief pursuant to federal laws protecting victims of crime (Violence Against Women Act, Trafficking Victims Protection Act). Pro bono training, written manual, sample applications, and one-on-one mentoring are provided to volunteer attorneys. Training presentations and technical assistance are also available to law firms and ngo's upon request.

Contact Information:
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Phone: (415) 567-6255 x31
Email: ilee@apilegaloutreach.org

**12) Organization/Program Name: Immigrant Legal Resource Center**

Description of organization and volunteer opportunity: Help with Community Meetings (presentations on law and policy and brief consultations to support information and referrals and organization and immigrant empowerment programs)

Contact Information:
Name: Mark Silverman
Address: 1663 Mission St., Suite 602
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Phone:415-255-9499, extension 627
Email: mark@ilrc.org

**13) Program Name: La Raza Centro Legal**

Description of organization and volunteer opportunity: Non-profit social justice organization providing free legal services, leadership development, and job development services to the low-income community. We provide free legal services in the areas of housing, senior law, youth law, immigration, and employment. We welcome attorney, legal assistant, and administrative assistant volunteers.

Contact Information
Name: Anamaria Loya, E.D./Genevie Gallegos, A.D./ Elsa Torres, Supervisor / Aldo Ibarra, Legal Assistant
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