



Minnesota Recent Arrivals Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative 2023 Informational Webinar November 29, 2023

1

Meet Your Presenters for Today



Silvana Arista
Supervising Senior Attorney
Training and Technical Assistance
CLINIC
Silver Spring, Maryland



Janice Beers
Policy Advisor for New American
Integration
Wisconsin Department of Children
and Families



Abdiwahab Mohamed
Assistant Commissioner
Office of New Americans
Minnesota Department of
Employment & Economic
Development

cliniclegal.org

2

Agenda

- Background Minnesota Legal Services
- Background on the Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative
- Objectives
- Initiative Details
- Application Overview
- Next Steps
- Questions

cliniclegal.org

3

Background Minnesota

- Complex Needs of New Arrivals
- Immigration Legal Service Capacity in Minnesota

cliniclegal.org

4

Lack of Access to Legal Representation

- 18 Partially Accredited DOJ Accredited Representatives (September 2022)
- 4,404 undocumented immigrant per partially accredited DOJ Representative*

*CMS Study on charitable legal immigration programs and the US Undocumented Program (released on September 28, 2022)

cliniclegal.org

5

Background on DOJ R & A

- The DOJ Recognition and Accreditation Program allows non-attorneys at nonprofit organizations to provide immigration legal services
- Identified the requirement for hands-on experience as the primary barrier to obtaining staff accreditation
- Want to remove barrier and provide a solid foundation for aspiring accredited representatives

cliniclegal.org

6

Objectives

- Advancing the justice mission of the Recognition and Accreditation Program through robust training and mentorship
- Provide mentees with access to a mentor to gain practice skills (interviewing, intake, reviewing documents, legal research, how to process cases)
- Mentees obtain technical assistance in applying for DOJ Recognition and Accreditation
- Mentees will become DOJ Accredited Representatives.

cliniclegal.org

7

Objectives (cont'd)

- Solicit input from mentors and mentees on how to further remove barriers to building immigration legal service capacity throughout Minnesota.
- Create partnerships among nonprofit immigration legal service providers
- Increase the number of qualified applicants for DOJ accreditation in Minnesota, leading to more robust access to affordable immigration legal representation.

cliniclegal.org

8

Eligibility Requirement for Mentees

- Must be an employee or volunteer at a nonprofit organization
- Must have agency approval and support
- Must be in Minnesota
- Must be committed to taking the training, participating in the virtual/remote mentorship opportunities and applying for accreditation (and recognition if the organization is not recognized)
- Main objective must be to become authorized to practice immigration law and provide immigration legal services

cliniclegal.org

9

Eligibility Requirement for Mentors

- Be an accredited representative or immigration attorney (employee or volunteer) at a nonprofit immigration legal services program
- Prefer mentor be in Minnesota but will consider neighboring states
- Have a minimum of three years of experience as an accredited rep or immigration attorney
- Commitment to provide virtual/in person shadowing experience and mentorship
- *Will consider private immigration attorneys who are well connected with nonprofit immigration legal service organizations

cliniclegal.org

10

Mentee Application Process

- Review and fill out online application
- Applications due December 6, 2023
- Mentees will be informed of acceptance by December 13
- Register for winter COIL
 - Register early December
 - Course opens, Tuesday, January 9, 2024
 - First webinar, Tuesday, January 16, 2024
 - Exam deadline: March 29, 2024

cliniclegal.org

11

Mentee Program Details

- Registration Winter COIL
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Timeline/Workplan
- Access to additional training
- Access to resources
- Moodle
 - Resources & tools
 - Guidelines
 - Best practice tips for remote shadowing
 - Sample letter of Support
 - Connect with other mentees
- Review of applications for DOJ Recognition and Accreditation

cliniclegal.org

12

Mentor Program Details

- Application process
- MOU
- Access to Resources
- Timeline

cliniclegal.org

13

Mentor Incentives

- \$500 Honorarium
- Agency access to Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law (or other training) within the project period (October 31, 2024)
- Recognition for mentor and mentor organization

cliniclegal.org

14

Mentee Incentives

- Access to free training
- Access to program management technical support
- Stipends travel & lodging CLINIC Convening, May 29-31
- Exhibit table showcase project

cliniclegal.org

15

Recent Arrivals Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative

- Develop a transparent and sustainable capacity building mentorship program
- Build and strengthen collaborations
- National visibility to capacity building through DOJ Accredited Representatives
- Increase the number of DOJ Accredited Representatives in Minnesota

cliniclegal.org

16

Lessons Learned

- Prioritize who will be practicing law
- 501c3
- Sustainability
- Existing and Emerging programs
- Applying for Recognition

cliniclegal.org

17

Next Steps

- Applications due on Dec 6, at 11:59p.m. ET
- One on one calls
- Applicants receive notification of selection status Dec 13
- Register for COIL
- COIL starts January 9th, 2024
- All About EAD training March 27, 2024
- Additional Training
- CLINIC Convening Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 29-31

cliniclegal.org

18

Application

- Mentor Application
<https://www.cliniclegal.org/civcrm/event/register?reset=1&id=1052>
- Mentee Application
<https://www.cliniclegal.org/civcrm/event/register?reset=1&id=1051>
- Will need to create a CLINIC login

cliniclegal.org

19

19

Questions



cliniclegal.org

20

20
