



POLITICAL ASYLUM/IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION PROJECT
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**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR
Monday, May 24, 2021**

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Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project Gala Celebrates the Work of Pro Bono Attorneys Who Represent Immigrants Seeking Asylum or in Detention

Hundreds of attorneys will be attending the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project virtual Gala to honor eight recipients for their outstanding work in supporting non-citizens, including asylum-seekers, individuals in detention, and unaccompanied minors. The event will honor Salesforce with the Business Leader in Human Rights Award and global firms, including Fish & Richardson P.C. and attorneys from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, and Biogen, for their unfailing commitment to justice for non-citizen immigrants. The gala will also highlight PAIR's legal work, client stories, keynote Dr. Sondra Crosby, and law firm partner Ropes & Gray LLP, an Elite Sponsor of this year's event, who has provided enduring support to PAIR asylum clients for almost 30 years.

WHO: Attorneys who provide pro bono representation with PAIR for indigent non-citizens

WHAT: PAIR Annual Gala Celebration

WHEN: Monday, June 7, 2021, 6 p.m. EST

WHERE: www.pairproject.org/2021gala

PAIR provides free immigration services to indigent asylum-seekers and detained immigrants, assuring fairness and access to justice. PAIR has a caseload of over 1,600 active asylum and detention cases and represents its clients primarily through a large panel of over 1,400 active pro bono attorneys whom PAIR recruits, trains and mentors.

“The U.S. is a great nation that values freedom, safety, diversity and acceptance. PAIR is committed to these values for all and will do the important work that is needed to achieve justice, transparency and fairness in the immigration laws for our clients and immigrants in the greater community,” said Anita P. Sharma, Executive Director of PAIR.

Pro bono attorneys donated over 24,000 hours last year, a value of \$14 million worth in donated legal services in the last year to represent PAIR asylum and detention clients. Law firm partners such as Foley Hoag LLP, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, P.C. and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP are generously sponsoring the celebration. The awardees are individuals and firms who demonstrated tireless efforts to demand justice for many immigrants so that they can find a safe haven in the U.S. and rebuild their lives.

Awardees include:

Pro Bono Asylum Award: Immanuel Foster - Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Pro Bono Detention Award: Valerie Moore - Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

Pro Bono Mentor Award: Ilana Greenstein - Immigration Justice Campaign

Pro Bono Interpreter Award: Geoffrey Alanya

Pro Bono Law Firm Award: Fish & Richardson P.C.

Outstanding Service Award: Cassie Ramos - Biogen

Business Leader in Human Rights Award: Salesforce

Sarah B. Ignatius Award for Excellence in Law: Kathleen Gillespie

With harsh changes in immigration law that strip the rights of asylum seekers, PAIR stands by its clients offering high quality legal services to clients by using a pro bono model. PAIR also coordinates more than 100 community “Know Your Rights” presentations across the state, creating and translating materials, training immigration and connecting volunteer attorneys with community-based nonprofits, churches, health centers and schools to facilitate more presentations. More than 17,000 immigrants have attended PAIR’s “Know Your Rights” presentations in the past three years.

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Founded in 1989, the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project is the leading provider of pro bono immigration services to asylum-seekers and immigrants unjustly detained by immigration authorities in Massachusetts. PAIR serves more than 1,600 clients a year and has a successful outcome in 95% of its asylum cases. For more information, go to www.pairproject.org.