



**POLITICAL ASYLUM/IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION PROJECT**  
98 North Washington Street, Suite 106 • Boston MA 02114 • 617-742-9296 | (fax) 617-742-9835

**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR  
Monday, June 5, 2023**

For more information contact:

Yanzie Chow or Anita P. Sharma

[ychow@pairproject.org](mailto:ychow@pairproject.org) / [asharma@pairproject.org](mailto:asharma@pairproject.org)

**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 (PAIR)'s Annual Gala to honor sixteen recipients for their outstanding work in supporting non-citizens, including asylum seekers, individuals in detention, victims of torture and unaccompanied minors. As PAIR Executive Director has noted, "This is a critical time for PAIR and the community to stand together to protect immigrant rights, especially the right to justice and safety." The event will honor supporters, individuals and firms who have 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. The gala will also highlight PAIR's legal work, in particular in the detention context; client stories; and keynote Sukru Say, a former Turkish judge.

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

**WHAT:** PAIR Annual Gala Celebration

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m. EST

**WHERE:** Lighthouse Ballroom at The Seaport Hotel, 1 Seaport Ln, Boston, MA 02210

PAIR provides free immigration services to indigent asylum seekers and detained immigrants, assuring fairness and access to justice. PAIR has a caseload of over 1,700 active asylum and detention cases and represents its clients primarily through a large panel of over 1,500 active pro bono attorneys whom PAIR recruits, trains and mentors. Pro bono attorneys donated over 19,000 hours last year, a value of \$13 million worth in donated legal services in the last year to represent PAIR clients.

We are honored to be joined by supporters from Ropes & Gray LLP, an Elite Sponsor of this year's event, who has provided enduring support to PAIR asylum clients for almost 30 years. 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 also generously sponsoring the celebration.

Awardees include:

Pro Bono Asylum Award: Disha Patel, Kim Crowley, Steven Barrett - WilmerHale

Pro Bono Detention Award: Maura Kelly - Maura Kelly Immigration Law

Pro Bono Mentor Award: Ellen VanScoyoc - Central West Justice Center  
Pro Bono Interpreter Award: Guichy Waller

Pro Bono Law Firm Award: Foley Hoag LLP  
Outstanding Service Award: Zachary Bernstein, Milap Patel, Christian Vareika, Olivia Lanagan, Sara Bellin, Michael Lee, Angela Jaimes - Ropes & Gray LLP

Business Leader in Human Rights Award: Victoria L. Steinberg - Cloherty & Steinberg LLP

Sarah B. Ignatius Award for Justice and Excellence in Law: Michael Boudett - Ceres, Inc.

With the slow reversal of immigration laws that strip the rights of asylum seekers and continued enforcement priorities that subjects many immigrants to unjust detention, PAIR stands by its clients, offering high quality legal services to clients by using a pro bono model. PAIR also coordinates community “Know Your Rights” presentations across the state, creates and translates materials, offers immigration training and works with community-based nonprofits, churches, health centers and schools to ensure immigrants are aware of their rights. More than 19,000 community members have attended PAIR’s “Know Your Rights” presentations.

###

*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 1,700 clients a year and has a successful outcome in 95% of its asylum cases. For more information, go to [www.pairproject.org](http://www.pairproject.org).*