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## **CLINIC WELCOMES LAUNCH OF IMMIGRANT RIGHTS WEB TOOL**

**Washington, DC.** – The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. welcomes the launch of the Immigration Advocates Network (IAN), a web-based resource tool for non-profit advocates, organizers and service providers. IAN is aimed at improving communication between leading national immigrant rights organizations and small, developing charitable legal service agencies.

“The IAN represents a unique collaboration of the nation's leading charitable legal agencies for immigrants,” said CLINIC Executive Director Donald Kerwin. “It will provide comprehensive information and support to the hundreds of local charitable programs that represent low-income and at-risk immigrants throughout the nation.”

“Through this online community, immigration advocates across the country will have unparalleled access to important resources, updates, and national expertise,” said Debbie Smith, IAN Project Director.

IAN represents an innovative model for distributing immigration-related content and advocacy tools to charitable legal service providers. The website, which is password protected, includes a library of manuals and sample materials for non-profit legal service providers. It also accommodates videos, podcasts and features online training with immigration experts as well as news alerts, listservs on immigration law topics and a national calendar of trainings and events.

Initially, IAN content will cover family-based immigration law, immigration and crimes, naturalization, raids, driver's licenses and immigration program management.

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), a subsidiary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is the nation's largest network of charitable immigration services with 173 affiliates in 260 field offices around the country. CLINIC advocates for transparent, fair and generous immigration policies.

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IAN was created through a collaboration of national immigrant rights organizations. CLINIC's partners on this project include the ACLU Immigrant's Rights Project, the ABA Commission on Immigration, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the National Immigration Law Center, the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, Pro Bono Net and the Advocates for Human Rights. It is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

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