PRO BONO RESOLUTION
AILA Board of Governors
Hawaii
January 19, 2008

RESOLVED that the American Immigration Lawyers Association adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Association and its Members recognize equal access to justice for all persons as essential to the just, fair and efficient administration of our immigration laws, courts and legal system; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasingly dire need for pro bono immigration legal services for the indigent, needy, and disadvantaged throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the Association and its Members are in a unique position to influence and direct pro bono immigration legal services to meet the unmet legal needs of indigent and disadvantaged persons; and

WHEREAS, each Member as an attorney admitted to practice law has a fundamental ethical and professional obligation to render pro bono legal services, which the Association acknowledges, endorses and desires to supplement; and now, therefore, it is

RESOLVED that the Board of Governors of the American Immigration Lawyers Association:

(1) Will draft standards setting forth recommendations regarding the provision and facilitation of pro bono legal services by Members. If adopted by the Board, such Standards will be readily accessible and disseminated to all Members. The Association will undertake specific initiatives designed to maximize provision and facilitation of pro bono legal services by Members.

(2) Will enhance efforts to recognize Members who provide or facilitate pro bono legal services, and will strongly encourage all Members through appropriate incentives and other means to provide or facilitate pro bono legal services.

(3) Will encourage Members to contribute financial support to not-for-profit legal services providers.

(4) Will support the provision and facilitation of pro bono representation by assisting in activities such as publicity, coordination, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and public relations.