Embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger, CLINIC promotes the dignity and protects the rights of immigrants in partnership with a dedicated network of Catholic and community legal immigration programs.

Ready to Stay is a national coalition working to build field capacities and coordination for effective implementation of a large-scale immigration legalization program.
PRESENTERS

Silvana Arista
Attorney and Field Support Coordinator
Capacity Building Section
CLINIC Inc.

Pat Malone
Associate Director
Immigration Advocates Network

PRESENTERS

Nancy Flores
Citizenship and Immigration Program Director
La Casa de Amistad

Barbara Szweda
Founder of Attorneys Assisting Afghan Resettlement Project

PRESENTERS

Peter Kempner
Legal Director
Volunteers of Legal Service

Beth France
Director of Partnerships
We the Action
Agenda

- Identifying needs, building relationships, and securing resources
- Supporting and recognizing pro bonos
- Pro bono service delivery models and tools
- Resources
- Questions

IDENTIFYING NEEDS

- 60 + Afghan Humanitarian Parolees arriving in South Bend
- 6 immigration attorneys in town already busy with asylum cases
- We needed a new source of legal help for the parolees
- What about retired attorneys?
  - AAARP – Attorneys Assisting Afghan Resettlement Project
PRO BONO MODEL

LAW SCHOOL CLINIC MODEL

TRAINING REQUIRED
- In-house training
- Zoom trainings
- Flow charts and written guidance
- Examples provided
- Country conditions research

SUPERVISION PROVIDED
- Sit in on initial interviews
- Review documents/affidavits
- Review legal memo and share with other attorneys

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES:
❖ United Religious Community
❖ Catholic Charities

ATTORNEYS:
❖ Former law school colleagues
❖ Former students
❖ Local retired or semi-retired attorneys
❖ Private law firms

NJC – Lisa Koop
❖ Assisted with training
❖ Is doing asylum court cases
❖ Students?
❖ Interpreter

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
❖ Translators and Expert Witness
❖ Political Science Professors assigning research for Master Exhibits

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

NGO TO NGO
❖ Assisted clients to appointments
❖ Helped with forms/secretarial work
❖ Helped with cultural training

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
❖ Provides Resources And Support

VOLUNTEER LAWYER NETWORK
❖ Provides Malpractice Insurance
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND
❖ Worked with La Casa:
❖ To pass a city ordinance to welcome immigrants
❖ Recognizes/Accepts Municipal IDs for undocumented folks
❖ Grant La Casa $100,000 for:
❖ Interpretation services
❖ Paralegal assistance
❖ Mental health assistance
❖ Transportation

BEST PRACTICES AND TIPS
❖ Realize that you will have to do some of the work if they are new to the field.
❖ Be encouraging.
❖ Find out attorney’s availability immediately.
❖ Be upfront on how much time it takes and what is required
❖ Client Affidavit
❖ Forms
❖ Master Exhibit
❖ Master Exhibit Index
❖ Legal Memo/Attorney Letter
❖ What you can help with
❖ Be sure they are willing to take suggestions and make changes
❖ Be encouraging.
Who We Are
Responsible & Supportive Pro Bono

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) was founded as a nonprofit organization in 1984, when New York City Bar leaders responded to severe federal government budget cuts to legal services.

VOLS harnesses the power of New York City's legal community and neighborhood-based groups to provide free civil legal services when and where they are needed most. Pro bono service is at the core of our mission to empower underserved communities in New York:

- Seniors & Older Veterans
- Unemployed Workers
- Immigrant Youth
- Small Business Owners
- Low-Income Children & Families

What We Do
Volunteer Opportunities

- **IMMIGRATION PROJECT**
  - Provide immigration services to undocumented youth in New York City including DACA Initial & Renewals, non-immigrant visas, and naturalization.

- **UNEMPLOYED WORKERS PROJECT**
  - Provide advice and counsel to clients applying for unemployment insurance benefits and/or representation to phase hearings before an Administrative Law Judge.

- **SENIOR LAW PROJECT & VETERANS INITIATIVE**
  - Work with low-income seniors and older veterans to draft and execute critical documents: Last Wills & Testaments, Powers of Attorney, Health Care proxies and other advance directives.

- **MICROENTERPRISE PROJECT**
  - Counsel underserved microentrepreneurs in transactional matters related to start up or operation of their business, engage in community legal education and provide COVID-19 crises recovery services.

Why Volunteer with VOLS?

Responsible & Supportive Pro Bono

- VOLS legal team provides support, training, and ongoing mentorship to ensure a high quality and seamless experience for our volunteers.

- We provide a library of resources to help our volunteers.

- We support pro bono service on matters that fit our volunteers' legal background and interest areas. We maintain a robust network of 200+ community-based partners in New York City to identify and address critical local needs.

When you Partner with VOLS you will:

- Provide legal services to New Yorkers
- Gain confidence in taking pro bono matters
- Locate a new area of law
- Receive matters that are pre-screened

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Pro Bono Lawyers
- Pro Bono Paralegal Support
- Translation and Interpretation
- Nonprofit operations, design, and communication
- Program evaluation and monitoring
- Pro-bono evaluation and monitoring
Testimonials

Volunteer Stories

"This work makes me feel like I’m really helping individual people. Seniors are just grateful for the assistance – they know how difficult it can be to get help. And they always have amazing stories.

Senior Law Project Volunteer"

"When I first saw the list of unemployed workers cases, I hesitated to take one on, unsure of my litigation skills. But the VOLS staff reassured me I could handle it and worked with me hand in glove to represent claimants.

Unemployed Workers Project Volunteer"

"The VOLS staff is truly wonderful – organized, friendly and professional. I always appreciate how VOLS attorneys explain the big picture with our cases and participate hand-in-hand with us as we plan clinics. They show both expertise in their area of the law and dedication to their clients.

Immigration Project Volunteer"

"In volunteering with VOLS and its amazing staff, it was apparent that my participation would tangibly assist the intended beneficiary. It is insanely gratifying to donate my time to an organization that so wisely utilizes its volunteers, so that their energy is efficiently channeled and ultimately assists the maximum number of individuals and businesses.

Microenterprise Project Volunteer"

Making Resources Easily Accessible

VOLS Pro Bono Library

Consider how they operate differently from a law firm:

- Less (or no) pro bono infrastructure
- No billable hours
- No malpractice insurance

How to make it work:

- Short term opportunities (clinics are often a good fit)
- Partnerships with law firms (win/win)
- Provide lots of coverage and support
Pro Bono Engagement - Beyond the Cases

Key Facts Pro Bono
1,500+ Volunteers
70+ Training Sessions
18,000+ Hours Donated

Pro Bono Statistics

- Improved housing security
- Increased access to healthcare
- Expanded legal rights

Pro Bono Spotlight: Nathan Noh

Pro Bono Advocates Council

For more information, please visit our website or contact us directly.
Pro Bono Engagement - Beyond the Cases

More Pro Bono Service Delivery Models

- ABA Commission on Immigration
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Southern California
- Colorado Legal Services
- GMHC, Inc.
- Human Rights First
- International Rescue Committee
- Kids in Need of Defense
- LiveHelpNY
- Volunteers of Legal Service
Service Delivery Models, continued

- The ABA Commission and partners hold monthly zoom-based, volunteer-staffed clinics to help Haitians, Ukrainians, and Venezuelans apply for TPS.
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - SeCal set up phone support for elderly applicants and volunteers use the Citizenshipworks online N400 & fee waiver tool to fill out their forms.
- Colorado Legal Services provides multi-tiered support for remote volunteers. This includes creating and distributing materials upfront, such as legal summaries and handbooks, and maintaining virtual availability during clinics to answer questions from volunteers.
- GMHC found remote pro bono services eliminate the problem of maintaining space and equipment for volunteer service providers—an issue in New York City & small offices everywhere.
- At LawHelpNY, volunteer law students staff a hotline to satisfy their pro-bono requirements. The supervising attorneys monitor and approve volunteer hours on Galaxy, a volunteer management system. Staff track and confirm the hours with data available on LawHelpNY’s integrative communication platform, CommHub. Staff encourage volunteers to contact them outside weekly “tips and tricks” newsletters to assist them during their volunteer service.

We The Action: Introduction

- Custom tech platform that connects 42,000 volunteer lawyers and more than 500 nonprofits
  - 5,000+ of our volunteers are interested in immigration
  - 120+ nonprofit partners work on immigration issues
  - We also work with firms, in-house teams, and bar associations
- Since 2017, lawyers have donated 260,000 hours worth $110 million through our site
- Free to use for both lawyers and nonprofit partners
We The Action: Recruiting Lawyers

• Step-by-step help to create a compelling project post
  • Project Wizard gathers key information about the project:
    • Deliverables & timeline
    • Lawyer qualifications (bar license, subject matter experience, language ability, etc.)
    • Available training, mentorship, and other resources
    • Automated promotion emails based on volunteer profiles
  • Built-in tools to message lawyers & kick off screening/selection
  • Extra staff support as needed
    • Project review/feedback
    • Digest emails
    • Customized lawyer recruitment plans

We The Action: Organizing Lawyers

• Tools built for specific needs of legal volunteer programs
  • Create customized questions for volunteers, to gather information specific to your project
  • Write default messages to send to new volunteers or to decline volunteers
  • Filter your lawyers by location, skill, etc.
  • Group lawyers by skill set, location, team assignment, project role, etc.
  • Send email or text messages to groups or filtered volunteer lists
  • Manually approve volunteers or turn on auto-approval
  • Schedule shifts and put reminders on volunteer calendars

We The Action: Immigration Specifics

• Our maximum potential
  • Immigration partners have used three main approaches:
  • Post individual, anonymized client needs
  • Post for general buckets of cases
    • Provide training (if applicable) to cohort
    • Use filters, groups, etc. to find individual lawyers for specific clients
    • Post “time-boxed” opportunities, like clinics
    • Use WTA tools to set up recurring clinic shifts, where applicable
  • Our lawyers also do work beyond direct representation!
We The Action: How to Join!

- Email Beth (beth.france@civicnation.org) or apply on our site (www.wetheaction.org/nonprofits/new)
- Applications are usually approved within a week, after we have both an application and have completed a short intro call
- Once an account is approved, partners are welcome to post projects anytime!

Resources

- CLINIC’s Volunteer Management Toolkit
  [https://cliniclegal.org/toolkits/volunteer-management](https://cliniclegal.org/toolkits/volunteer-management)
- The Association of Pro Bono Counsel report, Positive Change: How the Pandemic Changed Pro Bono and What We Should Keep
- List your volunteer opportunity and contact person in IAN’s Pro Bono Volunteer Guide
- IAN’s Remote Legal Resource Page for nonprofits and pro bonos working together remotely
- VOLS’ Pro Bono Library [https://volsprobono.org/probonolibrary/](https://volsprobono.org/probonolibrary/)

Questions?
CLINIC Affiliation Can Help

Subscription benefits listed and request for application posted here: https://cliniclegal.org/find-legal-help/affiliates/subscription

Thank You For Learning with Us!

• CLINIC envisions a country where every immigrant has access to affordable, quality immigration legal services.
• For the latest immigration happenings, CLINIC trainings, and newest resources, we invite you to sign up for email updates.