

NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER

A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

May 19, 2023

NIJC Pro Bono Case List: 89 cases need pro bono representation.

Immigrants do not have the right to appointed counsel and without pro bono representation, many of NIJC's clients would be forced to seek immigration relief on their own. NIJC pro bono attorneys defend the legal rights of immigrants, prevent permanent family separation and deportation to persecution and torture, and help ensure access to justice for all.

- **Priority Matters for Pro Bono Placement:**
 - Defensive asylum cases with upcoming hearings

- **Asylum Seekers in Need of Pro Bono Counsel:**
 - Asylum: Affirmative Applications before USCIS
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 - Asylum: Based on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation
 - Asylum: Based on Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs, or Opposition to Criminal Organizations

- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)**
- **U Visa**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

No matter what type of case interests you, the next steps to help an NIJC client are easy:

- 1) Watch a training.
- 2) Choose an NIJC client to represent.
- 3) Utilize NIJC's extensive pro bono resources and in-house expertise to prepare a strong case for your client.

A detailed explanation of the various types of pro bono cases available for representation can be found on NIJC's website. For more information or to connect with a case, please contact the pro bono teams:

- **Asylum** cases, contact Lili Henkel at lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
- **LGBT** cases, contact Moises Lopez Soltero at mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
- **SIJS** cases, contact Berenice Sanchez Ruiz at bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org
- **U Visa** or **VAWA** cases, contact Katie Mayopoulos at kmayopoulos@heartlandalliance.org

For general information regarding pro bono opportunities at NIJC, contact Ellen Miller, Pro Bono Manager at (312) 660-1415 or emiller@heartlandalliance.org.

Priority Matters for Pro Bono Placement

Defensive Asylum Cases with Upcoming Hearings- Priority

- 1. M. is a man from Uganda. His merits hearing is on November 08, 2023. M. speaks English and lives in Northcentral Indiana. (23-0161727)***

M. was a science teacher at a secondary school in Uganda and a member of the National Unity Party. He volunteered for National Unity Party campaigns and protested the political party in power. In September 2021, armed men kidnapped M. and held him hostage for several days. M.'s kidnappers tortured him and demanded that he testify in court against another member of the National Unity Party, but M. refused to do so. The kidnappers continued torturing M. and later abandoned him in a field. M. sought medical attention for his injuries at a local hospital. More armed men frequently followed M. after he was released from the hospital. Fearing for their safety, M. and his spouse fled to another part of Uganda, but the armed men found M. and continued threatening his life. M. fled the country and came to the United States in early 2023. NIJC timely filed his asylum application with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials for M.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which is scheduled for November 08, 2023.

- 2. Y. is a gay man from Nicaragua. He speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis. His merits hearing is on December 6, 2023. (22-0160347)***

Y. grew up in a small town in Nicaragua, where he was sexually abused by a neighbor as a child. He was bullied in school and had difficulty finding employment because he was not masculine. When he was 28, he began working in a bank. Shortly after, his ex-partner began to threaten to out him and harm him. Y. went to the police to report the threats and the police officer tore up his report, saying that police do not help gay people. He left Nicaragua with his sister months later. NIJC filed Y.'s asylum application on January 3, 2023. All affidavits and supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which is scheduled for December 6, 2023.

- 3. R. is a lesbian woman from Mexico. She speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. R. has a merits hearing scheduled for January 19, 2024. (21-0152047)***

R. realized she was attracted to women when she was fifteen and married a woman in Mexico in 2016. R. has experienced physical, sexual, and verbal harm because she is a lesbian woman. She was kidnapped and raped by men who dressed her in men's clothing, called her homophobic slurs, and threatened to kill her. R.'s first entry to the US was around 1998 and she stayed for 10 years before returning to be with her aging mother. She attempted to reenter the United States in 2014 and was returned to Mexico by law enforcement after being detained for 60 days. She applied for a tourist visa in 2017 but was denied. R. entered the US most recently on August 16, 2021, when she presented herself at the border to seek asylum and was paroled in. NIJC filed R.'s I-589, Application for Asylum and Withholding of Removal on July 8, 2022. R. is set for a

merits hearing on January 19, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials R.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing.

4. *M. is a bisexual man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. M. has a merits hearing scheduled for March 11, 2024. (22-0159589)*

From a young age, M. had been perceived to be LGBT. A neighbor molested him on several occasions. While in school, M. remembers being called homophobic phrases and slurs. Throughout the rest of M.'s childhood, he was fearful to openly express his sexual orientation. Around May of 2021, M. and his partner at the time started to experience discrimination from their neighbors for holding hands in public. A few months later, the police tortured M. and his partner at the police station and called them homophobic slurs. After the police released M. he knew he had no choice but to flee Colombia. M. is scheduled for a merits hearing on March 11, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials M.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing.

5. *D. is a woman from El Salvador. Her son W. and daughter K. are derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible. D., W. and K.'s merits hearing is on April 17, 2024. D. and her children speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (22-0153805) (22-0154693) (22-0154694)*

D. and her son W. are from El Salvador. D.'s daughter, K., was born in Mexico. In about 2009, D. fled to the United States to escape W.'s father who abused D. and threatened to kill her. D. left her son, W., under the care of her mother, a devout Jehovah's Witness. In the United States, D. met Y., the father of her daughter, who convinced her to go to Mexico with him. In Mexico, Y. severely sexually and physically abused D. With Y.'s consent, doctors sterilized D. while she was unconscious during K.'s birth. Y. physically abused K. as well. Meanwhile, D.'s mother and family refused to let her communicate with her son, W., because D. had left the Jehovah's Witness church. D.'s mother forced W. to practice her religion against his will. After multiple attempts to escape Y., D. fled to a women's shelter and reported the abuse to the authorities in Mexico. Y. was in jail for a short period of time but D. believes he was released in February 2022. In 2021, D. reconnected with W. and learned a gang in El Salvador threatened W. when he refused to join their gang. W. fled El Salvador and reunited with D. in Mexico. Fearing Y.'s release from jail in Mexico and W.'s father in El Salvador, D. and her children fled to the United States in December 2021. NIJC timely filed D., W., and K.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court in November of 2022. D., W., and K. affidavits and supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which is scheduled for April 17, 2024.

6. *V. is a 24-year-old transgender woman from Mexico. She speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis. Her merits hearing is May 20, 2024. (20-0144743).*

V. recently came out as trans. As a child, she was mistreated because people saw her as an effeminate gay boy. She was physically and verbally harmed in school. V. became increasingly afraid of living in Mexico when LGBTQ friends were murdered. She fears that now, as a transgender woman, she would be targeted. V. missed her one year filing deadline, as she entered

in September 2018 and applied for asylum in November 2020. PBAs can argue that V.'s coming out as trans is a changed circumstance that excuses her one year filing deadline. V.'s merits hearing is on May 20, 2024. PBAs will need to file all evidence with the court 15 days in advance. PBAs also need to complete biometrics.

Asylum Seekers in Need of Pro Bono Counsel

Asylum: Affirmative Applications Before USCIS

If interested in representing a client from the LGBT community, please contact Moises Lopez Soltero, LGBT Pro Bono Project Coordinator. For cases regarding non-LGBT clients or unaccompanied children, please contact Lili Henkel, Asylum Pro Bono Project Coordinator.

7. A. is a bisexual man from Kenya. He speaks English and lives in Wisconsin. His affirmative asylum application must be filed by July 12, 2023. (23-0161931)

Since A. was in primary school, he knew he was attracted to men. He grew up in a religious background and out of fear, he hid his sexual orientation from his family and community. When A. was in boarding school, he was verbally abused by schoolmates and threatened to be outed to school staff. A. states of living in constant fear and shame when in Kenya and often would suffer from suicidal thoughts. Out of fear for his life, A. fled to US on a B1/B2 tourist visa on July 13, 2022. USCIS must receive A.'s asylum application by July 12, 2023.

8. A. is a gay cisman from Colombia. He lives in Chicago and speaks Spanish. His asylum application must be filed with USCIS before July 19, 2023. (23-0161539)

A. knew he was gay from a young age. His family was religious and did not accept him, and attempted conversion therapy by beating A. A.'s peers and teachers bullied him for being gay and psychologically tormented him. As an adult, A. rectified his relationship with his mom, but became a frequent target of the Rastrojos paramilitary cartel, which extorted and threatened to kill A. because he was an easy target as a gay man. While walking home from class, two Rastrojos members followed A. to his home and told him to pay them. When A. could not pay, they cut his throat while calling him homophobic slurs. Police met A. at the hospital but did not investigate the crime. A. has a scar on his throat from the incident. A. fled to Bogota out of fear of the Rastrojos finding him again. In Bogota, an employee at A.'s new job threatened to find out where A. is living and extort him because he knew A. was a target in Barranquilla. A.'s friend found a pamphlet published by the Rastrojos threatening gay locals to change their ways or face dangerous lives. After seeing this and being threatened in Bogota, A. decided to flee to the U.S. A.'s attorneys must file his asylum application with USCIS by July 19, 2023. NIJC expects the Chicago Asylum Office will refer A.'s case to the immigration court in the near future.

9. A. is a queer non-binary person from Ghana. They speak English and live in the Western suburbs of Chicago. Their affirmative asylum application must be filed by

July 22, 2023. (22-0159561)

A.'s dad beat them from age 6 to 11 because he feared A. was gay. While in school, A. was bullied by their peers for being feminine presenting. A. learned about their gender identity and sexuality through protests for LGBT+ rights in Ghana. In 2016, A. was accused of sodomy and was arrested by the police. In 2018, a photographer published photos of A. in a New York Times article that discussed LGBT life in Ghana, without A.'s consent. In 2022, A. was threatened for their involvement in LGBT+ rights. Out of fear for their life, A. fled to the US on a B1/B2 tourist visa on July 23, 2022. USCIS must receive A.'s asylum application by July 22, 2023.

10. Y. is a pansexual woman and human rights activist from Russia affirmatively seeking asylum. Her affirmative asylum application must be received by USCIS by July 27, 2023, although she may qualify for an exception to this if she remains in status as a student. Y. speaks Russian and English and lives in Central Illinois. (23-0160714)

During an exchange program to the U.S. in 2021, Y. met numerous LGBTQ people and began to reflect on her own sexual orientation. After returning to Russia, she came out as pansexual to a few close friends but felt very restricted in her ability to openly discuss or explore her sexual orientation. Around this time, she also engaged with multiple human rights organizations in Russia on various issues including supporting protestors, anti-corruption research, working with refugees, and representing a transgender woman in court who had been detained by Russian security forces. After Russia invaded Ukraine, Y. began to post anti-war messages on her private social media accounts. In July 2022, Y. returned to the United States for a graduate program. Y. fears returning to Russia based on her sexual orientation, political opinion, and human rights activism. She is projected to graduate in May 2023 and then hopes to secure one year of Optional Practical Training (OPT). While her one-year deadline is July 27, 2023, she will qualify for an exception so long as she remains in status through OPT. Pro bono counsel must file all affidavits and supporting materials for Y.'s case one week prior to Y.'s asylum interview, which could occur as soon as four to six weeks after her application is filed.

11. G. is a lesbian woman from Nigeria. She speaks English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. G. is in the US on an F-1 visa and is looking to apply for asylum affirmatively. Her affirmative asylum application must be received by USCIS by August 16, 2023, although she may qualify for an exception to this if she remains in status as a student. (23-0161614).

G. started identifying herself as lesbian at 14 when she had a crush on another girl at school. They had a secret relationship because they were too afraid of what would happen to them if anyone found out. G. did not have another relationship in Nigeria out of fear and said that when she came to the US, she thought, "LGBT people are real, it's not just me." Here in the US, G. would like to explore a relationship, but everything is still new for her. G. expresses fear that if she had to return to Nigeria, she would never be able to be herself and if outed she fears beating, imprisonment, and death. USCIS must receive G.'s asylum application by August 16, 2023.

12. E. is an HIV positive gay man from Russia. E. speaks Russian and lives in Chicago. USCIS must receive his affirmative asylum by September 2, 2023. (22-

0160137)

E. knew he was gay by age 10. At age 19, after confessing that he had kissed a boy, the priest at E.'s church outed him to his family and the community. About a year later, two men came to his house, beat him, and tried to force him to drink cleaning detergent, to 'cleanses' him. At 37, police detained E. because he was not carrying an ID. He believes he was stopped because he looks Armenian. After finding messages with men in E.'s phone, the police beat E., breaking a metal piece in his spine used to treat scoliosis. While working for a public school, E. was told who to vote for, and when E. refused, the school did not give E. his annual bonus. The school administration then accused E. of pushing 'gay propaganda' after investigating E.'s social media which publicized queer rights articles and pictured E. with pride flags. The school fired E., and he was unable to find another job. E. was diagnosed with HIV in 2021 and was initially denied medication. E. left Russia to seek asylum because of fear of harm based on his sexual orientation, HIV status, ethnicity, and political opinion. Pro bono counsel will need to determine whether E. is eligible for citizenship in Armenia and, if so, address why E. could not live safely in Armenia. E.'s partner, S. (22-0159964), is also seeking asylum, but has an entirely separate case. USCIS must receive E.'s asylum application by September 2, 2023. All supporting materials must be filed with the Chicago Asylum office one week prior to his interview, which could occur within four to six of weeks of filing his asylum application.

13. S. is a gay man from Russia. S. speaks Russian and Chicago. S. USCIS must receive his affirmative asylum by September 2, 2023. (22-0159964)

S. knew he was gay at age 14. S. remained closeted because people at work and in his life were not accepting of gay people. In 2013, a group of unknown assailants stopped S. in the street, beat him up, and looked through nude photos and messages with men on S.'s phone. The group stole his phone. S. went to the ER and filed a police report. S. did not tell the police he is gay due to fear of how they would react. S. met his partner, E., through a dating app about three years ago. E. (22-0160137) is also seeking asylum but has an entirely separate case. Based on both his and E.'s experiences in Russia, S. fears living in Russia as a gay man. He fears Russia will force him to fight against Ukraine if he returns, and he opposes the war. S. was born in Kazakhstan, so pro bono counsel will need to determine whether he is eligible for citizenship in Kazakhstan and, if so, address why he could not live safely in Kazakhstan. USCIS must receive E.'s asylum application by September 2, 2023. All supporting materials must be filed with the Chicago Asylum office one week prior to his interview, which could occur within four to six of weeks of filing his asylum application.

14. A. is a gay man from Turkmenistan. He speaks Russian, some English, and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His affirmative asylum application must be filed by September 9, 2023. (22-0159785)

A.'s mom beat him during his childhood for acting feminine. A.'s mom threatened to kill herself and said her husband would kill himself if they ever found out A. is gay. They told A. being gay is a sin worse than murder. A. protected himself by hiding his sexuality. A. tried dating girls in high school to hide himself but felt uncomfortable. While serving mandatorily in the Turkmen army, two soldiers beat A. after catching A. look at them in the communal shower. A. studied in

Turkey where he had secret casual relationships out of fear the Turkish authorities would catch and punish him for being gay. When A. returned to Turkmenistan, airport security interrogated him, looked through paintings of men on A.'s phone, and accused A. of being gay. A. fears the security forces and the Turkmen police will blackmail him. A. does not have status in Turkey. A. came to the US on a student Visa on September 10, 2022, but cannot pay tuition and is out of status. USCIS must receive A.'s asylum application by September 9, 2023.

15. S. is a lesbian woman from Namibia. She speaks English, and lives in a northern Chicago suburb. (22-0160456)

S. became interested in girls while in high school. S. played soccer in her youth, which drew the attention of her family members. S.'s uncle called her gay slurs and threatened to cut her breasts off if she did not stop playing soccer. S.'s aunt kicked S. out of her home because S.'s boyish behavior was un-Christian. S. got a boyfriend to hide her sexuality. She became pregnant and had a child who lives in Namibia. S. uncle locked her in a chicken cage in his backyard for three days while doing a demon extraction on S. with the help of elders in the community. They freed S. after she promised to stop acting like a boy. S. went to the police who told her maybe she deserves the abuse if she wants to act like a man. S. suffered various types of discrimination in her town and after one incident. S. tried to get the abuse published by a media organization, but its employees were scared of losing their jobs. S.'s uncle organized S. to be married to her cousin, who subsequently drugged, beat, and raped S. after a family member threatened to kill him if he did not impregnate S. S. fled to the US April 10, 2022, and filed her asylum application pro se on June 6, 2022. All supporting materials must be filed with the Chicago Asylum office one week prior to her interview, which could occur within four to six of weeks of filing her asylum application.

16. E. is a young man from Guatemala. His next Master Calendar hearing is on October 4, 2023. E. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0150685)

When E. was in high school, local gang members began to demand that E. help them with their illegal activities. E. refused and the gang members pushed him to the ground. The gang members continued demanding that E. assist them. Each time, E. refused, and the gang members beat him. The gang then killed E.'s cousin for defying their demands. The gang's threats escalated to the point that the gang members threatened him with a gun in late 2020/early 2021. E. fled Guatemala soon afterwards. He was apprehended by immigration officers, and was placed in ORR custody. As a previously designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has initial jurisdiction over his case even though E. is scheduled for a Master Calendar Hearing in immigration court on October 4, 2023. NIJC timely filed E.'s skeletal asylum application with USCIS. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to his interview at the asylum office, which could be scheduled at any time.

17. E. is a lesbian woman from Benin. She speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. E. is currently in the US on an B1/B2 visitor visa.. Her affirmative asylum application must be received by USCIS by October 6, 2023. (23-0161849).

E. was raped several times by men her father wanted her to marry, once resulting in a child (who lives with her family in Benin). E. was thrown out of her family's home because her father found out she was a lesbian. Her father also locked her in the home, beat her, and denied her food multiple times to "correct" her sexual orientation. She fears that if she has to return to Benin, she will be forced into marriage, beaten, raped, or killed by members of her community and that the police would not help because same-sex sex in Benin is illegal. USCIS must receive E.'s asylum application by October 6, 2023.

18. C. and J. are lesbian women from Venezuela. They both speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. Their affirmative asylum applications must be filed by October 27, 2023. (23-0161205, 23-0160881).

C. was bullied in school and mistreated by family members who suspected that she is a lesbian. After graduating high school, C. was hopeful of making a positive impact on her community by joining the police force; however, she was sexually assaulted on multiple occasions and discriminated for her sexual orientation. Around 2018, she received specific orders by the government to arrest anyone who was protesting against the Maduro's regime, which she did not agree with. Shortly afterwards, C. fled Venezuela and went to Chile. After about a year in Chile, C. began a relationship with J., a Venezuelan woman. J. fled Venezuela because she did not feel safe as a lesbian woman and due to the civil unrest. While in Chile, C. and J. were called homophobic slurs and were attacked by a group of men. After leaving Chile, J. and M. returned to Venezuela for about 15 days prior to fleeing to the United States in order to live safely and freely. Firm resettlement may be an issue for J., as she holds lawful status in Chile. Pro bono counsel must file C. and J.'s I-589 with USCIS prior to October 27, 2023.

19. Y. is a gay, non-binary person from Ghana. They speak English and live in a suburb of Chicago. Their affirmative asylum application must be received by USCIS no later than December 18, 2023. (23-0161898)

Beginning around age seven, Y.'s brothers and classmates beat them because they perceived Y. as feminine. Y.'s parents compared them to their brothers and told them to "act manly." Y.'s classmates often verbally and physically abused them to the point that Y was afraid to go to the bathroom at school for fear of being concerned and beaten. Because Y. came from a highly religious and respected family, Y.'s parents were ashamed of them and sent Y away to their grandmother's home. Y. later worked as a nurse, social worker, and activist for LGBT+ rights, HIV/AIDS prevention, and sex education and fears additional harm because of these activities Y. entered the United States on December 19, 2022, to speak about their activism at a conference. USCIS must receive Y.'s affirmative asylum application no later than December 18, 2023.

20. N. is a man from Nicaragua. He speaks Spanish and lives in northcentral Indiana. His affirmative asylum application must be filed by February 8, 2024. (23-0161664)

N. is a Nicaraguan university graduate and veterinarian. When students from his alma mater began protesting changes to the Nicaraguan retirement system, he joined them and served as a medic to students wounded by repressive tactics by Nicaraguan security forces. N. became a leader in a pro-democracy movement. Police officers and government officials repressed protests

he attended, including firing live rounds at N. during a protest. Following a meeting with pro-democracy leaders, government officials followed N. in government trucks and ran him off the road, causing an accident in which N. was seriously injured. When government officials arrested and jailed a friend in the pro-democracy movement for his activism, N. feared he would also be arrested, so he fled to Costa Rica. When his tourist visa expired just a few months later, he returned to Nicaragua. Shortly after his return, government officials used an informant in the pro-democracy movement to gather N. and other pro-democracy leaders at a meeting. N. and two others were arrested at the meeting. N. was jailed and spent more than three years as a political prisoner before he was stripped of his citizenship and exiled by the Nicaraguan government. Pro bono counsel must file N.'s asylum application by February 8, 2024, and all affidavits and supporting materials for N.'s case one week prior to N.'s asylum interview, which could occur as soon as four to six weeks after the application is filed.

21. C. is a gender fluid lesbian from Zambia. They speak English and live in Chicago, Illinois. C.'s affirmative asylum application was filed in May 2023, and they are now waiting for an asylum interview. (23-0162285)

In high school, C.'s peers physically and verbally assaulted them, calling them anti-LGBTQ slurs and threatening to out them to the school administration or report them to the police. They set C. up on dates with boys to try to make them straight, and on multiple occasions, the boys sexually assaulted C. After a family friend heard rumors about C.'s sexual orientation, he invited C. over and shut them in a room with a man who sexually assaulted them. Z came to the United States in 2021 for an undergraduate program but left school because they could not afford the tuition. As a result of leaving school, their student visa lapsed at the end of January 2023. NIJC filed their asylum application about three months later, on May 5, 2023. C.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due one week prior to C.'s asylum interview, which has not yet been scheduled.

Asylum: Based on Domestic and Gender Violence

22. B. is a woman from El Salvador. Her son L. is a derivative on her application. B. and L.'s next Master Calendar hearing is on August 2, 2023. B. speaks Spanish and lives in Central Indiana. (22-0159762) (22-0159886)

B.'s ex-partner, and her son L.'s father, T., is a Barrio 18 gang member in El Salvador. T. forced B. to be his woman. He physically and sexually abused B. and kept her isolated in his home, threatening to kill her if she left him. B. tried to end the relationship, but in response T. cut her with a knife so that she has a lasting reminder that she can never leave him. T. was eventually arrested by police officers. In their pursuit of T., police officers beat B. while she was pregnant and accused her of also being part of the gang. While T. was in jail, he sent fellow gang members to stalk and threaten B., letting her know that they had orders to kill her if she left him. B. also fears rival gang members, who have threatened to kill her because they believe she is T.'s woman. B. and L. fled El Salvador when they heard that T. would be released from jail. T. was released from jail a few days after B. and L. fled El Salvador. B. and L. entered the United States

after escaping a Mexican cartel that kidnapped them for two months. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

23. J. is a young woman from Honduras. Her son, D., will be a derivative on her asylum application. J. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140744) (20-0142504)

J. endured many years of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse by her ex-husband in Honduras. When J.'s ex-husband discovered J. was pregnant with their son, he punched her in the stomach. During one incident after D.'s birth, J.'s ex-husband became angry with J. and he shot her in the leg, and hit her in the head with his gun. J. reported this incident to the police, but J.'s ex-husband was never forced to appear in court. About one year later, in 2015, J. was able to escape and come to the United States with her son, but her ex-husband has continued to look for her and threaten her even though J. divorced him. NIJC filed an asylum application for J. Because this application was filed more than one year after J. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

24. R. is a woman from Mexico. Her son, A. will be a derivative on her application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. R. and A. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0150662) (21-0150806)

R. lived in Mexico with her ex-partner and three children. Throughout their relationship, R.'s ex-partner severely abused her, including threats, verbal abuse, and physical abuse that resulted in R. needing to go to the hospital during her second pregnancy. R.'s ex-partner also physically and emotionally abused R.'s son A. About one week before R. and A. left Mexico for the United States, R.'s ex-partner attacked her with a machete. R. has two children who remain in Mexico with their paternal grandparents. Although R. and A. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. For this reason, NIJC filed skeletal asylum applications for R. and A. with USCIS. Because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to R. and A.'s merits hearing.

25. J. is a woman from Ecuador. Her daughter, S. is a derivative on her application for asylum and is also independently eligible. They speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0150688) (21-0151647)

When J. was a young woman, she met her first partner and the father of her first two children. He abused her for several years until they separated. She made several reports against him. J. met her next partner, the father of her third child, S., a few years later. He also severely abused J. throughout their relationship, beating and threatening her often. She finally separated from him

after several years, but he continued to threaten her. J. then entered a relationship with a woman. She and her partner faced a lot of discrimination, harassment and threats for being together. J.'s second partner often called to threaten her, insult her, and even found her and beat her up again. Several months before coming to the United States, J. and her partner received a letter at their home calling them lesbians and telling them they were going to be killed. They began preparing to come to the United States and fled together with J.'s daughter S. as soon as they had the money to do so. J. and S. arrived in the United States in July of 2021. Although they were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their cases. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications with USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing.

26. G. is a young woman from Honduras. Her son, P., is a derivative on her asylum application. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on January 31, 2024. G. and P. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (21-0152262) (21-0152568)

G. met P.'s father in about 2018 and moved in with him. Throughout their relationship, P.'s father T. controlled G.'s actions, dictating what she wore and locking her in the house. T. abused G. physically and emotionally. G. escaped T.'s house, but T. broke into the house where G. was living and forcibly took P. from her, demanding that G. return to his house. With help from family members, G. recovered P. and they moved to a different town in Honduras to hide from T. G. began a relationship with another man, but feared that T. would never allow her to be free of him, and that T. would again take P. from her. Afraid of what T. would do next, G. and P. fled Honduras and arrived in the United States in the winter of 2021. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

27. L. is a woman from Cameroon. She, her partner O., and their daughter, B., have a Master Calendar hearing scheduled for February 27, 2024. The family speaks French and lives in Chicago. (22-0155670) (22-0155648) (22-0155672)

L. was forced into marriage as a child. Her husband routinely raped and abused her. He threw their newborn baby against the wall, killing the infant. After several years of horrific abuse, L. escaped and relocated to another city, but was left homeless. While on the streets, she suffered multiple rapes. A woman found L. and offered her a place to stay, but the woman's husband also raped L. The woman and her husband then trafficked L. to Brazil, promising L. work as a maid in a family member's home, but instead forcing her into a life of prostitution. While in Brazil, L. met O., who had fled Cameroon several years prior to escape political persecution. O. helped L. escape the forced prostitution, and the two relocated to another city in Brazil. After giving birth to their daughter, B., L. learned that her traffickers, who are members of the Nigerian mafia, continued to search for L., O., and B. and intended to kill them. Fearing for their lives, L., O., and B. fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum with the Chicago Immigration Court. Their pro bono attorneys should be prepared to argue, with NIJC support,

that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to their cases. All filings will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

28. *M. is a woman from Mexico. Her daughter, Y., is a derivative on her application and is also independently eligible for asylum. M. and Y. speak Spanish and live in Westcentral Illinois. (22-0155215) (22-0155600)*

M. endured many years of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse by her husband in Mexico. He gradually became more violent towards her over time. He threatened her with a machete and once, broke a number of items in their home including her cellphone, leaving her without a way to communicate. M.'s husband verbally and emotionally abused their daughter Y. as well. . M. and Y. escaped Mexico in 2022. After they fled, M.'s husband threatened to kill her. Although M. and Y. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs), the Department of Homeland Security has not filed the NTAs with the immigration court, so their asylum applications were timely filed with USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing.

29. *H. is a woman from India. She and her husband, B. filed their applications pro se with USCIS. After their interview the Chicago Asylum Office referred their cases to court. This family speaks Hindi and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0148068) (21-0148404)*

H. was sexually assaulted by her uncle when she was a young girl. As an adult, H.'s uncle sexually assaulted her again. H.'s uncle also threatened to abuse H.'s daughter, a minor. After H. reported her uncle to the police, he threatened to harm her and kidnap her daughter. H.'s uncle is an influential community member and the police are unable to protect H. and her family. H. and her husband are currently in removal proceedings before the Chicago Immigration Court; there are no future hearings scheduled in their cases. All filings will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

30. *R. is a woman from El Salvador. Her children, K., G., and A., are derivatives on her asylum claim. R., K., G., and A. speak Spanish and live in Central Indiana. (21-0151593) (21-0152264) (21-0152267) (21-0152268)*

R. grew up in a physically abusive home and was raped by her mother's boyfriend when she was a child. When R. was teenager, she moved in with an older man who was physically abusive. She had her first child, K., as a teenager. To escape the abuse, R. moved back in with her aunt and brother. A gang began demanding her brother join them and attacked him when he refused. Around 2012, R., K., and R.'s brother moved to escape the gang. Around 2019, the gang found them and began threatening R.'s brother again. R.'s brother then fled the country to escape the gang, but they murdered him in Mexico. Shortly thereafter, the gang threatened R. She and her children fled to the United States in the summer of 2021. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

31. *S. is a woman from Honduras. She speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of*

Illinois with her children, who are derivatives on S.'s asylum application and are also independently eligible for asylum. (22-0153208) (22-0153680) (22-0153681) (22-0153682)

S.'s partner, who is the father of her children, severely abused her for years. Their children often witnessed the violence that their father perpetrated against S. She made several police reports but received no response from the government until finally she was able to secure an order of protection. However, S.'s partner violated the order of protection and the police did not enforce it. When S. tried to leave her partner, he threatened to take the kids away from her. S. and her children fled Honduras, entered the United States in May 2021, were placed in removal proceedings, and timely filed for asylum. They are awaiting their Master Calendar Hearing. All supplementary filings will be due to court at least 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

32. L. is a woman from Guatemala. Her children, G. and J., are derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. This family speaks Spanish and lives in the Indianapolis area. (22-0159967) (22-0160378) (22-0160379).

L. endured sexual, physical, and emotional abuse from X., the father of her children. X. raped her regularly and threatened to kill her or her parents when she disagreed with him or tried to end the relationship. X. began selling drugs, and was eventually implicated in a triple femicide. When he was arrested, the victims' families surrounded L.'s house and threatened to kill her and her children as punishment for X.'s crimes. L. and her children fled Guatemala to escape the threats and X. Since arriving to the United States, X. has contacted L. and threatened to kill her as punishment for abandoning him. L. filed her asylum application pro se with the immigration court. Because L.'s application was filed more than one year after L. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to L.'s individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

Asylum: Based on Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation

33. J. is a gay man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. M. has a Master Calendar hearing scheduled on March 20, 2024, and has a one-year deadline of July 15, 2023. (23-0161283).

Throughout J.'s childhood, he was perceived to be LGBT and was sexually assaulted on numerous occasions. While in school, J. remembers being called homophobic slurs and alienated from the rest of his classmates. J. then became fearful to express his sexual orientation. Around 2022, J. started to receive death threats from a gang in his neighborhood after having been seen with his boyfriend at the time. J. had a partner in Colombia, and one night, gang members saw J. and his boyfriend and started yelling homophobic slurs at them. Afterwards, the harassment became constant when he left the house. The gang then started throwing things like stones and bottles at J. and his family members, when they were with him. Around late June or early July,

the gang started making death threats against J. and his family members because J. is gay. They left pamphlets at J.'s house, they sent text messages, and they sent Facebook messages. One of the letters had pictures of J. and his family members and said that their time was coming and used homophobic slurs. When the death threats began, J. and his siblings reported the threats to the neighborhood and city police but did not feel protected. A few weeks after the death threats began, J. and his family members left Colombia. Pro bono counsel must file J.'s I-589 with the Chicago Immigration Court prior to July 15, 2023. At J.'s master calendar on March 20, 2024, he will be set for a merits hearing. While the hearing date is ultimately up to the judge, pro bono counsel may be able to advocate for a timeline that works well for both pro bono counsel and J.

34. G. is a transgender man from Nicaragua. G. has a one-year filing deadline of July 22, 2023. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. (23-0160912)

G. was an active member of an opposition political party in Nicaragua. While protesting peacefully with friends in May 2018, snipers suddenly started shooting into the crowd and police became violent. A police officer beat G. with a baton while he was running away and pushed him into a barbed wire fence. One of G.'s friends who attended the protest is presumed dead while the other two are still in police custody. After discovering that G. does not support the government, G.'s politically connected neighbor sent police patrols to his house. Separately, G.'s mom also verbally and physically abused him for his gender identity and sexuality. G. fled Nicaragua in 2019 and lived in Mexico until coming to the United States in 2022. G is in removal proceedings before the Chicago Immigration Court; there are no future hearing dates scheduled in his case. Pro bono counsel must file G.'s I-589 with the Chicago Immigration Court prior to July 22, 2023. His pro bono attorneys should be prepared to argue, with NIJC support, that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to his case. All affidavits and supporting materials for G.'s case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

35. D. is from Venezuela. His primary language is Spanish, and he lives in Chicago, Illinois. His one-year deadline is January 18, 2024, and his first Master Calendar hearing is January 6, 2025. (23-0161398)

D. is a 29-year-old gay cis man from Venezuela who is HIV+. D. has been forced to hide his sexual orientation from a young age out of fear of homophobic violence. He was also fired from his government job after he refused to participate in marches supporting President Maduro. He ultimately fled Venezuela after he was denied medical treatment in August 2022 because he is HIV+. D. felt he had no recourse because if he sought legal action, more people would know he was HIV+, he would be fired from his job, and he would face further discrimination and violence. D.'s asylum application will need to be filed with the court in advance of the one-year deadline. All affidavits and supporting materials for D. will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing. If client and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set the case for merits after the asylum application is filed.

36. C. is from Honduras and H. is from Guatemala. They are a married lesbian couple with 11-year-old daughter A. They all speak Spanish and live in Chicago. C.'s first Master Calendar hearing is Sept. 26, 2023, and her one-year deadline is Sept. 22,

2023. H. and A. have their first Master Calendar hearings on Jan. 19, 2024, and their one-year deadline is Aug. 24, 2023. (23-0160649, 22-0160096, 23-0161192)

C. was sexually abused by her stepfather starting as a young girl. After she reported her stepfather to the police, her mother bailed out her stepfather and he was never sentenced. C.'s mother then sold her into sex slavery at a brothel in Guatemala where she remained for years before escaping. C. later met H. when she found a job in Guatemala, and they bonded over their past trauma of sexual abuse. After they started living together and have a daughter, A. H.'s family continued to harass, attack, and beat the couple and said that A. should not be raised by lesbians. They decided to seek asylum after H. witnessed a murder by a gang and C. received death threats from her cousin. They knew that, as lesbians, the police in Guatemala would not protect them, and they would not be safe from C.'s family in Honduras. When they arrived in Chicago, C. and H. got married. A. will be included as a derivative on her mother's asylum claim and may have an independent asylum claim. All asylum applications would need to be filed with the court in advance of the one-year deadline. All affidavits and supporting materials for C., H., and A.'s cases will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing. If clients and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to consolidate cases and set the case for merits after the asylum applications are filed.

37. A is a gay man from Russia. He speaks Russian and lives in the far southern suburbs of Chicago. (22-0159564)

A. knew he is gay since he was a teenager. He was harmed and harassed by family and peers because of his sexual orientation. A. was attacked by police three different times. He was detained at a gay club and beaten at the police station. A couple months later, he was again beaten by the police. Finally, before fleeing, police threatened him at his home. A. previously entered the U.S. with a tourist visa, but most recently entered EWI and was placed in removal proceedings. A. timely filed for asylum and his Master Calendar Hearing is on May 25, 2023 with IJ Reynolds. Since IJ Reynolds has a more open docket, PBAs will have the opportunity to potentially schedule A.'s merits hearing soon and on a beneficial timeline. PBAs will need to file all evidence with the court 15 days in advance of his to-be-scheduled individual hearing. PBAs also need to complete biometrics.

38. I. is a gay cisman from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in a west Chicago suburb with his partner. (23-0161824)

I. was bullied as a child for being girly and learned to hide himself out of fear of discrimination. I. was attacked and sexually abused by two men while in the city center of his hometown. The men called I. gay slurs during the abuse and I. contracted HIV from the incident. Another group of men beat I. while calling him gay slurs and threatening to kill his family if he went to the police. I. fears being out as a gay man in Colombia and fears that sharing his HIV status and abuse with anyone would put him at risk for further persecution and rejection. I. believes the Colombian police are corrupt and homophobic and would not protect him from future harm. I. fled to the U.S. after meeting his partner online who told I. about the possibility of living freely as a gay person in the U.S. I. has already filed his asylum application pro se and will be EAD

eligible on 08/11/2023. His master hearing is scheduled for May 25, 2023, but is likely to be rescheduled.

39. B. is a bisexual man from Nigeria. He speaks Yoruba and English and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. B.'s asylum application has been pending before the immigration court since November 2020, but he currently does not have a hearing scheduled. (20-0143635)

In July 2019, B. was arrested, beaten, and tortured by the police after he was caught at a motel in Lagos having sex with a man, his then-partner. The police stabbed B.'s partner in front of him, and when his partner kept fighting back against the police, the police killed B.'s partner. B. was then imprisoned for having gay sex. He escaped prison after three weeks by bribing a guard. Shortly after this, B. fled the country. B. entered the United States in December 2019 and was detained before being released on bond. NIJC filed his I-589 within the one-year filing deadline, on November 25, 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials for B.'s case will be due prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been set. B. is not currently scheduled for a hearing, but if B. and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set this case for merits.

40. P. is a lesbian woman from Venezuela. She speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. P. and is scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing on August 1, 2023. (22-0155956)

When P. was a teen when her family learned she was in a relationship with another girl. They isolated P. and sent her to meet with pastors and a psychologist in order to change her sexual orientation. After moving to another city for university, P. started a campaign to support young people questioning their sexual orientation. P. was attacked and received death threats because of this work. Later, the father of P.'s ex-girlfriend threatened to kill P because of her sexual orientation and advocacy for LGBT rights. After graduating, P. worked as an architect but eventually left her job because of discrimination and threats based on her sexual orientation. She continued to participate in political campaigns and protest against the government. Guerrilla groups threatened to kill and/or imprison her because of her political views and her sexual orientation. NIJC filed P.'s asylum application prior to her one-year deadline, before the Chicago Immigration Court. If pro bono counsel and client mutually agree, it may be possible to file a motion to advance this hearing given changing country conditions in Venezuela. In addition, her pro bono attorney should be prepared to argue, with NIJC support, that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to her, as she may have birthright citizenship in Colombia.

41. J. and M. are lesbian women from Venezuela. They both speak Spanish and live in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0152224, 21-0152225)

From a young age, J. was bullied in school by peers who suspected that she is a lesbian. J's family was extremely religious, and when they found out about her sexual orientation, they attempted to exorcise her and beat her. J.'s family kicked her out of the house. Around 2019, J. moved to Chile to be with M., a Venezuelan woman she met online. M.'s family fled Venezuela due to her dad's work and unrest in Venezuela. She also had previously participated in protests

in Venezuela. M. attempted to enter the U.S. in 2019; M. was detained at the airport and returned to Venezuela. She then went to Chile. In Chile, J. and M. were called homophobic slurs and were attacked by a group of men. J. and M. decided to come to the United States in order to live safely and freely. They entered the US and were detained in August 2021. Upon being released from detention both J. and M. received Notices to Appear (NTAs) but they have not yet been filed with the court. While firm resettlement may be an issue, J. and M. did not have permanent status in Chile and were also harmed there. NIJC filed J.'s and M.'s skeletal asylum application with USCIS in August 2022 and expects the Chicago Asylum Office will refer these cases to immigration court in the near future. All affidavits and supporting materials for J.s and M.'s cases will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing. If J., M., and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set this case for merits once it has been referred to the immigration court.

Asylum: Based on Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs, or Opposition to Criminal Organizations

42. S. is a woman from El Salvador. Her daughter, A., is a derivative on her asylum application and is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on May 24, 2023. S. and A. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0147903) (21-0148264)

S.'s ex-partner and the father of her daughter, A., was physically, financially, and emotionally abusive to S. throughout their relationship. He refused to allow S. to leave his family home and attempted to force her to have sex with the patrons of his family's liquor store and small restaurant. Many of the patrons were Salvadoran gang members. S.'s ex-partner threatened that they would find and harm S. if she disobeyed him. S. escaped with A. and came to the United States in July 2018. NIJC filed S. and A.'s applications for asylum in July 2021. Because their applications were filed more than one year after S. and A. entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

43. R. is a woman from Honduras. Her two children, S. and E., are derivatives on her application for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for August 3, 2023. The family speaks Spanish and lives in Northern Indiana. (22-0153250) (22-0153550) (22-0153551)

When R. was a child, the director of her school molested her several times. As a teenager, a much older man forced her into a relationship. He then verbally and sexually abused her. After several years of abuse, R. left him. Later on, R. got involved in politics. When the local gang realized that she was involved in politics, they told R. to help the local gang leader get involved in her political party, or the gang would kill her. R. refused and fled the country with her

children. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

44. S. is a man from Mexico. His wife, B. and his daughter, L. will be derivatives on his application for asylum, and are also independently eligible for asylum. They are awaiting the rescheduling of their merits hearing. S. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0142082) (20-0142238) (20-0142239)

In 2018, armed cartel members threatened to kill S. and his family. They demanded that S. and his siblings join the cartel. The armed cartel members also threatened to rape the women in their family if they refused. S.'s brother fled Mexico and S. was then targeted by the cartel to disclose his brother's whereabouts. Fearing further attacks from the cartel, S. and his family fled to the United States in January 2019. S. and his wife, B. filed their applications for asylum pro se. NIJC filed L.'s independent application for asylum after her one-year deadline. Because L.'s application was filed more than one year after L. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. This family was previously scheduled for a merits hearing in August 2021, but the hearing was continued so that the family could obtain pro bono counsel.

45. L. is a man from Honduras. L.'s Master Calendar hearing was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has not been rescheduled. L. speaks Spanish and lives in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (20-0142467)

In 2018, L. was living with his former partner, D., when she began to receive threatening text messages from her ex-husband. Within a few days, D.'s ex-husband murdered her. Soon after, L. began to receive threatening messages from men associated with D.'s ex-husband. These men also started to intimidate L.'s family while they were looking for him. L. assisted D.'s family in making a police report about the murder, but nothing significant came of it and police even tried to blame L. for D.'s death. L. fled Honduras about a month after D.'s death, fearing that the same people who killed her would come for him next. L. filed a pro se application for asylum with the immigration court in 2020. Because this application was filed more than one year after he entered the United States, L.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that he merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to L.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

46. K. is a man from Honduras. His next Master Calendar hearing was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has not yet been rescheduled. K. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0143330)

K. was part of an opposition political party in Honduras and was very active in the protest movement. In 2015, armed men from the Honduran military kidnapped and beat him. They threatened that he had to leave the country or end his participation in the political party. After K. escaped, he reported the kidnapping and torture to the police. After filing the police report,

Honduran military and government officials constantly threatened K. that he had to leave the country. Fearing further attacks, he fled to the United States July 2018. K. filed his application for asylum pro se with the immigration court. Because he filed more than one year after his arrival, K.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that he merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to K.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

47. A. is a man from Cuba. A.'s wife L. will be a derivative on his asylum application and is also independently eligible for asylum. A. and L. speak Spanish and live in a southern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0150113) (21-0148960)

A. was drafted for military service. When he refused, he was detained, tortured, and subjected to beatings and threats to disappear him because he was deemed counterrevolutionary. Afterwards, A. continued to refuse to participate in the military and began protesting on the streets against the government. Later, A. began a small business, but his supplies were confiscated by government officials at the airport and later government inspectors came to his home to confiscate all of his work tools, equipment, and supplies. The inspectors threatened to disappear A. and extorted him for money. A. fled Cuba in early 2018. L. was forced to participate in pro-government school and community events when she was young which solidified her anti-government beliefs. Later, L. became an attorney and worked for a state-owned company where she was singled out by her employer as someone who did not participate in pro-government events. L. was asked to testify falsely on behalf of her employer and when she refused, she was threatened, suspended from her job, and interrogated and sexually assaulted by the police. L. fled Cuba in July 2018. L. and A. met while still in Cuba, and later married en route to the United States. Although A. and L. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs), the Department of Homeland Security has not filed the NTAs with the immigration court, so their asylum applications were timely filed with USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing.

48. A. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter, B., is a derivative on her application and is also independently eligible for asylum. They are currently waiting for their Master Calendar hearing to be rescheduled. They speak Spanish and live in Northern Illinois. (21-0146245) (21-0146246)

As a child, an older cousin raped A. As a young woman, A.'s partner physically and verbally abused her over the course of several years. Once separated from her abusive partner, an armed MS-13 gang member demanded she become his girlfriend since she no longer had a husband. The MS-13 gang member threatened he would take A.'s young daughter, B., if she refused. A. and B. fled Honduras in 2019. NIJC filed their asylum applications with the immigration court, but because they filed more than one year after their arrival, A.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All documentation to their cases will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

49. R. and L. are a husband and wife from Honduras. Their children, P. and T., will be

derivatives on their applications for asylum. The family is waiting for their next Master Calendar hearing to be rescheduled. R., L., P., and T. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0138764) (19-0138767) (19-0139752) (19-0139755)

R. owned a dental practice in Honduras and L. worked as a teacher. In early 2019, members of the Mara 18 gang started extorting L. and her son and threatening to kill them if they did not pay. When L. refused the gang's demands, gang members began threatening R. and threatening to kill the entire family if they continued to refuse to pay extortion fees to the gang. R. reported the threats to the police in Honduras, but the police did not investigate and the family was unable to obtain protection from the gang. Fearing for their lives, R., L., and their two daughters fled to the United States in 2019. NIJC timely filed the family's asylum applications. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

50. M. is a man from Ecuador. He is currently awaiting the rescheduling of his next Master Calendar hearing date. M. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0145604)

M. owned a small business in Ecuador where people could pay to use computers and printers. His shop was located near the local market where corrupt police officers frequently forced vendors to pay them in order to sell there. Around August of 2018, two officers left behind a flash drive after using computers in M.'s store. After they left, M. opened the flash drive and discovered evidence of the overcharging of market vendors. When the officers came back to retrieve the flash drive, they warned M. that he would have problems if he had looked at the contents of the flash drive and spoke out against them. Afterwards, M. began to receive threats from the police and a gang affiliated with the police. Around January of 2019, gang members kidnapped M. and took him to a remote location where they beat him and took his money. After this incident, M. fled the country, but people continued to go to his shop looking for him and threatened to harm his girlfriend and daughter, which led them to flee as well. NIJC filed M.'s asylum application with the immigration court in April 2021. Because his application was filed more than one year after he entered the United States, M.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that he merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to M.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

51. V. is a woman from Honduras. Her children C. and T. are derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. They are waiting for their Master Calendar hearing to be rescheduled. The family speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0143706) (20-0145601) (21-0145598)

V.'s former partner, K., is a gang member in Honduras. During their relationship, K. physically and sexually abused V., tried to force her to have an abortion, and threatened to kill her if she ever left him. He also abused V.'s children and tried to force her son to join his gang by threatening to kill V. and her children if he refused. Gang members also attempted to extort V. by threatening to kill her and her children if she refused. V. and her daughters fled to the United States in late 2018. NIJC filed V., C., and T.'s applications for asylum with the immigration

court, but because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that V., C., and T. merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. V.'s son L. entered the United States as an unaccompanied child and as a result, his case was in a different procedural posture. NIJC filed his asylum application with USCIS and USCIS granted him asylum in May 2021, which should be helpful when presenting the case of his mother and sisters.

52. S. is a woman from El Salvador. She and her son, J. are awaiting a new Master Calendar hearing date. S. and J. speak Spanish and live in a northwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0146760) (21-0147488)

S.'s step-father abused her throughout her childhood. The father of S.'s first child also beat and raped her. He prohibited her from studying or working outside the home. The abuse worsened when S. found a radio job. S. developed severe anxiety and depression. The father of her child admitted her to a psychiatric hospital and told staff she was crazy. While at the hospital, a nurse raped S. multiple times, leading to the birth of her second child, J. Later, S. worked as a television reporter. Her boss routinely sexually harassed her, forced her to report on violent, gang-related stories, and used his connections to highly ranked gang members to intimidate her against reporting him. After S. reported his treatment, members of the Mara 18 gang threatened her outside of her home, saying there would be consequences if she spoke out. In early 2019, gang members attacked and beat her brother. Soon afterwards, S. fled to the United States with her son. NIJC filed S.'s asylum application with the immigration court. Because this application was filed more than one year after S. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to S.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

53. A. is a woman from Guatemala. Her four children are derivatives on her application for asylum. A.'s eldest daughter, C., has an independent asylum case at the asylum office. Her two youngest daughters arrived subsequently as unaccompanied minors and are not yet scheduled for court. A. and her son's next Master Calendar hearing is on October 30, 2024. Eldest daughter, C.,'s next Master Calendar hearing is on September 25, 2024. A. and her family speak Spanish and live in Central Illinois. (20-0143124) (20-0143123) (20-0143125) (21-0148945) (21-0148946)

A's partner abused A. and their children, raped A., and controlled her church attendance. He became particularly violent after she gave birth to their second daughter because he was angry that the child was a girl. As a result of the abuse, A. has long-term hearing loss. A.'s partner forced her daughter, C., to scavenge for food at a local dump, attempted to sell C. to a drug trafficker, and threatened to rape C. When A. moved with her children to another part of Guatemala, her partner found them and threatened to kill them with the help of his drug trafficking associates. Fearing for their lives, A. fled with her children to the United States. Because A. and her son filed for asylum after their one-year deadline, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility.

NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All documentation to their cases will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. Documentation in C's case will be due one week prior to her asylum interview. The timing of the interview is uncertain.

54. L. is a woman from Venezuela. She is awaiting a new Master Calendar hearing date. L. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0147034)

L. owned and operated a textile factory in Venezuela. She was also an active member of the opposition party, *Primero Justicia*. L. participated in many marches and protests with the party. Starting in around 2016, L. received several threats at her factory. Members of a "colectivo," an armed pro-government group, came to her factory and told her that she had to pay them in order to support the revolution. She paid what they requested so that they would leave and reported this to the police afterwards. Not long after, the *colectivo* requested even more money. L. eventually had to close her business completely, but even after closing the business, she continued to receive threats from the *colectivo*. On several occasions, *colectivo* members came by her house on motorcycle shouting her name and firing guns into the air. L. came to the United States in 2018 on a tourist visa, hoping she could return to Venezuela, but soon realized it was best to stay and seek asylum after her daughter reported that *colectivo* members continued to come to her home looking for her. L. timely filed for asylum with USCIS in 2019 but her case was referred to the immigration court after her interview with the asylum office. All affidavits and supporting materials to L.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

55. R. is a woman from El Salvador. Her son, A., is a derivative on her application, and is also independently eligible for asylum R. and A.'s next Master Calendar hearing has not been scheduled. R. speaks Spanish and lives in a northern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0147562) (21-0147563)

During much of their relationship, R.'s ex-partner H., was verbally, physically, and sexually abusive. H. was a police officer in El Salvador. For some time, H. was able to hide his status as a police officer from the community and 18th Street gang members. Eventually, gang members took notice of his role. They began calling the family and sending pictures of R.'s daughter, threatening to kill the family if R. and H. did not pay the extortion fees. Although R. and her family repeatedly tried to relocate to other towns in El Salvador, the gang members continued to find them and targeted R.'s son A. for being the son of a police officer. H. fled to the United States and was granted asylum, but the gang continued targeting the family, particularly A., making it impossible for them to leave their home. Finally, R. fled to the United States with A. in late 2019. NIJC filed R. and A.'s asylum applications with the immigration court in November 2021. Since their applications were filed more than one year after entering the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they meet an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials for R. and A.'s case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

56. R. is a woman from Honduras. She is waiting for her next Master Calendar hearing date. R. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana. (21-0146095)

R.'s partner was a member of the MS-18 gang. Soon after R. and her partner started living together, her partner became controlling and abusive. He would not allow her to leave the house to see her family. He beat and raped her often. He told her that she had to stay with him, and threatened to hurt and kill her if she tried to leave the relationship. R. reported him to the police once, but nothing came from it. She was also involved in the Libre political party and attended protests regularly over the course of several years. Police shot at, beat, and tear-gassed her and fellow party members at many protests. She fled the country and traveled to the United States in 2019 to escape the dangerous political climate and free herself from her abusive partner. R. timely filed her asylum application with the immigration court in 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials to R.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

57. N. is a woman from Honduras. N. speaks Spanish and lives in a northwestern suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana. (21-0147272)

N.'s partner, and the father of her third child, was abusive and controlling. He raped N. and told her that he would not let her end the relationship. When N. became pregnant and refused to get an abortion, he threatened to kill her and the child. Out of fear, N. fled to the United States in late 2020, but at the border N. was placed in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP or "Remain in Mexico") program and was prevented from entering the United States to seek asylum. N. subsequently entered the United States and gave birth to her third child. Although N. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) at the border, it has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until her NTA is filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over her application for asylum. NIJC filed N.'s asylum application with USCIS in November 2021. Once her NTA is filed with the court, she will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing.

58. V. is a woman from Guatemala. Her son X. is listed as a derivative on her application and is also independently eligible for asylum. The family speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0148257) (21-0148864)

When V. was young, her father was killed and her mom moved to the United States, leaving V. and her younger sisters with an aunt who physically abused them. When V. and her sisters moved to a different aunt's home, another family member who was involved with a gang threatened the girls with violence and made sexual advances towards them. V.'s two sisters fled to the United States and were granted asylum, but V. stayed in Guatemala. When she was 17 years old, V. was in a relationship with a man and became pregnant. Once he learned of her pregnancy, V.'s partner began to verbally and physically abuse her. He tried to force V. to have an abortion. During this time, V. was living in her partner's home, where his family members also abused her and eventually caused her to be hospitalized for several days. About a year later, V. began a relationship with another man. When she confronted this man about being in a

relationship with another woman, he punched her in the face and stomach, causing her to be hospitalized for about two weeks. Soon after, V. fled to the United States with her son, X., and later gave birth to her second child in the United States. Although V. and X. were issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) at the border, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their asylum applications. NIJC filed their asylum applications with USCIS on November 12, 2021. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, V. and X. will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will then be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

59. R. is a woman from Haiti. Her son, L., is a derivative on her application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. R. and L. speak Haitian Creole and live in Indianapolis, Indiana. (21-0148754) (21-0149461)

R. was a member of a prominent political party in Haiti and her former partner was an organizer with the same party. Suspected individuals from a rival political party burned the family's home to the ground after threatening R.'s former partner and running him off of the road. Fearing for their lives, R., L., and R.'s former partner fled to the United States in 2021. Since R. and her former partner are no longer together, they are seeking asylum independently. Although R. and L. were issued Notices to Appear (NTA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not yet filed their NTAs with the immigration court, so R. and L. are not yet in removal proceedings. NIJC timely filed their skeletal asylum applications with USCIS. Unless and until DHS files their NTAs with the court, USCIS maintains jurisdiction over their asylum applications. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, R. and L. will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. R. and L. are independently eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and have TPS applications currently pending before USCIS.

60. S. is a man from Colombia. His wife, A. and their kids, E. and P., are derivatives on his application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. S. and his family are awaiting a new Master Calendar hearing date. They speak Spanish and live in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0147271) (21-0147596) (21-0147598) (21-0147599)

S. worked as an engineer for a Colombian airline. His position involved overseeing the influx of luggage and goods, and granted him access to many parts of the airport that are generally restricted. In 2018, two of S.'s colleagues approached him and asked him to collaborate with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) by facilitating the transportation of drugs through the airline. S. declined this request, subsequently received more requests, and eventually threats from members of the FARC. S. tried to report the attempted recruitment to airport administrators and the police, but the threats only worsened. At one point, two men went to S.'s wife, A.'s, workplace and told her that she'd better advise her husband to collaborate with them or else he'd be in danger. At the end of 2018, the family received a letter indicating that S. had until the end of the year to collaborate with them, or the lives of his entire family would be at risk. The family immediately fled. After this, family and friends reported that people had come to S.'s home looking for him. S. submitted his application for asylum with USCIS in December

2020, completed an asylum interview in 2021, and was referred to the immigration court. Because the asylum application was filed more than one year after S. and his family entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

61. P. is a man from Nicaragua. P. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0152440)

As a university student in Nicaragua, P. helped form a political organization that advocates for democracy, justice, and human rights. P. was active in the organization as a leader and participated in public demonstrations in opposition to Nicaraguan government policies. P. fled the country after pro-government forces threatened, detained, beat, and tortured him. When P. entered the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued him a Notice to Appear (NTA), but the NTA has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until his NTA is filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over his asylum application. NIJC timely filed his skeletal asylum application with USCIS. Once P.'s NTA is filed with the court, he will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

62. C. is a woman from Venezuela. C. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0151462)

C. was part of Venezuela's national criminal investigations unit. She witnessed how the government represses pro-democracy protestors when her unit became involved in arresting protestors. C. refused orders to work at a demonstration, and her supervisors punished her and prohibited her from resigning as a result of her opposition. Out of fear, C. fled the country. She believes that if she were to return to Venezuela, she would be detained and mistreated by the government. When C. entered the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued her a Notice to Appear (NTA), but the NTA has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until her NTA is filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over her asylum application. For this reason, NIJC attorneys filed C.'s asylum application with USCIS in October 2021. Once her NTA is filed with the court, C. will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

63. K. is a woman from Mexico. Her daughters, M. and P. are derivatives on her application and are also independently eligible for asylum. They are awaiting the rescheduling of their next Master Calendar hearing. K., M., and P. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (21-0151592) (21-0151815) (21-0151817)

K. lived with her partner, T., and their children, M. and P., in Mexico. T. disappeared in 2016. K. filed a report with local law enforcement. While investigating T.'s disappearance on her own K. discovered that armed men had taken him. K. joined *Familia Unidas*, a group advocating for information about their disappeared family members, and participated in marches and group

meetings. Through the advocacy of *Familias Unidas*, K. filed a second police report to elevate her partner's disappearance. She began to notice trucks parked outside her house at night. K. feared for her life when she learned that other members of *Familias Unidas* had been killed. She fled with her children, M. and P., to the United States in 2019. After K. and her children fled Mexico, armed men kicked T.'s parents out of their house and threatened to kill them if they did not leave. After T.'s parents fled, they learned that their house had been burned down. NIJC filed K., M., and P.'s skeletal asylum applications with the immigration court in January 2022. Because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

64. G. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, E., and her partner, R., will be derivatives on her asylum application. G. speaks Spanish and lives in Westcentral Indiana. (21-0152573) (21-0152573) (22-0153320)

G. began receiving threats from her aunt's ex-partner because G. and her family refused to tell him where her aunt was after she fled Honduras. Another one of G.'s aunts was kidnapped by a local gang leader related to her aunt's ex-partner. Gang members tortured this aunt and left her for dead. G. and her partner, R., fled with her family to Mexico, but while in Mexico, G. began to receive threatening, anonymous messages from gang members stating that they knew the family's whereabouts and would make them pay for disobeying. G., R., and E. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security when they entered the United States, but their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court, so USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. NIJC timely filed G., E., and R.'s asylum applications with USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into removal proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

65. C. is a woman from Cameroon. Her next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for September 18, 2024. C. speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (22-0153318)

C. was physically and emotionally abused by the father of her children for over 20 years. C. is Catholic. Her children's father abused her because she refused to convert to Islam and to change her name to an Islamic name. C. experienced abuse weekly and tried to escape several times, but her abuser found her every time and forced her to return to him. C. eventually fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed C.'s asylum application with the Chicago Immigration Court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

66. K. is an Igbo man from Eastern Nigeria. His Master Calendar Hearing is set for June 1, 2023. He speaks English and lives in Chicago. (23-0161085)

K. was a member of an opposition political party in Nigeria. He attended protests and was very active on social media, speaking out against the government and police brutality. In 2021, police

came to K.'s home, looking for him. When they did not find him there, they went to his brother's home and demanded to know where K. was. When K.'s brother failed to disclose his whereabouts, the police beat him badly. Fearing that the police would harm or kill him if they found him, K. fled Nigeria. He went to Brazil and obtained asylum there before coming to the United States. For this reason, K. may only be eligible for withholding of removal or relief under the Convention Against Torture. NIJC will timely file K.'s asylum application. All supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

67. P. is a man from Venezuela. His wife Q. and daughter R. are derivatives on his application and are also independently eligible for asylum. P. and his family speak Spanish and live in a northwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (22-0155558) (22-0155580) (22-0158920)

P., Q., and P.'s brother worked for the opposition party in Venezuela. In 2020, the Venezuelan government special action forces murdered P.'s brother for his political activity. Police searched, threatened, and interrogated P. several times because of his work to mobilize voters. Venezuelan police and government agents entered their home and stole valuables on three occasions. P., Q. and R. fled Venezuela and arrived in the U.S. in June 2022. NIJC timely filed their I-589s in March 2023. All affidavits and supporting materials for their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

68. R. is a man from Togo. His next Master Calendar hearing is on September 7, 2023. He speaks French and lives in Chicago. (22-0155322)

R. was a member of the PNP political party in Togo. He participated in meetings and protests with the aim of ousting the current president and instituting democracy in Togo. He became a PNP member in 2017. In 2018, he participated in protests in which the police arrived and teargassed protesters. The police then detained R., hit and kicked him, and took him to a military camp where he was detained for several days. A soldier helped R. escape. R. resumed activities with the PNP while trying to hide his identity and continuously moving to different locations to evade government detection. R. decided to escape Togo after the government arrested his friend from the PNP. After R. left, the government detained his girlfriend and called R. to threaten him. R. entered the United States in November 2021, was placed in removal proceedings, and timely filed for asylum. His first Master Calendar Hearing is scheduled for September 7, 2023. Once he is scheduled for his individual merits hearing, all supplementary filings will be due to court at least 15 days before the hearing date.

69. P. is a woman from Haiti. Her daughter, O., is a derivative on her application for asylum. They are currently scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing before the Chicago Immigration Court on October 18, 2023. P. and O. speak Spanish and live in a suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana. (22-0153744) (22-0153969)

Growing up, P.'s father was a leader in a political party, and P. helped to support the party's campaigns when possible. P.'s family received many threats due to their involvement, and one day a group of armed men came into their home, beat up P.'s father, put a gun to his head, and threatened to kill him and his family if he continued his political involvement. When he did not

quit his political party, his family continued to receive threats. Later, a previously incarcerated gang member forced P. into relationship with him. For several years, he regularly raped and tortured her. Eventually, P. escaped and moved to Chile, where she lived for a few years with the father of her children. However, Haitian migrants were regularly attacked and killed in Chile. After P.'s children's father began to abuse her, P. decided to flee to the United States with her daughter, O. NIJC filed a skeletal asylum application for P., but because this application was filed more than one year after P. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

70. B. is a woman from Nicaragua. B. speaks Spanish and lives in a suburb of Chicago. Her two sons will be derivatives on her asylum application. Her next Master Calendar hearing is set for October 6, 2023. (22-0153531)

B. was physically, sexually, and emotionally abused by her partner, T. T. controlled B.'s movements, would not allow her to work, accused her of being unfaithful, and cut her off from her family and friends. After B. got pregnant with their second child, T. wanted B. to get an abortion and told her that if she refused to do so, he would leave her and she would never see him again. After B. refused to get an abortion, T. beat her and punched her in the stomach. T. then abandoned B. and her children. In 2015, B. moved to Panama in order to try to better support her children. She started working as a political activist there, and campaigned for Medardo Mairera, a Nicaraguan opposition candidate. B.'s role involved organizing Nicaraguans in Panama and advocating for a change in Nicaraguan leadership. B.'s name was placed on a "black list" and individuals at the Panamanian embassy threatened to deport her to Nicaragua if she continued to speak out. After receiving these threats, B. fled to the United States with her sister and her two sons. B. and her children were placed into court proceedings. Their next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for October 6, 2023. NIJC timely filed B.'s asylum application in December 2022. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

71. F. is a woman from Nicaragua. Her daughter, R., and her husband, M., are derivatives on her asylum application and are both independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for October 20, 2023. They speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (22-0155383) (22-0155381) (22-0155598)

F., M., and R. were all threatened by F.'s ex-partner who is a member of the Nicaraguan paramilitary. He and other armed paramilitary members threatened to kidnap R. and beat M. in the street. F.'s ex-partner refused to accept that F. was in another relationship and threatened to kill M. Separately, armed paramilitary members tried to force M. to join them and support the current administration in Nicaragua. M. refused several times because they support the opposition party in Nicaragua. Armed paramilitary members went to their home and threatened to harm M. and report him to the Nicaraguan police. F., R., and M. fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

72. J. is a man from El Salvador. His son, D., is a derivative on his application and is also independently eligible for asylum. J. and D. are waiting for their merits hearing to be scheduled. J.'s wife, R., and her daughter, C., came to the United States following J.'s arrival. R. and C.'s next Master Calendar Hearing is on November 17, 2023. The family speaks Spanish and live in Indianapolis, Indiana. (20-0143863) (20-0143876) (21-0150631) (21-0150763)

J. owned a car painting business in El Salvador. Soon after he opened his business, members of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang began demanding that he pay them every two weeks. They threatened to kill him and his family if he did not obey. J. paid the MS-13 on a regular basis for almost eight years, but it became more difficult over time to make the payments. In the months leading up to J. and his son, D., fleeing, he told MS-13 members that he had to stop paying them. Around this time, D. and C., J.'s stepdaughter, were walking home when a man attempted to kidnap them. D. and C. were able to get away and the family made a police report. The police did not follow up on the report. J. closed his business; he and D. fled to the United States. After their departure, the gang continued to threaten J.'s wife, R., who worked as an attorney. Gang members approached her and her colleagues, and tried to force R. and her colleagues to work for them. She and C. then also fled to the United States. All family members have timely filed their applications for asylum. Their cases will need to be consolidated before the same judge. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

73. F. is a man from Mexico. His wife, C., and their children, T. and R., will be derivatives on his application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. The family's next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for November 29, 2023. F. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0143334) (20-0143335) (20-0143338) (20-0143339) (20-0143340)

F. and his eldest son, T., were working together at their wood mill in Mexico when members of a cartel approached them and demanded that T. start working for them. F. refused to let the cartel take his son, and told the cartel members that T. wanted to remain with his family and earn an honest living. Soon after, the cartel members threatened to kill the entire family and kidnap T. if he did not work with them. The cartel gave the family two days to decide, and F. chose to flee with his wife and children. F., C., T., and R. entered the United States in December 2019. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum. All documentation to F., C., T., and R.'s cases will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

74. J. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, N., is a derivative on her application and is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for January 5, 2024. They speak Spanish and live in Indianapolis, Indiana. (21-0145602) (21-0145603)

As a child, J. lived with an aunt and uncle. The uncle molested her and her aunt verbally abused her and forced her to work. When she was a teenager, J. moved in with a different aunt in a small community where she lived and studied for several years. During this time, J. had her first child,

N. One night in 2019, an armed man stopped J. while she was walking home and he raped her in a cemetery. He threatened her not to tell anyone what he had done and indicated that he knew she had brothers and a child. She believes that he was affiliated with a gang because in her community, only gang members have guns. J. did not tell anyone about the rape, but lived in fear and felt like people were watching her. A couple of months later, she realized that she was pregnant from the rape and decided to flee because she feared that the man who raped her would come after her if he found out about the pregnancy. J. filed her asylum application in December 2020. Since this application was filed more than one year after J. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to J.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

75. E. is a woman from Venezuela. Her next Master Calendar hearing is January 8, 2024. E. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (23-0160646)

E. was politically active in an anti-government movement in Venezuela. In 2015, E. survived a violent government tear gas attack when attempting to vote. E. ran for her life and escaped, but several others were injured and died. E. continued her political involvement and was known to the government as a dissident. In October 2021, military members appeared at E.'s house and demanded she turn herself in for her anti-government activity. She subsequently fled Venezuela and arrived in the U.S. in November of 2021. E. timely filed her asylum application. E.'s upcoming Master Calendar hearing is set for January 8, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials for E.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

76. K. is a woman from Mexico. K.'s son, E., is a derivative on her application. K.'s mother, F., father, A., and grandmother, L., are independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is January 17, 2024. K., F., A., L., and E. speak Spanish and live in Chicago. (19-0132005) (19-0132459) (19-0132536) (19-0132566) (19-0132576)

Members of a cartel murdered K.'s uncle while he was with K.'s brother. During the wake for K.'s uncle, cartel members stormed into the family home and opened fire on the crowd gathered to pay their respects. The cartel members killed K.'s brother and L.'s partner, along with several others. K. recognized three of the shooters and collaborated with local law enforcement officers to identify them. While K. reported the crime, cartel members stormed into K.'s house and opened fire. Fearing for their lives, F., L., K., and E. fled to a nearby state in Mexico. After they fled, cartel members stalked K. and threatened to kill K. and her entire family if she did not stop the investigation. K. continued to cooperate with local law enforcement officials in the investigation of her brother's murder, but officials advised F., K., L., and A. to flee the country to avoid being killed by the cartel members. NIJC timely filed asylum applications for K., F., L., and A. with the immigration court. K.'s son, E., is a derivative on K.'s application. Their next master calendar hearing is on January 17, 2024. All supporting documents will be due no fewer than 15 days before their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

77. B. is a man from Cameroon. B.'s next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for January 25, 2024. B. speaks English and lives in Chicago, IL. (22-0153514)

B. was scouted to be an informant for the government in Cameroon but refused. The police detained and tortured B. for not cooperating with government orders. B. fled the country to Turkey, where he was able to obtain a temporary Turkish residency permit that was renewed yearly. B. eventually fled to the United States due to fear that his temporary status was going to be revoked in Turkey and he would be deported back to Cameroon. With NIJC support, B.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that there is not a firm resettlement issue in B.'s case due to lack of permanent residency status in Turkey. B. timely filed a pro se asylum application. All affidavits and supporting materials to his case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

78. T. is a woman from Nicaragua. T. speaks Spanish and lives in a suburb of Chicago. (22-0153258)

In 2018, when T. was at university, she participated in a protest against the government. Afterwards, she began to receive threats. T. was attacked several times and warned that if she continued to participate in protests, she would be killed. After receiving these threats, T. fled to Panama, where her sister was living. She applied for refugee status there, but her application was denied. After she and her sister were threatened and assaulted because of her sister's work as a political activist, they fled to the United States. Although T. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) at the border, it has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Until her NTA is filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over her application for asylum. NIJC timely filed T.'s asylum application with USCIS in December 2022. Once her NTA is filed with the court, T. will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

79. J. is a woman from Mexico. Her Master Calendar hearing is on April 18, 2024. She speaks Spanish and lives in a southwest suburb of Chicago. (19-0138773)

Members of a drug cartel murdered J.'s sister. J.'s family reported the murder to police, who eventually arrested several cartel members in connection with the murder. When the cartel members were released from jail, they stalked and threatened J. and her family members. They threatened to kidnap J.'s nephews, the sons of J.'s slain sister. Fearing for their lives, J. and her family fled to another city in Mexico, but cartel members continued to call and threaten J., so she fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed an asylum application for J. Her next master calendar hearing is on April 18, 2024. All supporting documents will be due 15 days before her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

80. E. is a woman from Guatemala. Her daughters, C., A., and N. are derivatives on her application. N. is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on April 30, 2024. (20-0141426)(20-0141432)(20-0141994)(20-0141997)

Members of an organized criminal group in Guatemala tried to force E.'s daughter, N., into prostitution. When N. and E. refused, the criminal group threatened to kidnap N. Fearing for her life, N. fled to the United States. After N. fled, the same people who had targeted N. threatened to force E. into prostitution and to kidnap her other daughters. E., C., and A. fled to the United States to seek safety. NIJC timely filed E.'s asylum application, which includes N., C., and A. as derivatives. NIJC also filed an independent asylum application for N. E.'s next Master Calendar hearing is on April 30, 2024. N. is in separate proceedings and does not have a scheduled future hearing date. E.'s and N.'s pro bono attorneys should be prepared to request that their cases be consolidated. All supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

81. L. is a man from Cuba. He speaks Spanish and lives in the Western suburbs of Chicago. (22-0155448)

L. attended anti-government protests in July of 2021. A few days later, police arrived to his house and began threatening him, telling him he would have to pay 200 pesos otherwise he was going to be jailed. Eventually, L. was jailed and detained for about 3-4 days. Fearing that he would be jailed again, he decided to leave for the United States. NIJC timely filed his asylum application with the Asylum Office because L.'s Notice to Appear has not yet been filed with the court. After his NTA is filed with the court, he will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing.

82. M. is a woman from Honduras. She speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis with her husband, T., and their children, who are derivatives on her asylum application. M., T., and their three Honduran-born children are also each individually eligible for asylum. (21-0151700) (21-0151896) (21-0152230) (21-0152232) (21-0152238)

M.'s nephew, who is an imprisoned gang member, demanded that M. help him leave prison by lying to the police. M. refused to cooperate based on her religious beliefs. After her refusal, her cousin started to threaten to harm M. and her family. M. started noticing gang members surveilling her family and her home. Additionally, gang members threatened T. for his refusal to pay extortion fees. The family fled Honduras after they made a police report against M.'s nephew and the police did nothing. They entered the United States in 2018, were placed in removal proceedings, and applied for asylum. They filed for asylum after their one-year deadline, but are Mendez Rojas class members and timely filed class membership notices. They were set for an individual merits hearing in January 2023, but the immigration court cancelled the hearing. They are now awaiting their new merits hearing date. All supplementary filings will be due to court at least 15 days before the hearing date.

83. H. is a man from Afghanistan. His next master calendar hearing is on August 21, 2023. H. speaks English and lives in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, IL. (23-0161459)

H. was a prominent journalist, newsroom director and mayoral secretary for the government of Kabul. The Taliban threatened H. through messages and phone calls prior to the governmental collapse. After the fall of the Republic of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban issued a

decree demanding that H. be arrested on sight and brought to the Taliban. H. frequently reported against the Taliban's atrocities and was an active member in various human rights groups. H. fled Afghanistan in 2021 and lived in Brazil for some time before coming to the United States in 2023. NIJC timely filed H.'s asylum application with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials for H.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

84. X. and Z. are half-siblings, 18 and 16, from Honduras. They live with their mother, who speaks Spanish, in Chicago (Cook County). (22-0159962) (22-0159963)

X's father neglected and abused him and severely abused his mother in X's presence. X's father has not provided any financial or emotional support for X after brief contact when he was 10 years old. X's brother Z has a different father, and his father verbally, physically, and sexually abused Z. To run away from the abuse, Z. fled to the United States when he was 15 years old. A pro bono attorney will need to file two separate petitions: a post-18 guardianship case on behalf of X's mother, asking for legal guardianship over X until he turns 21, and a sole allocation of parental responsibilities petition for Z. The orders must find that X.'s and Z.'s reunification with their respective fathers is not viable due to their abandonment, abuse, and neglect and that it is not in X.'s and Z.'s best interests to return to Honduras.

85. Three brothers from El Salvador: L who is 9 years old, D who is 11 years old, and C who is 14 years old. The three brothers speak Spanish, and live with their mother in a Northwest Suburb of Chicago (Cook County). (22-0154072) (22-0156802)

The three boys have the same mother, but two different fathers. Their mother separated from L. and C's father when L. and C. were very young, and their father never provided them with any financial or emotional support after he left. D.'s father also abandoned him when he was about 2 years old. In approximately YEAR, the boys' mother came to the U.S. The three boys remained in El Salvador with their maternal aunt and uncle. L., C. and D. arrived in the U.S. as unaccompanied children in 2021 & 2022, and were able to reunite with their mother. A pro bono attorney will need to file two separate petitions for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of the mother (one for L. and C's father and one for D's father), and obtain two orders finding that reunification with each father is not viable due to their abandonment, and that it is not in the best interest of the boys to return to El Salvador.

86. M. and J. are siblings, 15 and 18, from Guatemala. They live with their older sister who speaks both Spanish and Kanjobal, in Central Illinois (Champaign). (22-0160580)

M. and J. were living in Guatemala with their parents. In 2016, their father passed away due to an illness. After his passing, M. and J.'s mother had a difficult time supporting them, and so they came to live with their sister. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for guardianship on behalf of M. and J.'s sister. J. will need a post-18 guardianship order. They will need an order

finding that M. and J.'s reunification with their father is not viable due to his death, which constitutes abandonment under Illinois law, and that it is not in M. and J.'s best interest to return to Guatemala.

87. K. is a 13-year-old girl from Honduras. She lives with her father, who speaks Spanish, in northwest Illinois (Rock Island County). (22-0160578)

K. grew up under the care of her mother and father. When K. was 11 years old, her father came to the U.S., leaving her in charge of her mother along with her two younger brothers. Shortly after her father moved to the U.S., K.'s mother moved in with another man. K. did not feel comfortable living with her mother's new partner, so she moved in with her grandmother. Since her mother left, K has not seen or had any communication with her. K's mother also does not provide her with any financial support. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of K.'s father, and obtain an order finding that K.'s reunification with her mother is not viable due to her abandonment, and that it is not in K.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

U Visa

88. P. is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. P. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection. USCIS must receive P.'s application prior to September 27, 2023. P. speaks Spanish and lives in Aurora. (23-0161620) (23-0162684)

P. was a victim of domestic violence that she suffered by her ex-boyfriend. P. faced many years of physical and emotional abuse when they lived together. On October 3, 2014, P. came home one evening and her ex-boyfriend was intoxicated and upset with her. He accused her of cheating and wanted her out of the house. He grabbed some of her clothes and threw them outside the front porch and threatened to light them on fire if she did not leave the house. He then went up to her and pulled her hair, ripped her shirt, and pushed her out of the front door. P. called the police and made a report. P. signed a complaint against her ex-boyfriend and he was arrested. P. obtained an order of protection that remains current. Her ex-boyfriend continues to harass her. P. received counseling to recover from the domestic violence she suffered.

89. A. is a man from Honduras who is eligible to file a U Visa application. A.'s wife L. will be a derivative on his application. A. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection. L. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection, possible expedited removal order, and possible permanent bar. USCIS must receive A.'s application prior to October 18, 2023. A. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago. (20-0143505) (20-0144417)

On June 19, 2020, A. was robbed and stabbed on his right hand. The offender attempted to steal A.'s wallet and A. refused to give his wallet. The offender then stabbed A. with a knife on his right hand and cut A.'s shirt by attempting to stab A. on his stomach. The offender fled the scene and A. was transported to the hospital where he received stitches on his arm and wrist. The police

arrived to the hospital and A. reported the crime. A. is seeking counseling to recover from the crime he suffered.

NIJC Announcements

Thinking of Leaving Your Firm?

When pro bono attorneys leave their firms, it can significantly affect their pro bono matters. If you are thinking of leaving your firm and have an open NIJC pro bono matter, make sure you avoid prejudicing your client by establishing a transition plan with your firm and your client, and notifying your NIJC point-of-contact of your departure. [This guidance](#) can help plan the transition.