

State and National Organizations Seeking Pro Bono Volunteers¹

Opportunities in Colorado:

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
2785 Speer Blvd., Suite 346
Denver, CO 80211
303-433-2812
www.rmian.org

Mission: Dedicated to providing legal information and representation to non-citizens detained by the Department of Homeland Security and unaccompanied or abused children.

Needs: Seeks volunteer attorneys to represent non-citizen men, women, and children in immigration removal proceedings. RMIAN staff members conduct preliminary research, screen cases, and write referral memorandums. Each volunteer is provided with an experienced immigration practitioner to serve as a mentor for the case.

To Volunteer: Contact Mekela Goehring at 303-433-2812 or mgoehring@rmian.org or visit RMIAN's website at www.rmian.org

Opportunities in Pennsylvania:

A Woman's Place
P.O. Box 299
Doylestown, PA 18901
www.awomansplace.org
215-348-0445

Mission: To provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Programs are structured to provide support and safety to women and children in an effort to help break the abusive cycle of violence. Services are free and confidential to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Free legal representation is available in civil matters involving support, custody, divorce, welfare, and immigration.

Needs: A range of volunteer opportunities are available including providing direct legal services, becoming a trained member of AWP's speakers bureau, helping with special

¹ These providers also exhibited and recruited lawyers at the Pro Bono booth during AILA's 2006 Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. If your organization provided materials but is not included on this list, please notify Kathy Moccio at kmoccio@aila.org.

events, and volunteering in a shelter. Volunteer trainings are held throughout the year. Please visit awomansplace.org for information on training dates and times.

To volunteer: Contact Ed Meigs at edmeigs@awomansplace.org or 215.343.9241 ext. 114 or Alison Bellavance at abellavance@awomansplace.org or 215.345.9241 ext. 109

Opportunities in Texas:

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, Inc.
2501 Oak Lawn, Suite 850
Dallas, Texas 75219
www.hrionline.org
214-855-0520

Mission: To provide legal representation and social services to victims of human rights abuses and serve as a community resource on human rights issues.

Needs: Volunteers to provide legal services to asylum applicants, asylees, and individuals seeking protection under the Violence Against Women Act.

To volunteer: contact Kim Rafalski, Director, Volunteer Attorney Program at 214-855-0520

Child Immigrant Project
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, Inc.
2501 Oak Lawn Avenue, Suite 850
Dallas, Texas 75219
214-855-0520
www.hrionline.org

Mission: Works to ensure that defenseless, unaccompanied immigrant children are not lost in the system by providing legal representation and community education about the plight of children. HRI also works with agencies to secure necessary medical, psychological and social services for the children.

Needs: Volunteers to represent children who have possible relief from removal under Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, asylum, Violence Against Women Act, or Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

To Volunteer: Please complete the online form at <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=685296249>

ProBAR**301 E. Madison Ave.****Harlingen, Texas 78501****<http://www.abanet.org/immigration/probono/probar/home.html>****956-425-9231**

Mission: To provide a means for the legal community to offer legal assistance to protect the due process rights of detained immigrants and asylum seekers who face extraordinary obstacles in proving their claims for relief, including language barriers, misinformation of U.S. laws and court procedures, and lack of financial resources.

Needs: Volunteer attorneys who are available to travel to Harlingen to represent detainees. ProBAR provides volunteers with a place to work, office equipment, and legal research materials. ProBAR also provides liability insurance coverage at no cost to the volunteer.

To volunteer: Contact Meredith Linsky, ProBAR Coordinator, at: probar@sbcglobal.net or 301 E. Madison Ave., Harlingen, Texas 78501.

Political Asylum Project of Austin**314 Est Highland Mall Blvd.****Suite 501****Austin, Texas 78752****512-478-0646****www.papaustin.org**

Mission: To increase legal representation and assistance to immigrant detainees by organizing educational rights presentations for those who are in removal proceedings, have court hearings, and would otherwise go unrepresented. Through this project PAPA seeks to ensure legal representation and public involvement in the detention process.

Needs: Pro Bono attorneys to represent individuals in immigration proceedings. Each case is screened by PAPA for available immigration relief. PAPA also seeks volunteers for support positions such as translators.

To Volunteer: Contact Isidora Sanchez, Pro Bono Coordinator, at 512-478-0546 x 207 or complete and submit the volunteer form at <http://www.main.org/papa/resources/VolunteerApplication.doc>

Opportunities in Washington:

Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice
A Joint Project of: Microsoft Corporation and
American Bar Association Commission on Immigration
1201 3rd Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, WA 98101
206-359-6201

<http://www.abanet.org/publicserv/immigration/VAIJ.html>

Mission: A pro bono legal representation project in the Seattle area that offers free legal assistance to detained immigrants seeking asylum or other forms of relief before the immigration courts. Immigrant detainees typically have little if any opportunity or resources to secure representation, and as many as 90% appear pro se in their immigration legal proceedings. VAIJ matches pro bono attorneys in the Seattle area with these detained immigrants, ensuring that detainees receive much needed representation.

Needs: The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project which conducts legal rights presentations and case screenings for detained immigrants. VAIJ then conducts secondary intake to determine whether the case is appropriate for placement with a volunteer attorney – selecting cases and tailoring procedures to make the most efficient use of volunteer time. Volunteers are needed to perform services ranging from completing applications, developing supporting documentation, writing legal memoranda and preparing applicants to testify for their hearings, presenting at training seminars to interpreting and translating for clients.

To Volunteer: Contact Juliann Bildhauer, Director, at Juliann@vaij.org or 206-359-6201

National Organizations seeking volunteers:

National Center for Lesbian Rights
Immigration Project
870 Market St., Suite 370
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-392-6257
info@nclrights.org

Mission: NCLR is a national, non-profit legal organization dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and their families through litigation, technical assistance to attorneys, public policy advocacy, and public education. NCLR works to enable same-sex spouses or partners of immigrants to lawfully remain in the United States. NCLR also educates bi-national same-sex couples on their ability to immigrate to a country that will recognize their relationship.

Needs: NCLR receives thousands of phone calls and emails each year from individuals seeking assistance on legal issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. NCLR helps direct these individuals to an LGBT-friendly attorney in their area who practices in the relevant field of law. It is not necessary that the attorneys be "experts" in LGBT legal issues, merely that they are willing to represent LGBT clients in their area of practice. NCLR requests, but does not require, that you provide a free initial consultation.

Volunteer: Please register on line at <http://www.ncrights.org/forms/attorney.htm>

National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children
1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036-2003
202-347-3507
www.refugees.org/nationalcenter

Mission: The Center is a partnership of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). It provides *pro bono* legal and social services to unaccompanied children released from detention in the United States.

Needs: The Center seeks attorneys of all levels of experience, skill, and background to represent children or to mentor other attorneys. Most of the children are in legal proceedings before the U.S. Department of Justice's Immigration Courts and/or state juvenile courts. Many are seeking asylum or protection from abuse, neglect, trafficking, or other serious crimes. Some children will return to their home country and require guidance obtaining services in their country. *Pro bono* counsel will assist these children by coordinating their departure and return.

To Volunteer: Please sign up on line at <http://www.refugees.org/form.aspx?id=1261&subm=75&area=Participate&ssm=83>

BIA Pro Bono Project
Washington, DC

Mission: To increase the level of pro bono representation to immigrants who are without representation before the BIA. The Project's priority is to assist detained, pro se individuals with cases before the BIA. It concentrates on finding representation for the following type of individuals: 1. asylum seekers, 2. minors, and 3. individuals who received a favorable decision from an Immigration Judge which the government subsequently appealed. All cases involve individuals who were not represented before the Immigration Judge, and who remain pro se before the BIA.

Needs: Pro Bono attorneys, supervised law students, and BIA accredited representatives to mentor volunteers or prepare briefs on behalf of pro se individuals.

To Volunteer: Contact Carol Pelton at 202-756-3753 or cpelton@cliniclegal.org

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

www.cliniclegal.org

Mission: A national organization consisting of 155 affiliated organizations that represent vulnerable immigrants who cannot afford private counsel in removal proceedings.

Needs: Volunteers to provide pro bono legal services to low-income immigrants. A sampling of opportunities are:

Boston: Represent indigent adult detainees.

Los Angeles: Represent indigent detained juveniles and adults.

New Orleans: Represent indigent detained adults in removal proceedings and assist indigent immigrants with a variety of post Hurricane Katrina legal needs.

To Volunteer: Contact Kathleen Sullivan, CLINIC Detention Project Director, at 508-820-4301 or CLINICKathleen@aol.com or if you would like to volunteer for the Boston, LA, or New Orleans projects, please contact the following:

Boston: Contact Mary Holper at holper@bc.edu or 617-552-0593

Los Angeles: Contact Julianne Donnelly at jdonnelly@cliniclegal.org or 213-251-3535

New Orleans: Contact Hiroko Kusuda at hkusuda@loyno.edu or 504-861-5595