

# Becoming a DOJ-Accredited Representative



## What Is Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation (DOJ R&A)?

The Department of Justice (DOJ) R&A program, in existence for over 60 years, allows non-attorneys to practice immigration law within recognized nonprofit organizations. Through this program, individuals can become accredited representatives, who are authorized to provide critical legal support to immigrants, especially those who are low-income. Growing the number of accredited representatives helps to increase access to affordable, quality legal services.

### Why Become a DOJ-Accredited Representative?

- **Serve Your Community:** Help meet the rising demand for trustworthy and affordable immigration services and reduce the risk of immigration fraud.
- **Expand Access to Justice:** Accredited representatives can generally provide the same immigration legal services as attorneys, such as preparing cases and representing clients within specific federal immigration frameworks, even in immigration court!\*
- **Grow Professionally:** Accredited representatives deepen their expertise in immigration law through training, mentorship, and hands-on practice.

### Benefits of Becoming an Accredited Representative

- **Increase Access:** DOJ-accredited representatives play a vital role in supporting immigrant families and communities by providing high-quality legal assistance, especially in rural and immigration legal deserts.
- **Combat Fraud:** Protect vulnerable communities from unauthorized practitioners and notarios by providing legitimate services.
- **Professional Support:** Through CLINIC's programs, accredited representatives receive ongoing training and technical assistance, ensuring they stay current in immigration law.

### How Do I Become an Accredited Representative?

To become an accredited representative, you must:

1. Work or volunteer for a DOJ-recognized nonprofit organization.
2. Have knowledge of immigration law and experience through training or coursework.
3. Obtain hands-on experience in immigration law.

#### YOU WILL NEED:

1. **Training:** Gain comprehensive training through programs like CLINIC's Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law (COIL), designed to provide foundational skills.
2. **An Application:** Once you have the necessary training and experience, CLINIC's team can help you prepare and submit your application.
3. **Approval:** Once approved for either partial or full accreditation (the two different levels of certification), you can represent clients in their immigration cases. Partially accredited representatives can work on cases like family petitions and work permit renewals, while fully accredited representatives can represent clients in immigration court as well, including asylum and other humanitarian cases.

*\*Full accreditation is required to practice immigration law before the courts, which requires an additional level of training.*

[Learn more at cliniclegal.org](https://www.cliniclegal.org)