



justice, hope & safety

## PAIR Pro Bono Projects

- 1. Asylum/Withholding of Removal/Convention Against Torture (CAT) Relief:** Asylum seekers are a vulnerable population who have survived great trauma and manage to come to the U.S, with little resources, for safety. An application for asylum, withholding of removal, and/or CAT relief is made by filing an immigration form called Form I-589 and supporting documents, including: the client's declaration regarding his or her fear, personal documents to corroborate past persecution, expert affidavits (medical and conditions in the home country), lay witness declarations, and a "country conditions" packet documenting poor human rights conditions in the applicant's home country. *Time Commitment: 60-80 hours.*
- 2. Legal Orientation Presentations (detained):** Volunteer attorneys are needed to conduct "Know Your Rights" presentations in English and Spanish to immigration detainees regarding the Immigration Court process, defenses to removal, bond, and detainees' rights during removal proceedings. The presentation takes approximately twenty minutes. Following the presentation, volunteer attorneys provide individual consultations to detainees who do not already have counsel, in order to make an initial assessment of their situations, including any fear or danger if the individual is deported to his or her home country. PAIR will provide all the necessary forms and the script, and an expert PAIR mentor will accompany volunteer attorneys at the detention center. *Time Commitment: 4-5 hours.*
- 3. Bond Representation:** After a detainee's case has been screened and evaluated by a PAIR immigration attorney, volunteers may commit to representing the detainee for the limited purpose of a bond hearing. Evidence presented may include the client's own affidavit and testimony, affidavits by family or community members, supporting documents that show the detainee's ties to the community or family in the U.S., length of residence in the country, employment history, and other factors. The pro bono attorney will need to meet with the detained client at least once before the bond hearing. *Time Commitment: 15-20 hours.*
- 4. U Visa Relief:** The U visa applies to immigrants who are the victims of certain serious crimes and who have cooperated with authorities in the prosecution of the perpetrator. An immigrant granted a U Visa relief will subsequently be given legal status to reside and work in the United States, and can eventually apply for a green card. *Time Commitment: 40 hours.*



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5. **Immigrant Juvenile Status:** SIJS provides relief for undocumented children and is a route to legal immigration status. SIJS is granted for purposes of obtaining relief for a child (anyone under age 21 and unmarried). In order to demonstrate eligibility for SIJS status, one must be an immigrant present in the United States; be under age 21 at the time the SIJ petition is filed; remain unmarried; deemed a dependent on a Juvenile or Probate Court, and whose reunification with one or both of the immigrant's parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under state law. The applicants must show that it would not be in the minor's best interest to be returned to the parent's previous country of nationality or country of last habitual residence. Representation requires presenting before a the state family court and immigration court. *Time Commitment: 50 hours.*
  
6. **Refugee Adjustment:** This type of relief is available for certain refugees who have criminal convictions and who have not previously applied for adjustment of status (i.e., a green card). The applicant must demonstrate humanitarian reasons that the refugee should not be deported. The application for Refugee Adjustment requires filing Form I-602 (waiver form) and Form I-485 (application for adjustment of status) before the Immigration Court, with supporting documents, including: a client declaration regarding the humanitarian reasons that weigh against deportation, personal documents to corroborate past persecution, expert affidavits (medical and conditions in the home country), lay witness declarations, and a "country conditions" packet documenting poor human rights conditions in the applicant's home country. *Time Commitment: 60-80 hours.*
  
7. **Know Your Rights (KYRs) Community Outreach:** The goal of this outreach to assure vulnerable immigrant communities who are in panic because of the changes being made to immigration law and procedures. PAIR volunteers conduct presentations to empower and inform community members of their basic constitutional and immigration legal rights, to discuss raids preparedness, and to inform immigrants about what to expect in immigration court. PAIR has developed the presentation, a script, and toolkit for volunteers to follow. Our main goal is to assure people of their rights and to help them avoid unscrupulous practitioners who might take advantage of them and/or provide false information. We are working closely with community partners, including community centers that offer services to immigrants, health centers, local non-profits, and immigration legal services. The KYRs are held statewide, in places of worship, community centers, health centers, and schools. *Time Commitment: 3 hours (1 hour presentation +travel).*