

The National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) is dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Based in Chicago and with five offices across the country, NIJC provides direct legal services to and advocates for all immigrants through policy reform, impact litigation, and public education. Since its founding more than three decades ago and thanks to the support of thousands of pro bono attorneys from the nation's leading law firms, NIJC has been unique in blending individual client advocacy with broad-based systemic change.

Pro bono representation can save lives. Without an attorney, people may be separated from their family or sent to dangerous situations. NIJC pro bono attorneys defend the legal rights of immigrants regardless of background and transform the immigration system to one that affords equal opportunity for all.

## NIJC's Pro Bono Program (FY2021)

- Partners contributed **63,000+** pro bono hours
- **2,300** pro bono matters represented
- **2,000** attorneys active on pro bono matters from more than **20** states across the United States
- Provided legal services to noncitizens from more than **100** countries.



## Pro Bono Opportunities with NIJC



- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Predicate Orders**



- **Clinics:**
  - DACA
  - Naturalization
  - Asylee/Refugee Family Petitions and Petitions for Permanent Residency



- **Detained and non-detained asylum**, including for adult, child, family, and LGBTQ asylum seekers



- **VAWA and U Visa**

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## How NIJC's Pro Bono Programs Work

- An immigrant contacts NIJC and needs an attorney



- NIJC staff conduct an in-depth case assessment



- If NIJC accepts the individual's case for representation and the individual retains NIJC, NIJC begins to seek pro bono placement



- A pro bono attorney team accepts the case and becomes responsible for all case preparation and representation, but NIJC continues to provide ongoing, in-depth support throughout the life of the case



- Each case accepted by a pro bono attorney team allows NIJC to accept one new pro bono case for representation



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## Our Pro Bono Partnership

- NIJC remains of counsel and provides in-depth training, attorney support, document review, and technical assistance throughout the life of the case.
- NIJC expects pro bono counsel to prepare the case with the client, provide any necessary interpreter services, and represent the client before federal agencies.



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We invite you to see all of NIJC's extensive pro bono resources available on our website at <https://immigrantjustice.org/for-attorneys>.

To connect with individuals and families who need legal representation, please see the [current case list](#) available on our web page.

For general information about NIJC Pro Bono Programs please contact Ellen Miller, Pro Bono Manager, at 312.660.1415 or [emiller@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:emiller@heartlandalliance.org).



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