

May 21, 2020

NIJC *Pro Bono* Case List: 63 cases need *pro bono* representation.

NIJC's *pro bono* attorneys ensure access to justice and advocate for due process. By helping an immigrant navigate the complicated immigration system, ensuring an asylum seeker is not deported to a country where she faces persecution and torture, or protecting a family from separation through deportation, you can change a life!

****To find NIJC's most urgent matters, please search for "urgent"*****

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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 webinar from a past 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 information about

- **Detained** cases, please contact Jesse Johnson at (312) 660-1681 or jejohnson@heartlandalliance.org.
- **LGBT** cases, please contact Michelle Velazquez at (312) 660-1306 or mivelazquez@heartlandalliance.org.
- For all other **asylum** cases, please contact Anna Sears at (312) 660-1307 or ansears@heartlandalliance.org.
- For **SIJS** cases, please contact Hillary Richardson at (773) 672-6601 or hrichardson@heartlandalliance.org.
- For **U Visa** or **VAWA** cases, please contact Lizbeth Sanchez at (312) 660-1318 or lisanchez@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.

Asylum Cases

Asylum: Detained Asylum Seekers

Because Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) detains immigrants at government expense, detained asylum cases are adjudicated more quickly than non-detained cases. The detained cases should be scheduled for a merits hearing about six-eight weeks after their asylum application is filed. As these individuals are often detained at county jails hours away from Chicago, pro bono attorneys conduct telephonic meetings with them in lieu of meeting in person. NIJC has successfully represented hundreds of men and women in detention and will help pro bono attorneys navigate the detention system and prepare strong cases.

All detention cases are currently placed with *pro bono* attorneys. Please contact Jesse Johnson, jejohnson@heartlandalliance.org, if interested in representing a detained asylum seeker.

Asylum: Unaccompanied Immigrant Children (UIC)

In recent years, thousands of children have fled violence in their home countries to seek protection in the United States. Despite their ages and inability to speak English, these young asylum seekers do not have the right to appointed counsel. Children who meet the definition of an “unaccompanied immigrant child” at the time they file for asylum are able to seek asylum from the USCIS asylum office in the first instance, even if they are already in deportation proceedings.

- 1. M. is a young girl from Honduras. USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over her application for asylum because she was designated as an unaccompanied immigrant child when she entered the United States, even though she may soon be in removal proceedings. M. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0139664) *Urgent****

In Honduras, an older gang member stalked M. and assaulted her because he wanted M. to be his girlfriend. This gang member watched M.’s home and followed her when she worked at her family’s shop. When M. refused his advances, the gang member threatened to kill M, her family, and her friends. The girlfriends of other gang members threatened M. at her school and told her that they would send their boyfriends to harm her. Gang members later murdered M.’s brother-in-law. After the murder, M.’s older sister received threats from the same gang, saying they were going to kill the entire family. Fearing for her life and the safety of her family, M. fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed M.’s skeletal application for asylum with USCIS in January 2020. All affidavits and supporting documents will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

- 2. A., D., F., and R. are siblings from Guatemala. USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over***

their applications for asylum because they were designated as unaccompanied immigrant children when they entered the United States, even though they may be placed in removal proceedings. A., D., F., and R. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0139348) (19-0139273) (19-0139274) (19-0139239) *Urgent*

Gangs in Guatemala targeted A. for recruitment because of his skill at riding motorcycles. Gang members repeatedly approached A. to attempt to force him to join their gang. When he refused to join, the gang members beat him and threatened to harm him and his family. Fearing for their lives, A., D., F., R. and fled to the United States within a week of the final threat. The siblings entered the United States in November 2019. NIJC timely filed independent applications for asylum for each sibling with USCIS. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due one week prior to the siblings' interview at the asylum office. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

3. L. is a young man from Ghana. USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over L.'s application for asylum because he was designated as an unaccompanied immigrant child when he entered the United States, even though he may soon be in removal proceedings. L. speaks English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0141375) *Urgent*

L is a gay teenager from Ghana, where homosexuality is forbidden by government regulations. L.'s mother physically abused L. because of his sexual orientation, and L. received frequent threats from members of his community for being gay. When the principal of L.'s school learned that L. was gay, he expelled L. and notified the Ghanaian authorities of L.'s sexual orientation. After being expelled, L. fled his home to live in hiding with his aunt, but police soon discovered his location. Fearing for his life, L. fled Ghana and entered the United States in early 2020. Although T. entered the United States after July 16, 2019 and would therefore be subject to the second asylum (transit) ban, he will likely be eligible for an exception to this ban and NIJC will assist L.'s *pro bono* attorneys in making that argument. Although L. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) when he entered the United States, DHS has not yet filed his NTA with the Immigration Court. NIJC timely filed L.'s skeletal application for asylum with USCIS in March 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to L.'s case will be due one week prior to his interview at the asylum office. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

4. M. is a young woman from Vietnam. USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over M.'s application for asylum because she was designated as an unaccompanied immigrant child when she entered the United States, even though she may soon be in removal proceedings. M. speaks Vietnamese and lives near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (20-0141256)

The Vietnamese police arrested M. for protesting against a government policy that favored the property rights of foreign investors in Vietnam at a disadvantage to Vietnamese nationals. The police officers beat, tortured, and sexually abused M. while she was in their custody. Upon release, the police continued to intimidate and threaten M. and her family. Fearing for her life,

M. fled to the United States. Although M. entered the United States after July 16, 2019 and would therefore be subject to the second asylum (transit) ban, she will likely be eligible for an exception to this ban and NIJC will assist M.'s *pro bono* attorneys in making that argument. Although M. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) when she entered the United States, DHS has not yet filed her NTA with the Immigration Court. USCIS must receive M.'s skeletal asylum application by February 4, 2021. All affidavits and supporting materials to M.'s case will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office, which will likely occur 4-6 weeks after the date of filing.

- 5. *K. is a young woman from Honduras. USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over her application for asylum because she was designated as an unaccompanied immigrant child when she entered the United States, even though she is in removal proceedings. Her next Master Calendar Hearing is on January 27, 2021. K. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (18-0128269)***

Ever since K. was a little girl, her mother and family members subjected her to involuntary servitude, and physical and sexual violence. Gang members also assaulted and threatened K. Gang members also targeted K.'s brother and when he resisted their recruitment efforts, the gang increased its threats against K.'s brother, K., and their family members. Fearing for her life, K. fled to the United States and was designated as an unaccompanied immigrant child. NIJC timely filed her application for asylum with USCIS in April 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials to K.'s case will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office, which has not yet been scheduled. The timing of this interview is uncertain. Please review the asylum office scheduling update at <http://immigrantjustice.org/policy/blog> for more information.

- 6. *K. and L. are siblings from El Salvador. USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum because they was designated as unaccompanied immigrant children when they entered the United States, even though they may be placed in removal proceedings. K. and L. speak Spanish and live in Central Indiana. (17-0119846) (17-0119852)***

K.'s father came to the United States to work when she was two years old. K.'s father subsequently started a new family and abandoned K. and her mother. L.'s father is in El Salvador and does not support L financially or otherwise. In 2012, K. and L.'s mother came to the United States leaving K. and L. with a maternal aunt. Shortly after her mother left to the United States, members of the Mara 18 gang started sexually harassing K. and telling her to be with them. K. refused to be a gang girlfriend and the gang soon began threatening her and her entire family. During one incident, a gang member tried to molest her at knifepoint. Fearing for her life, K. fled to the United States with her very young brother L. in May 2013. Although K. and L. were issued a Notice to Appear (NTA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not filed the NTA with the immigration court. NIJC filed K. and L.'s skeletal applications for asylum with USCIS. Although K. and L. missed their one-year filing deadline, they qualify for an exception to the deadline, and NIJC will assist them in making that argument. K. and L.'s affidavits and supporting documents will be due one week prior to their interview at the asylum office. The interview timeline for their case is uncertain. Please review the asylum office scheduling update at <http://immigrantjustice.org/policy/blog> for more information.

Asylum: Merits Hearings in 2020

The asylum seekers below all have merits hearings scheduled in 2020 and urgently need pro bono placement. Many involve recently arrived families whose cases have been expedited by the administration in an attempt to deter other asylum seekers from fleeing to the United States. If NIJC is unable to secure pro bono representation for these individuals, NIJC will have to represent them in-house, limiting NIJC's ability to take on new pro bono asylum matters. Accepting one of these cases for pro bono representation helps NIJC's capacity to assist other asylum seekers.

7. J. is a gay man from Mexico. His merits hearing is on September 3, 2020. He is deaf and communicates using ASL. J. lives in Chicago, Illinois. (15-0103571) *Urgent*

J. had a difficult and isolating childhood; students who perceived him as gay or feminine harassed and groped him at school. When he was about seven years old, he was raped by a family friend. Hearing people also mocked him, and he believes that accommodations for deaf individuals are generally not available in Mexico. J. is concerned about his ability to live and work safely in Mexico where he sees himself as doubly vulnerable because he is deaf and gay. J. entered the U.S. in May of 2002 and filed his asylum application in late 2012 with the help of an attorney in California who works with deaf clients and has an agreement with the Los Angeles Asylum Office regarding the scheduling of interviews for deaf individuals. This system resulted in three canceled interviews in 2013 and 2015, and in 2017. J. was issued an NTA for failing to attend an interview on August 4, 2017, which his attorneys had advised him not to attend because he was already living in Chicago at that time. They claim to have reached an agreement with the asylum office prior to August 4 and believe he was erroneously referred, but have not been able to resolve the situation. His affidavit and other supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing.

8. F. is a young woman from Nicaragua. Her merits hearing is October 2, 2020. She speaks Spanish and lives in Central Indiana. (19-0139206) *Urgent*

In April 2018, F. participated in anti-government protests in her hometown in Nicaragua. She was part of a group of students that formed a road blockade to speak out against proposed government reforms to social security and pension programs. After she began taking part in the protests, police officers started following her when she left her house. F. and the rest of the student group discovered that copies of their identification cards had been passed to the police by an informant. F.'s mother, L., publicly denounced the government's treatment of her daughter in the Nicaraguan media. Afterwards, police officers began sending death threats to F. and her mother in retaliation. F. continued speaking out against the Nicaraguan government on social media until she received a death threat from a member of the Nicaraguan government. F. entered the United States in late 2018. NIJC timely filed F.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to F.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing in October 2020.

Asylum: Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

In most cases involving asylum based on sexual orientation or gender identity, NIJC has a significant amount of country conditions research already available. Pro bono attorneys will need to update and supplement this material, but the greater portion of time will be spent working with the client to establish and document the individual aspects of the client's claim.

9. *V. is a gay man from Kyrgyzstan. He speaks English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140933). *Urgent**

When V. was about 12 years old, he applied to boarding school in order to escape his abusive father. At boarding school, he realized he felt attracted to other boys, but knew this was something he could never reveal while living in Kyrgyzstan. He went to university in South Korea, where he was able to date men discretely. On a visit home just before his college graduation ceremony, V. ran into some people he had known in high school. They had heard rumors that V. is gay and beat him severely. While they were beating him, a police officer arrived and arrested V. and one of the men. The man who had been beating V. informed the police he was doing so because V. is gay. The police released the man and questioned V., beating him with a wooden baton and threatening to anally rape him. They took a picture of V.'s passport before releasing him and threatened to come looking for him again. V. sought treatment at the hospital immediately afterward and flew to the U.S. later that week. He entered using a tourist visa he already had from a school trip. USCIS must receive V.'s asylum application by July 19, 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials in V.'s case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office, which will likely occur 4-6 weeks after filing.

10. *J. is a same gender loving man from Nigeria who is blind. He speaks English and lives in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0141226) *Urgent**

From a young age, J. felt attracted to men and has had relationships with men both in Nigeria and in the United States. While in Nigeria, he was beaten by a group of homophobic men after a former partner outed him and set him up to be attacked. The attackers took pictures of J. without his clothes on and tried to "beat the homosexuality" out of him. J. is primarily afraid to return to Nigeria due to a fear of homophobic violence, but also feels particularly vulnerable because he is blind. Due to J.'s blindness, he will need assistance arranging transportation to Chicago. Some case workup can be done by phone. USCIS should receive J.'s application by July 25, 2020. However, J. will remain eligible to file for asylum past his one-year deadline, so long as he remains in status on his F1 student visa. All affidavits and supporting materials in M.'s case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office, which will likely occur 4-6 weeks after filing.

11. *R. is an HIV positive transgender woman from Honduras. She speaks Spanish and lives in Southern Indiana. Her merits hearing is scheduled on February 2, 2021. (17-0119958).*

As a child, R. was mistreated by classmates, who called her homophobic slurs. She only attended six years of elementary school. As an adolescent, men would often demand money from her for

sexual favors. R. was robbed in the street by an unknown man when she was in her early 20s. R.'s brother was murdered in June 2003; he was shot multiple times and his death was not investigated. After her brother's death, R. fled to the United States and entered in early 2004. R. was diagnosed as HIV positive around 2005. She fears that she will be unable to access HIV medication in Honduras. R. has multiple letters of support already prepared. NIJC filed her I-589, asylum application, on December 6, 2017. Her affidavit and other supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing.

12. M. is a lesbian woman from Haiti. She speaks Haitian Creole and French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. Her merits hearing is on March 23, 2021. (18-0123620).

M. is a lesbian woman from Haiti. M. began exploring her sexual orientation at the age of 12, when she engaged in a sexual relationship with an older woman. When she was older, M. entered into a relationship with a man in order to hide her sexual orientation. She has a 7-year-old daughter from this relationship who still resides in Haiti. When she was 19, she again started dating a woman, J., in secret. In 2015, M. and J. were caught in an intimate moment by the younger brother of her male partner. The younger brother began crying out until a crowd gathered and beat M. and J. M. and J. were arrested and taken into custody where they were beaten and tortured by fellow detainees once it was discovered they were lesbians. Shortly after, M. fled to Brazil where she lived for about a year, but did not feel safe living openly as a lesbian. Consequently, she fled again to the U.S. where she presented herself at the border in November 2016. She was briefly detained before being released on parole. NIJC filed M.'s I-589 on June 4, 2018, after M.'s one-year deadline. However, NIJC believes that due to M's diagnoses of Depressive Disorder, Major PTSD, and Adjustment Disorder, as well as the fact that she was not properly notified of the one-year deadline while detained, she has strong exceptions to this one-year deadline and that she qualifies for asylum. M's affidavit and other supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing which has been set for March 23, 2021.

13. T. is a gay man from India. He speaks English and lives in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0142458).

T. struggled with his sexual orientation growing up, spending many years believing something was wrong with him. In 2017, he came out as gay to a small group of his close friends. Not long after, two of those friends confronted T. at his apartment, berating him for being gay before raping him. When T. came out to his family in 2019, they stopped speaking to him. Later that year, feeling hopeless, he attempted suicide. He fears that if he returns to India he will again suffer sexual and physical violence and that his family will force him to marry a woman. USCIS should receive T.'s application by July 31, 2020. However, T. will remain eligible to file for asylum past his one-year deadline, so long as he remains in status on his F1 student visa, which he plans to do. All affidavits and supporting materials in T.'s case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office, which will likely occur 4-6 weeks after filing.

14. T. is a gay man from Lebanon. He speaks English and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (20-0142103).

T. knew he was gay from a young age. As a child, he only felt attraction to men, but feared

something was wrong with him because his family openly disparaged gay people. T.'s family was critical of him for his interests in fashion and design, and frequently told him to be "manlier." His family is Muslim and remembers family members discussing that LGBT people do not belong in Muslim society. When T. was about 10 old, boys in his neighborhood took him to an abandoned church and sexually assaulted him. Because of this traumatic experience, as well as fear of his family, T. remained deeply closeted throughout high school and amassed more discomfort and shame of his sexual orientation. As a student at University in Beirut, T. continued to hide his sexual orientation. T. occasionally went to concerts at a gay-friendly nightclub, but he was present at two separate police raids at the club, and afterwards decided that participating in LGBT life in Beirut was too dangerous. T. left Beirut to live in Dubai eight years ago, but also found Dubai to be a dangerous place to live as a gay man. T. decided to seek asylum in the U.S. and entered using a tourist visa. He lives with his sister in IL, who knows about his sexual orientation and supports his efforts to seek asylum. USCIS must receive T.'s asylum application by March 6, 2021. All affidavits and supporting materials in T.'s case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office.

15. A. is a gay man from Lebanon. He speaks English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0142469).

A. has known he was gay from a young age. As a child, A.'s voice and mannerisms were stereotypically feminine, and throughout his childhood, his father told him it was wrong and shameful to act and speak the way he did. A's father and many members of his paternal family are members of Hezbollah, and A. frequently overheard them discussing disparaging opinions about the LGBT community. For years, students at A.'s schools bullied him for being effeminate. A. moved to Beirut for University in 2006 and hoped it would be a safer place to live as a gay man. A. attempted to come out to some friends, but started receiving anonymous threatening texts, and decided to return to hiding his sexual orientation. In 2010, a group of Hezbollah men disguised themselves as a young gay Lebanese man and used a dating website to trick A. into meeting up. The men attacked A. when he arrived, and after that incident, A. felt he could never live safely as an open gay man in Lebanon. A. decided to pursue an advanced degree at the University of Beirut in order to qualify for PhD programs abroad and secure a way to leave Lebanon. In the fall of 2017, A. moved to Chicago to enroll in a PhD program at Northwestern University. USCIS should receive A's asylum application by August 17, 2020. However, A. will remain eligible for asylum past his one-year deadline, so long as he remains in status on his F1 visa, something he plans to do. All affidavits and supporting materials in A's case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office.

Asylum: Based on Domestic and Gender Violence

Although many adjudicators have historically believed that the case law regarding domestic violence and gender violence-based asylum claims was unclear, these claims have a strong legal foundation, particularly in the Seventh Circuit, even after an Attorney General decision attempted to undermine them. NIJC has been involved in federal litigation regarding gender-based asylum claims and attorneys who handle these cases will have access to a wealth of resources that will help them prepare strong cases for their clients.

16. D. is a young woman from Mexico. Her daughter, E., and her son, M., will be derivatives on D.'s application for asylum, and are each also individually eligible for asylum. Their Master Calendar hearing was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and has not yet been rescheduled. D., E., and M. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140566) (20-0140567) (20-0140568)

D.'s ex-partner N. abused D. and threatened to kill her if she ever started a relationship with another man. D. and her ex-partner separated and he began a relationship with another woman. In 2017, Mexican police arrested D.'s ex-partner for the murder of his new partner and D. cooperated with their investigation. After his arrest, D.'s ex-partner began calling D. frequently and threatening to kill her and her children if she did not visit him. Not long after, D. also began receiving anonymous calls from outside the prison from a man making the same threats to harm her and her children. The man told D. that he was following her and knew detailed information about the whereabouts of her children. One night, the man told D. that he was waiting outside her house in a black truck, which D. could see from her window. Fearing for her life and for her children's lives, D. fled Mexico with E. and M. The immigration court must receive D., E., and M.'s skeletal applications for asylum by July 23, 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

17. H. is a young woman from Honduras. H.'s son, P. is a derivative on H.'s application for asylum, and is also independently eligible for asylum. H. is also eligible for a U visa as an indirect victim of a qualifying crime because her son P. was the victim of domestic violence as a minor. P. will be a derivative on H.'s U visa petition and both H. and P. will require waivers if inadmissibility for the U visa. H. and P. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0141408) (20-0141410) (20-0141208) (20-0141209)

H.'s ex-partner, J., began physically abusing H. after she became pregnant with their son, P. Soon after, J. was arrested and imprisoned for two years. After he was released, J. sought out H. and began threatening her. He also began associating with gang members. H. told J. that she did not want a relationship with him. This made J. furious, and he continued to stalk and threaten H. One night, J. sexually assaulted H. and threatened to kill her if she tried to leave him. Fearing for her life, H. fled to the United States with her son. H. filed a timely, *pro se* application for asylum with the immigration court. Her *pro bono* attorneys should also plan to file an independent application for asylum for P. prior to their merits hearing. All affidavits and supporting materials to H. and P.'s case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

Separately, in July 2018, H.'s son P. was the victim of domestic battery as a young child when H.'s brother-in-law grabbed P. by his hair and shirt and pulled him across a room, leaving P. with scratches on his shoulder. H.'s sister called the police because she witnessed the abuse and H. spoke with and cooperated with the police. This incident affected H. emotionally and P. began to act out in school and against H. Both H. and P. are seeking counseling to help them move forward. C.'s U visa application must be received by USCIS on or before July 13, 2020.

18. D. is a woman from Mexico. Her children, F. and J., will be derivatives on her

application for asylum. D. and her children speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0139086)(19-0139809) (19-0139810)

D. entered a relationship with her ex-partner, S., while she was in college in Mexico. Soon after the relationship began, S. forced D. to move in with him and his family and drop out of school. S. and his parents were extremely controlling, and rarely allowed D. to leave the house. When D. told S. that she wanted to leave him, he began to physically abuse her and threaten to kidnap their children if D. ever tried to end the relationship. D. attempted to leave S. multiple times, but S. was always able to locate D. and punish her for trying to leave him. S. worked for a drug cartel in Mexico, and frequently used drugs in the home in front of S. and their children. As their children F. and J. grew older, S. began to verbally abuse them as well. D. knew that she would not be able to safely leave S. and remain in Mexico because of his connections to the cartel. D. and her children fled to the United States in late 2019. Although D. and her children were issued a Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their application for asylum. USCIS must receive D.'s skeletal application for asylum by September 21, 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to D.'s case will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office, which will likely occur 4-6 weeks after the date of filing, unless her NTA is filed with the immigration court.

19. S. is a woman from Guatemala. Her son, P., is a derivative on her application for asylum. S. is awaiting the rescheduling of her next Master Calendar Hearing. S. and P. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0133929) (19-0133931)

S.'s husband abused her physically and emotionally for years in Guatemala. On multiple occasions, S.'s husband tried to kill her while he was beating her. S. tried to leave her husband in 2017, and she and P. moved in with a friend. Only a few months later, S.'s husband entered the home where S. was living and attacked her. He continued to threaten S. whenever he saw her in town, once firing a gun into the air to scare her. When P. tried to defend S., his father pointed a gun at him and threatened his life. S. reported her husband's threats to the police, but he was only detained for a week and then released back into the community. S. learned that her husband hired someone to kill her after he was released from jail. S. fled to the United States with P. in 2018. NIJC timely filed S. and P.'s applications for asylum with USCIS in February 2020, and subsequently filed them with the immigration court after her Notice to Appear (NTA) was filed. All affidavits and supporting materials to her case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

20. C. is a young woman from Honduras. Her children, U. and R., are derivatives on her application for asylum. C. is currently awaiting the rescheduling of her next Master Calendar Hearing. C. and her children speak Spanish and live in western Indiana. (20-0140788) (20-0140787)(20-0140815)

C.'s ex-partner, M., is a member of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang in Honduras. When C. began her relationship with R., he was very kind to her, but soon after they moved in together he began to beat her and emotionally abuse her. He was often intoxicated and threatened to beat

C.'s older child U., but C. always intervened. M. was extremely jealous of C. and forbade her from having contact with other men. M. frequently raped C. as punishment when she said she did not want to be with him. C. tried to report M.'s abuse to the police in Honduras multiple times, but was never able to obtain protection. C. eventually tried to relocate to Mexico with her daughter R. in order to get away from M., but M. threatened C.'s family and said that he would kill her son U., who remained in Honduras, if C. did not return from Mexico to be with him. Fearing for her life and for the lives of her children, C. returned to Honduras to get U. and then fled to the United States with U. and R. NIJC timely filed C.'s asylum application with the immigration court in 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to C.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

21. F. is a woman from Mexico. Her children T. and O. are derivatives on her application for asylum, and are also independently eligible for asylum. F. is currently awaiting the rescheduling of her next Master Calendar Hearing. F. and her children speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0137996) (19-0138001) (19-0138002)

F.'s ex-partner, G., physically and emotionally abused F. throughout their years-long relationship. G. was controlling and violent towards F., and threatened to kill her on multiple occasions. When F. was pregnant with her daughter, O., she began receiving anonymous phone calls from people threatening to kill her family and demanding money from F. G. later told F. that members of a cartel had been threatening him and trying to force him to work for them, but he had refused. The cartel told G. that they would kill him and his entire family if he did not work for them. Fearing reprisals from the cartel and continued abuse from G., F. fled Mexico with her two children in 2015. All affidavits and supporting materials to F.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

22. G. is a woman from Mexico. Her merits hearing is on March 16, 2021. G. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (16-0109893)

In Mexico, G.'s ex-partner abused her and a cartel forced G. to pay a tax on her clothing store. When the cartel's leader was arrested, the new leader doubled the tax and G. was unable to pay. The organization visited G.'s store three times. First, they told her the new rules. The second time they tried to rob her. The third time they threatened her life. They said they would kidnap or kill her if she did not pay the tax. The same organization murdered G.'s brother-in-law for not paying the tax and said the same would happen to G. if she did not pay. G. tried to report the extortion and threats to her mayor, but the mayor said he could not protect her. G. fled to the United States with three of her four children, who are all U.S. citizens. After she left, the organization went looking for G. and beat up her brother, causing her oldest child to flee to the United States as well. NIJC timely filed G.'s asylum application with the immigration court. Her attorneys will have to prepare G.'s affidavit and other supporting documents before her merits hearing in 2021. G. has a 2004 firearms conviction that will not bar her from asylum, but will need to be addressed for purposes of the judge's discretionary decision.

23. S. is a woman from Swaziland. Her daughter and son, T. and C., are derivatives on her application for asylum. Their merits hearing is on June 16, 2021. S., T., and C. speak English and live in Chicago, Illinois. (15-0099771) (15-0099890) (15-0099891)

S.'s husband began to abuse her in 2006, after he demanded that she live with his parents and she refused. S.'s husband and his parents insulted her, told her she had to do what they demanded because they paid a dowry for her, and her husband slapped her in the face multiple times. After this incident, S.'s husband began to abuse S. constantly and often called her a prostitute and accused her of sleeping with other men. He also frequently sexually abused her. S.'s husband beat their daughter and said he was teaching her how to be a good wife. In 2012, S. decided to cancel her husband's access to her bank account because his reckless spending was leaving her with no money to support her family. When her husband found out what she had done, he attacked her with a machete in the street, but S. managed to escape after a passerby helped her. After this incident, S.'s husband took their children and placed them in the care of his parents. He forbid S. from having any access to them and told her he would kill her if she ever saw their kids again. S. tried filing for divorce, but the court magistrate told her that she should return to her husband and denied her request. In May 2015, S. picked her children up from school and fled with them to the United States. NIJC timely filed S.'s asylum application with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to S.'s merits hearing in 2021.

24. R. is a woman from Guatemala. Her two children, G. and T., are derivatives on her application for asylum. Their merits hearing is on July 21, 2022. R. speaks Chuj and Spanish and lives in Southern Indiana. (17-0121318) (17-0121553) (17-0121552)

R. married her husband when she was around 14 years old. Shortly after their marriage, R.'s husband began abusing her. He and his mother insulted her, threatened her, and beat her. Her husband controlled her and tried to force her to miscarry. When R.'s husband went to the United States, his mother continued to physically abuse R. until R. moved out of the house. During this time, R.'s father-in-law attempted to rape her and R. learned that her son has serious heart problems. R.'s husband was deported back to Guatemala, where he continued to beat her, attempted to kill her, and tried to kidnap her daughter. When R. tried to escape his abuse, he threatened her life, and R.'s family and community did not support her in leaving her marriage. Fearing for her life, R. fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed R.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials for R.'s case will be due prior to her merits hearing in 2022.

25. N. is a woman from Guatemala. N.'s daughter, F., is a derivative on her application for asylum. N.'s merits hearing is on August 29, 2022. N. and F. speak Kanjobal and live in Chicago, Illinois. NIJC will assist her attorneys in identifying an interpreter. (18-0129734) (18-0130545)

After N. married her husband, she moved in with his family and was frequently left alone with them for long periods of time while he was away for work. The family insulted N., and frequently prevented her from leaving the house. In 2015 while N. was alone in the home, her brother-in-law broke in and raped her. Afterwards, he told her that he would kill her and her family if she reported him to the police. Initially, N. kept the rape a secret, fearing repercussions from her brother-in-law and the possibility that local authorities might not listen to or believe her because she only spoke an indigenous language. N. became depressed and increasingly fearful

of her husband's family. When she finally disclosed the rape to her husband, he assisted her in reporting the crime to the police. However, the police did not punish N.'s rapist or offer her any protection, even though N.'s brother-in-law continued to make threats against N. and her family to other members of the community. Fearing for her life, N. fled to the United States with F. in 2017. NIJC filed N. and F.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court more than one year after they entered the United States. N.'s *pro bono* attorneys will need to and argue that she merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting documents to N.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing in 2022.

26. Q. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, Y., is a derivative on her application for asylum. Q. and Y.'s merits hearing is on November 9, 2022. Q. and Y. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (18-0129057) (18-0129269)

Q.'s father physically abused Q. and her mother during Q.'s childhood. When Q. was 14 years old, she met a partner, D., who was eight years older than she was. She moved in with his family and soon after, D. began abusing Q. physically, sexually, psychologically and verbally. D.'s family also abused Q. and treated her like a servant. Q. became pregnant at 16. One of D.'s family members also repeatedly sexually molested Q., but she did not report it for fear D. would retaliate against her. After Q.'s son, Y., was born, D.'s family threatened to take Y. from her if she ever tried to leave. Before fleeing to the United States, Q. tried to escape with Y. but D.'s family threatened to take Y. and told Q. she would eventually have to return because she is D.'s woman and her place is in their house. Fearing she would never be safe from D. or his family if she stayed, Q. fled Honduras and entered the United States in April 2018. NIJC timely filed Q.'s skeletal application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing in 2022.

27. T. is a man from Nigeria. His wife N. and their four children E., I., B. and V. are all derivatives on his application for asylum, and they are all also independently eligible for asylum. The family's merits hearing is on November 29, 2022. T. and his family speak English and live in a northern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (18-0131297) (18-0131299) (18-0131301) (18-0131302) (18-0131303) (18-0131305)

After the birth of T. and N.'s first daughter, E., T.'s family was adamant that E. be circumcised. T.'s family repeatedly contacted T. and N., demanding that they allow E. to be circumcised. When the couple's second daughter, B., was born, T.'s family became even more insistent that the couple allow both daughters to be circumcised. T.'s family arrived at his home on multiple occasions and attacked N. and N.'s father. N.'s father died in the weeks following one attack. T. traveled to the United States in May 2017, planning to only stay for a few weeks, after his family promised not to target his wife and daughters while he was gone. But soon after he arrived, he learned that his family members had broken into his home and attacked his wife, requiring her hospitalization. After he was told that his family would kill him if he came back, T. began preparing for his wife and children to flee to the United States to be with him and then eventually entered the United States in September 2017. T. filed a timely, *pro se* application for asylum with USCIS in 2018. After attending an interview at the Asylum Office, USCIS declined to make a decision in T.'s case and referred his case to the Immigration Court for further review. In order to preserve all possible forms of relief for T.'s wife and children, their *pro bono* attorneys

should plan to file independent applications for asylum for N., E., I., B., and V. with the immigration court prior to the merits hearing. All affidavits and supporting materials to the family's case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing in 2022.

28. K. is a woman from Honduras. K.'s merits hearing is on June 6, 2023. K. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0134872)

K.'s former partner, D., threatened and abused her for many years. Afraid to leave him even though she had tried to end the relationship, K. continued living with D. while pursuing a new relationship. K.'s new partner was also abusive, and he threatened to kill K. if she did not move out of the house she shared with D. and their daughter, M. K.'s new partner began to beat her, and on one occasion, he put a knife to her throat. Fearing further abuse, K. fled to the United States in 2012 and left her daughter in D.'s care. After K. left, D. began to physically and sexually abuse K.'s daughter. Although K. was apprehended by immigration in 2012 and passed a credible fear interview at that time, her NTA was not filed with the immigration court until 2018. NIJC filed K.'s application for asylum with the Immigration Court. Because this application was filed more than one year after K. entered the United States, her *pro bono* attorneys will need to argue that K. merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument and K. is otherwise eligible for withholding of removal and Convention Against Torture relief. All affidavits and supporting materials to K.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing in 2023.

29. D. is a woman from Mongolia. Her husband, J., is a derivative on her application for asylum. She speaks Mongolian and lives in Chicago, Illinois. NIJC will assist her attorneys in identifying an interpreter. (17-0116073)

D. grew up in the Mongolian countryside and moved to the capital, Ulaanbaatar, to attend university in 2009. Shortly after she moved, she became romantically involved with her neighbor, E. The couple moved in together and D. soon became financially dependent upon E. About five months after the couple moved in together, E. began to abuse D. verbally and physically. He tried to control her behavior, demanded she do what he told her, and kicked and beat her. In 2013, when D.'s brother witnessed E. punching D. in the face, he was able to get the police to come to the house and arrest E., something that D. believes was only possible because her brother was a man. D. had attempted to seek help from the police on her own in the past, but had never been able to get protection. E. was detained for a few days, but then released. In 2014, D. told a coworker about the abuse and was urged to flee to the United States in order to escape the relationship. D. surreptitiously applied for a visa, which was granted, and entered the United States in 2016 without telling E. Later, D. called E. to tell him where she was after she heard that he had been threatening her friends and family trying to find her. When they spoke on the phone, E. threatened to harm her if she ever returned to Mongolia. NIJC timely filed D.'s application for asylum in May 2017. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office. The interview timeline for applications filed before 2018 is uncertain. Please review the asylum office scheduling update at <http://immigrantjustice.org/policy/blog> for more information.

Asylum: Based on Political Opinion or Opposition to Criminal Organizations

Political opinion-based asylum claims represent the stereotypical asylum case and are often more straight-forward than other types of asylum cases. Asylum claims based on opposition to cartel or gang violence may involve a political opinion-based claim, but are typically based on the protected ground “membership in a particular social group” as well. These claims offer an opportunity to navigate a nuanced and rapidly evolving area of asylum law. NIJC has successfully represented men, women, and children from Central America and Mexico who fear cartel and gang violence and has the resources to help pro bono attorneys prepare strong cases for these asylum seekers.

30. M. is a woman from Cuba. M. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. (19-0135829)

Urgent

M. openly opposed the Castro regime in Cuba, despite the fact that her father worked for the government and had participated in the communist revolution there. Police patrolled her home for multiple days at a time, and would frequently confront her and accuse her of plotting against the government. On one occasion, they attempted to force M. to register as a member of the youth wing of the national communist party, and when she refused, a complaint was filed against her and she was fired from her job. M. then started her own small business, but police would frequently confront her and accuse the business of being illegal. M. was arrested and detained multiple times with no explanation, and police opened an investigation into her anti-communist political opinion. Around the same time, M.’s father told her that she was an embarrassment to him for not supporting Castro and that he preferred that she be jailed in order to ‘fix’ her political beliefs. When a police officer confiscated materials out of her store and refused to return them, M. reported the police officer to his superiors. The police officer then threatened M. and tried to force her to withdraw the complaint. Fearing further attacks from the police, M. fled to the United States in 2019. Although M. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) when she entered the United States, her NTA has not yet been filed with the Immigration Court. Unless and until her NTA is filed, USCIS has initial jurisdiction over her application for asylum. NIJC timely filed M.’s skeletal application for asylum with USCIS in March 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to M.’s case will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office, which will maintain jurisdiction over her case unless her NTA is filed with the immigration court. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

31. A. is a man from Venezuela. A.’s next master hearing is on September 18, 2020. A. speaks Spanish and lives in a northwest suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140758)

A. worked for the Venezuelan government for over ten years. During his time there, he witnessed corruption throughout the administration, primarily in the mishandling of money. Although A. privately supported opposition political parties in Venezuela, he frequently experienced pressure from his superiors to attend pro-government political rallies. After refusing to attend some of these events, A.’s coworkers retaliated against him and began threatening him at work. A. later filed an anonymous complaint about the corruption that he had witnessed by

government officials at his workplace. In 2018, members of a pro-government paramilitary group kidnapped A. from his house. He was held for several hours and threatened for his knowledge of government activity and his participation in an opposition party. Fearing for his life, A. fled to the United States. A. filed a timely, *pro se* application for asylum with USCIS in March 2019. After attending an interview at the asylum office, USCIS referred his case to the immigration court for further review. All affidavits and supporting materials to A.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

32. R. is a man from Venezuela. R.'s next master calendar hearing is December 3, 2020. R. speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis, IN. (20-0140597)

R. was a member of an opposition party in Venezuela and was also a vocal supporter of political and social reform. As an activist, he attended meetings, distributed information and recruited new members. R. experienced several verbal threats from *colectivos*, armed paramilitary groups, who would pass by public party meetings to intimidate members. In 2017 while R. was at a march, he returned home to learn that a truck of *colectivo* members had passed by his house shooting guns and yelling his name. The following year, members of a *colectivo* surrounded and threatened R. and his girlfriend while they were walking to their car at a mall. In January of 2019, members of Venezuela's national security force, Sebin, were waiting outside of R.'s house. As he was leaving for work, they threw him into their truck, took him to a military base, and held him for about two days. During these two days, they threatened to make him disappear, and told him that he had to stop all participation in the opposition party. They let him go, but R. decided that it was not safe to stay, and fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed R.'s asylum application with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials R.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

33. R. is a man from Uganda. His next Master Calendar Hearing is June 3, 2021. R. speaks English and lives in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0141456)

R. volunteered as a youth organizer for Uganda's governing party. However, he became disillusioned with this work in 2017, when the Ugandan president announced his intentions to seek another term in office and the governing party arranged to interfere in the impending elections. R. began supporting an opposition political party instead, and eventually campaigned against the governing party's candidates in parliamentary elections. Because of his work with the opposition party, R. was arrested by Ugandan military police and tortured over the course of months. After his release from prison, government officials followed and threatened R. In early 2019, government officials returned to R.'s home, where they beat him and raped his niece. R. fled Uganda shortly after and arrived at the United States-Mexico border in September 2019. Because R. entered the United States after July 16, 2019, he could be subject to the second asylum (transit) ban. His *pro bono* attorneys should plan to argue that R. remains eligible for asylum, in addition to withholding of removal and Convention Against Torture relief, and NIJC will assist them in making that argument. R. timely filed his application for asylum with the Immigration Court in early 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to R.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

34. E. is a man from Uganda. He is currently waiting to be scheduled for his next Master

Calendar Hearing. E. speaks English and Luganda and lives in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0142445)

E., his fiancé, and their children lived in central Uganda, where he worked as a journalist and radio talk show host for several years. On his talk show, E. occasionally interviewed members and leaders of an opposition political party that criticized Uganda's president and ruling party. In early 2019, E. was abducted from his home in the middle of the night by Ugandan national security forces and detained for over three months. During that time, officers interrogated E. about his ties to the opposition political party and accused him of inciting violence against the Ugandan president. Officers frequently beat and tortured E. throughout his detention. E. eventually escaped the custody of the Ugandan security forces and fled to the United States. E. arrived at the United States-Mexico border in August 2019. Because E. entered the United States after July 16, 2019, he could be subject to the second asylum (transit) ban. His *pro bono* attorneys should plan to argue that E. remains eligible for asylum, in addition to withholding of removal and Convention Against Torture relief, and NIJC will assist them in making that argument. E. timely filed his application for asylum with the immigration court in early 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to E.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

35. D. is a young woman from El Salvador. Her children: J., L., and H. are included as derivatives on her asylum application and are also independently eligible for asylum. E. is D.'s adopted son who is also independently eligible for asylum. D. is currently awaiting the scheduling of her next Master Calendar Hearing. D., J., L., H., and E. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140962) (20-0140976) (20-0141188) (20-0141189) (20-0141191)

D's husband, P. was a member of the police force in El Salvador. Gang members from the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang started asking P. to work for them and when he refused, they targeted P., D., and their four children: J., L., H., and E. MS-13 gang members asked E. and L. to steal their father's (P.) police uniforms and beat them up badly when they refused. Soon after, gang members came to the family's house and attacked D. in front of her children. When E. found a note from MS-13 gang members slipped under the front door threatening to kill the whole family, D. and her four children: J., L., H., and E. fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed D., J., L. H. and E.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court. The venue in D.'s case was recently changed, and she has not yet been scheduled for a future hearing at the Chicago Immigration Court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

36. F. is a woman from Mexico. Her daughters, E. and S., will be derivatives on her application for asylum, and are also independently eligible for asylum. They are awaiting the rescheduling of their next Master Calendar hearing. F., E., and S. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0140079) (20-0140122) (20-0140123)

F. and her brother owned a tortilla shop in Mexico. Members of La Familia Michoacana, a Mexican drug cartel, began to extort the tortilla shop by threatening F.'s brother. F.'s brother paid the extortion fees to the cartel for a short period, but eventually he became unable to

continue paying. The cartel then threatened to kill F., her brother, and her children if any of them reported the extortion to the police. Soon after F.'s brother stopped paying the cartel, F. found his dead body in his home. After her brother's murder, F. reported the threats to the police, but they did not investigate and F. was unable to obtain protection for herself and her children. Cartel members then began threatening and extorting F. at the tortilla shop. When F. learned that cartel members had gone to her home to search for her and her children, she fled to the United States with E. and S. NIJC will timely file F., E., and S.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will likely be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

37. L. is a woman from El Salvador. She is currently awaiting the rescheduling of her next Master Calendar Hearing. L. speaks Spanish and lives in Central Indiana. (19-0138522)

L. ran a small business in El Salvador in a market controlled by the Mara 18 (M18) gang. Gang members began extorting L.'s business and threatened that they would harm her if she did not pay. L. told them she was unable to pay, and a few days later the gang members returned and physically assaulted her for refusing to pay. L. avoided the market for a few weeks after that, but eventually returned because she had no other source of income. L. began paying extortion fees to the gang. When L. could no longer afford to make the extortion payments, the gang members and a Salvadoran police officer returned to her business, threatened to kill her and physically assaulted her again. L. went to a police station over an hour away from her business and reported the extortion and beating. The police officer refused to take an official report. When L. returned to the market, the gang members were waiting for her and shot at her, yelling that they knew she tried to report them to the police. L. managed to escape the gang members and lived in hiding at a friend's house for a short time until she fled to the United States in 2019. NIJC timely filed L.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials for L.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

38. P. is a woman from Mexico. She is currently awaiting the rescheduling of her next Master Calendar Hearing. P. speaks Spanish and lives in Northwest Indiana. (20-0142189)

P. is a well-known animal rights activist in Mexico. For years, she regularly participated in public protests to hold people accountable for animal rights abuses and advocate for changes in local laws. In about March 2019, P. participated in a protest against a government official known to promote cock fighting. P. was ordered by government officials to stop the protests because they were damaging the government's image. M. refused to stop until the official was held accountable. About a month later, a masked man on a motorcycle attempted to shoot and kill P. P. survived, and made a report about the attack to the local district attorney's office. About ten days later, a masked motorcyclist again attempted to kill P. Shortly after, she received a message directly from the government official against whom she had been protesting. He knew about her police report and threatened to find and kill her. P. changed her phone number and relocated several times within Mexico. Each time, the government official found her and threatened to kill her. Fearing for her life, P. fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed P.'s skeletal application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and

supporting documents to P.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

39. J. is a young man from Guatemala. He is currently awaiting the rescheduling of his next Master Calendar Hearing. J. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140960)

On an afternoon in 2018, J. walked to a restaurant in his community in Guatemala where he had planned to meet his older brother to watch a soccer match. When he arrived, he witnessed a group of Mara 18 (M18) gang members physically attacking his brother, and eventually stabbing him to death. J. did not leave his home for weeks afterwards in an attempt to avoid the men who killed his brother, but M18 gang members started looking for him and waiting outside his home. J. planned to meet his brother to watch a soccer game, but when he arrived at the bar, he witnessed M18 gang members murder his brother. Soon after, M18 gang members started following J. and threatening him. One night a group of M18 members followed J. and beat him badly, threatening to kill him if he told the police about the gang's involvement in his brother's murder. Fearing for his life, J. fled to the United States in early 2019. J. filed a timely, *pro se* application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to J.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

40. M. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter C. is a derivative on M.'s application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. M. and C. are waiting to be scheduled for their next Master Calendar Hearing. M. and C. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140502) (20-0140873)

M. worked as a hair stylist in Honduras. One day on her way home from work, M. witnessed gang members killing a young man. Shortly after, people unknown to M. came to her home and beat her badly. M. made a police report, but everyone in M.'s town told her she had days to leave before something else happened to her. M. believes that the beating is connected to the police report she made, and that the people who attacked her are connected to the gang. Fearing for her life and for the life of her daughter, M. fled Honduras with C. in early 2019. NIJC timely filed M.'s asylum application with the immigration court. The venue in M. and C.'s case was recently changed, and they have not yet been scheduled for a future hearing at the Chicago Immigration Court. 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.

41. O. is a woman from Uganda. Her first Master Calendar Hearing has not been scheduled. She speaks English and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (20-0141767)

O. supported a political opposition party in Uganda, but also worked for a blood transfusion agency that was part of the government. During the past decade, she repeatedly organized blood drives and raised awareness regarding the shortage of blood caused by the ongoing conflicts in her country. During one blood drive, she was arrested by government officials and accused of sabotaging the government and using the blood drive to support the opposition. In 2016, members of the ruling party began threatening her to stop supporting the opposition party and

join the ruling party. When she reported these threats to the police, the police told her to join the ruling party if she wanted to stop the threats. After O. met with domestic and international health officials in early 2017 to discuss the shortage of blood in Uganda, members of the ruling party kidnapped O., beat and sexually assaulted her, and left for dead on the side of the road. O. fled Uganda in May 2018 and since then, O.'s husband and mother, who remain in Uganda, have continued to receive threatening calls about O. O. filed a timely, *pro se* application for asylum with the USCIS. After attending an interview at the asylum office regarding her application, USCIS declined to make a decision in her case and referred her application for asylum to the immigration court for further review. O.'s *pro bono* attorneys will need to supplement her original *pro se* filing with affidavits and additional supporting documents, which will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing. O.'s individual merits hearing has not yet been scheduled.

42. R. is a man from Mexico. His wife, L., and his daughter, B., will be derivatives on his application for asylum, and are also independently eligible for asylum. M. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0138307) (19-0138308) (19-0138311)

R. and his family lived in a rural community in central Mexico. In early 2019, members of the La Familia Michoacana, a Mexican drug cartel, shut down the electricity in R.'s village and sent messages to the residents informing them that the area was now under the control of the cartel. Cartel members started arriving at R.'s home and forcibly taking food and supplies from his family. Shortly after, members of the cartel began approaching R. and asking him to work for them. R. refused the requests of the cartel each time. Shortly after, cartel members attempted to kidnap L. and B. while they were on their way to B.'s school. Fearing further attacks from the cartel, R. and his family fled to the United States. Although R. and his family were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) when they entered the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not yet filed their NTAs with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the immigration court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. USCIS must receive R. and L.'s skeletal applications for asylum by May 2, 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials for R.'s and L.'s case will be due one week prior to their asylum interview, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

43. J. is a single mother from Honduras currently in removal proceedings along with her son, D. D. is a derivative on J.'s application for asylum, and is also independently eligible for asylum. J. and D. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0140392)(20-0140492)

As a teenager, J. met the father of her two oldest children. The two began living together when J. became pregnant. In about 2010, J.'s partner became abusive and began carrying a gun. In about June 2010, J.'s partner fled to Tegucigalpa because he had run afoul of a local drug-trafficking group. The criminal group started threatening J. and her family as a way to get to her ex-partner. For years, J., her children, and her extended family received death threats from the criminal group. In mid-2012, police murdered J.'s partner at the behest of the organized crime group. J. reported the murder to police, but police laughed at her and dismissed her claim. She

and her family relocated within Honduras to hide, but the criminal group stalked and threatened them further. In about January 2019, J. fled to the U.S. with her youngest son, D. J. fears that if she is forced to return to Honduras with her son, they will be killed by the criminal organization that has targeted them for nearly a decade. Although J. and D. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their application for asylum. NIJC timely filed J. and D.'s skeletal applications for asylum with USCIS in 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due one week prior to their interview at the asylum office, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

44. O. is a woman from Guatemala. Her son, I., will be a derivative on her application for asylum. O. and I. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0139797) (19-0139798)

O. owned a small gas station in Guatemala. In early 2019, gang members began calling O. and extorting her business. When O. refused to pay the extortion fees, gang members threatened to kill O. and her son, I. O. stopped sending I. to school out of fear that he would be killed by the gang in the street. O. reported the threats to the Guatemalan police, but she was unable to obtain protection from the gang, and she continued receiving phone calls threatening her life. O. stopped going to work in order to avoid the threats, but the gang continued to contact her and threaten to kill her and her son. Fearing for her and her son's life, O. fled to the United States with I. in 2019. After leaving Guatemala, gang members sent another death threat to O.'s gas station. Although O. and I. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the immigration court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. USCIS must receive O.'s skeletal application for asylum by May 8, 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due one week prior to her asylum interview, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

45. R. and L. are a husband and wife from Honduras. Their children, P. and T., will be derivatives on their applications for asylum. 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 (M18) gang started extorting L. and one of her sons, 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., their two daughters fled to the United States in 2019. L.'s is currently in Honduras, living in hiding from the gang. Although R., L., P., and T. were each issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) by the Department

of Homeland Security (DHS) when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the immigration court, USCIS has initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. USCIS must receive R. and T.'s skeletal applications for asylum by June 1, 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due one week prior to their asylum interview, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

46. V. is a woman from Mexico. Her children, N., C. and T. will be derivatives on her application for asylum, and are also independently eligible for asylum. V., N., C. and T. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (19-0137239) (19-0137260) (19-0137261) (19-0137262)

V. was raped by M., a police officer, at age 14. M. forced V. to live with him from then on and she endured years of abuse at his hands, including forced sterilization when her last child was born. Later, M. quit the police force to join the Las Zetas cartel. M. was arrested in Mexico several years ago. M. forced V. to visit him in prison and continued to threaten and sexually abuse her in prison. V. moved several times to escape him, but M. always found her from prison and threatened to kill her if she ever tried to leave him. After several years, V. met another man, X., and began a secret relationship with him. M. discovered V.'s new relationship and X.'s identity. After threatening phone calls and messages, Las Zeta cartel members crashed into X.'s car, threatening to kill him if he didn't leave V. After the crash, M.'s parents told V. that M. will be released from prison soon. Fearing that M. would follow through on his threats once released, V. fled to the United States with her three children. Although V. and her children were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) when they entered the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not yet filed their NTAs with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the immigration court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. NIJC timely filed V.'s asylum application with USCIS in 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials for V.'s case will be due one week prior to her asylum interview, unless her NTA is filed with the immigration court. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

47. J. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, K., is a derivative on her application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. J. and K. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0140392) (20-0140492)

As a child and young woman, J. was repeatedly sexually abused and assaulted by multiple men. Later, J. entered into a relationship with the father of her son K. He was involved with a powerful criminal organization in Honduras, but the organization subsequently placed his name on a hit list that was circulated among Honduran police officers who are paid to assassinate enemies of the organization. J.'s partner was subsequently murdered, and then J. and K. began to receive threats from the criminal organization as well. J. tried to hide in rural Honduras, but associates of the criminal organization located her. Days later, J. and K. fled Honduras. Although J. and K. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the Immigration Court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the immigration court, USCIS

retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications with USCIS in January 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due one week prior to their asylum interview, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court. The asylum office is currently closed through June 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the interview will not be scheduled until after that date.

48. K. is a young man from Vietnam. K.'s merits hearing is on July 21, 2021. K. speaks Vietnamese and lives in a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (18-0125360)

In 2017, K attended a protest denouncing a Chinese steel company for a toxic waste spill at their factory in Vietnam that damaged local marine life. Police arrived and began to violently quash the protest. Police assaulted and detained K. along with many other protestors. Officers then interrogated K. and threatened to detain him indefinitely. During his detention and interrogation, the police officers beat and threatened K. stating that they would indefinitely detain him. The police officers released K., but he was later summoned to appear for further interrogation. K. did not attend this interrogation out of fear for his safety, and instead fled to the United States to seek asylum. NIJC timely filed K.'s application for asylum with the Chicago Immigration Court. All affidavits and supporting documents for K.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing in 2021.

49. L. is a man from Mexico. His merits hearing is August 8, 2021. L. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (17-0116219)

L. first entered the United States in around 1995, returned to Mexico, and then came back to the United States in about 1999. In about 2013, while L. was in the United States, the Zetas cartel shop because she could not pay, they murdered her husband. Soon after, L.'s son Y. was deported from the United States and after he arrived back in Mexico, the Zetas began to extort and threaten him. When Y. did not pay, they murdered him. After Y.'s murder, the cartel also threatened L.'s sister and daughter, promising to kill them if they reported them to the police. In late 2016, L. returned to Mexico to visit his dying mother and the Zetas quickly learned he was there. They began asking and threatening his daughter about him; L. believes they wanted to extort him since he had been in the United States and believed he might want revenge for their murder of Y. In early 2017, shortly after his mother's funeral, his sister saw one of the Zetas' cars near their house and told L. to flee. After he escaped, the Zetas asked his sister about his location. L. immediately fled to the United States, entering on January 22, 2017. Soon after L. fled Mexico, the Zetas found L.'s brother in the street, demanded to know L.'s location, and beat him when he did not know. L.'s has several DUI convictions from the early 2000s, but none since then. These convictions do not bar L. from receiving asylum, but will need to be addressed for purposes of the judge's discretionary decision. NIJC timely filed L.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. L.'s affidavit and other supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing in 2021.

50. B. and T. are a husband and wife from Mexico. Their children, A. and E., are derivatives on their applications for asylum. Their merits hearing is on October 26, 2021. B., T., A., and E. speak Spanish and live a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (17-0115637) (17-0115363) (17-0115635) (17-0115638)

B. was friends with a municipal police officer, G., who became corrupt. When B. and T.'s son A. was in junior high, G. found A. in school and threatened to harm him if he did not sell drugs for a cartel. A. began staying home from school, but soon after, B. and T. received threatening calls insisting that A. sell drugs. G. and several other officers showed up and B.'s business, demanding A.'s participation. B. begged G. to negotiate with his commander and the officers left, taking several kilos of silver from B.'s silver shop as a bribe. The threatening calls continued, referencing the family's whereabouts, threatening A.'s life, and demanding money for his safety. The officers again found B. at the family's home and demanded a large sum of money. One officer hit B. when he said he could not pay. B. begged G. for time to sell his car and get them the money and G. agreed, but threatened to kill B. and his family if they did not get the payment. B. sold his car and used the money to flee with his family. Soon after they left, B.'s cousin was murdered and T.'s brother's house was burglarized. NIJC timely filed B. and T.'s skeletal applications for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing.

51. B. is a woman from Mexico. Her two sons, S. and A., are derivatives on her asylum application, and are also independently eligible for asylum. Their merits hearing is on April 12, 2022. L. is B.'s young grandson. Because he was designated an unaccompanied immigrant child, USCIS has initial jurisdiction over his asylum application, even though he is in removal proceedings. L.'s next Master Calendar Hearing is on May 18, 2020. M. is B.'s oldest son. Because he entered separately from his family and is not in removal proceedings, USCIS has initial jurisdiction over his asylum application. B., her sons, and grandson speak Spanish and live in central Wisconsin. (18-0128550) (18-0128674) (18-0128678) (18-0129157)

The fathers of all of B.'s five children were physically and verbally abusive, and by the time she was an adult she was forced to relocate to a different part of Mexico in order to get away from them, even though it meant raising all of her children on her own. She also cared for her grandson L., who thought of his uncles – B.'s teenage sons – as his brothers. In about 2014, when B.'s oldest son, M., turned 17, cartel members forcibly recruited him to work for them. M. resisted, and the cartel members so brutally assaulted him they thought they had killed him. Shortly after, M. fled to the United States to escape the cartel. When B.'s son S. turned 17 in late 2017, he faced the same fate as his older brother and began to be forcibly recruited to work for the cartel. They told S. that they would kill his mother if he refused to work for them. When S. refused to work for them, cartel members would break into their home and grab him in front of B. and the rest of his family. L. would hide under the bed and shut his eyes as he heard his uncles scream. Fearing for S.'s life, B. decided to flee to the United States with S., A., and L., but because L. was B.'s grandson and not her biological child, he was separated from her at the border. NIJC timely filed B.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to her case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing in 2022.

52. L. is a man from Guatemala. L.'s merits hearing is on April 26, 2022. L. speaks Spanish and lives in Bloomington, Illinois. (14-0088061)

When L. was about 14 years old, the M-18 gang began to forcibly recruit him. They threatened to kill his family if he did not join them and beat him when he refused to comply with their demands. For several years, the M-18 gang waited for him outside of his school and, on occasion, beat him so severely he fell unconscious. L. repeatedly told the gang he would not join them, but they continued to threaten and assault him. In August 2013, a gang member saw N. on the street and tried to hit him. His companion told him to stop, but the next day, the gang member went to N.'s home, flashed his gun, and told N. to leave by morning or he would kill him. L. left Guatemala immediately and entered the United States on about August 5, 2013. He was apprehended by immigration officers and released from custody after he passed a credible fear interview. NIJC timely filed L.'s asylum application with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to L's case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing in 2022.

53. Z. is a man from Republic of Congo. Z.'s merits hearing is on November 21, 2022. Z. speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (18-0126661)

In March 2012, there was a massive explosion at a Congolese military arms depot. Z.'s parents were among the casualties of the explosion. When the government promised to compensate the families of the victims, Z. filed the paperwork to obtain the compensation for his family, but never received the money. Z. believes that the government discriminated against him because of his ethnicity. After this experience, Z. started openly criticizing the Congolese government to his friends and coworkers. Shortly afterwards, government agents arrested and interrogated Z. They kept Z. imprisoned for three months, during which time they beat him nearly every night. A colonel who is friends with Z.'s family intervened and was able to get Z. released from prison. Z. then fled to the United States on a visa. After he fled, government agents went to Z.'s house, questioned Z.'s wife about Z.'s location, and beat her and one of their children. Z. initially applied for asylum with the asylum office, but the asylum office declined to grant his application, and referred his case to the immigration court. Z. already has substantial documentation in support of his claim. His *pro bono* attorneys will need to supplement that documentation and prepare his testimony and any other witness testimony for his merits hearing in 2022.

54. L. is a woman from El Salvador. Her sons, F. and N., are derivatives on L.'s application for asylum. L., F., and N.'s merits hearing is on January 30, 2023. L. and her sons speak Spanish and live in central Indiana. (18-0130104) (18-0130370) (18-0130372)

L. and her family lived across the street from a house that the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) used for meetings. L. ran a small store in her home, selling pupusas, tortillas, and other goods. Gang members demanded food from D.'s store. Not wanting to support the gang, D. shut down her store. Later, gang members demanded that L.'s husband help them transport drugs and weapons in his car and threatened to kill him and his family if he ever told anyone about their activity. L.'s husband refused the gang's demands, and they threatened to kill their son F. if he did not comply. Soon after, several gang members in an automobile followed F. on his motorcycle and rear-ended him, leaving him with severe wounds. The MS-13 continued to threaten L.'s family, eventually saying that they would kill L., her husband, and her sons if they

did not vacate their home. Fearing for their lives, L. and her sons fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed L., F., and N.'s applications for asylum with the Immigration Court in 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials to L.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing in 2023.

55. J. is a young man from Honduras. His merits hearing is February 15, 2023. J. speaks Spanish and lives in a northwest suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (19-0135978)

When J. was four years old, his mother sold him to neighbors as a servant. The neighbors brutally abused J. for several years until he escaped to his mother's house. When his mother kicked him out of the house at the age of 13, J. worked a series of jobs while living with different family members. Eventually, he moved in with his sister's family and became the youngest member of a construction crew building new cells within a gang-controlled prison. Gang-affiliated prisoners immediately attempted to force J. to run drugs for them, and when J. ignored their demands, they threatened to send their associates outside the prison to kill J. and his family. As J. continued to receive threats, he also escaped a prison riot during which prisoners killed multiple police officers. Fearing for his life, J. fled Honduras in February 2018. J. timely filed his application for asylum. All affidavits and supporting materials to J.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing in 2023.

56. D. is a woman from Togo. Her merits hearing is on July 17, 2023. Although she is proficient in French, she will require a Mina interpreter to prepare her affidavit. NIJC will assist her attorneys in identifying an interpreter. She lives in Chicago, Illinois. (18-0123400)

D. was a member of an opposition political party in Togo and frequently participated in protests against the ruling government. In 2013, government officials set fire to the marketplace where D. worked, and blamed it on members of her political party. Shortly after, officials arrested and interrogated D., pressuring her to say that members of her party had planned the fire. D. refused, so officials detained and tortured her, along with a group of other female members of her party. At the time of her arrest, D. was pregnant and the frequent beatings caused her to miscarry the baby. Afterwards, the guards sent her to a nearby hospital, from which D. was able to escape. She continued organizing with her party in secret, but eventually she was discovered by the police and arrested. D. was tortured again, including severe strangulation. Eventually she was released to the hospital and soon after, she fled to the United States. D. filed a timely, *pro se* application for asylum with USCIS, but they referred her case to the immigration court. D.'s *pro bono* attorneys will need to supplement her original, *pro se* filing with an affidavit and other supporting documents, all of which will be due 15 days prior to D.'s merits hearing in 2023.

57. B. is a woman from El Salvador. Her children, W. and D., are derivatives on her application for asylum. B.'s merits hearing is on July 20, 2023. B. and her children speak Spanish and live in Central Indiana. (17-0121105) (17-0121956) (17-0121957)

B. ran a small business along with her partner selling fruit in a market. The daughter of B.'s partner did not support the relationship and frequently tried to get her father to leave B. The daughter's boyfriend is also a Mara 18 gang member. When B.'s partner came to the United States, B. was left alone to run their business. Soon after, Mara 18 gang members took control of

her home and began extorting her business. One day, the boyfriend of her partner's daughter and two other Mara 18 gang members kidnapped B. and gang raped her, taking photos to send to her partner's daughter. When B. became pregnant from the rapes, the Mara 18 members told her she had to get rid of the baby because it would cause problems for them with their girlfriends. B. denied her pregnancy but eventually could not hide it any longer and was forced to flee to the United States to avoid retaliation from the Mara 18 gang members for refusing to get an abortion. After arriving in the United States, B. missed a court date and was ordered removed in absentia. A few years later NIJC successfully reopened B.'s court case. Because B. and her children did not file their applications for asylum with the immigration court until more than one year after they entered the United States, B.'s *pro bono* attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting documents to B.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing in 2023.

58. P. is a young man from Honduras. P. speaks Spanish and lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (18-0124617)

P.'s father regularly abused him throughout his childhood, up until his father's death in 2015. After his father's death, a local gang began to heavily recruit P. Although P. refused to join the gang, the gang forced P., under threat of death, to assist them with gang activity, such as transporting drugs, serving as a lookout, and robbing others. As the threats became more serious, P. decided to flee to the United States in March 2017, fearing that they would force him to participate in worse activities or kill him if he refused. Upon his entry, he was designated as an unaccompanied immigrant child. Although P. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not filed the NTA with the immigration court and P. is not yet in removal proceedings. Unless and until DHS files the NTA with the court, USCIS maintains jurisdiction over his asylum application. NIJC has filed P.'s skeletal asylum application. Although P. missed his one-year filing deadline, he qualifies for an exception to the deadline, and NIJC will assist his *pro bono* attorneys in making that argument. His affidavit and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to his interview at the asylum office. The timeline for his interview is uncertain. Please review the asylum office scheduling update at <http://immigrantjustice.org/policy/blog> for more information.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

SIJS is a form of immigration relief available to unmarried children who have suffered abuse, neglect, or abandonment by a parent or legal guardian. In order to apply for this relief, the child must first have a state court order asserting that they have suffered abuse, abandonment or neglect. In these matters, NIJC represents the child in her immigration case, and will attend all immigration court dates with the child. The pro bono attorney handles the state court matter only, representing the parent or guardian to obtain a custody or guardianship order with the special findings necessary for SIJS. NIJC will work closely with the pro bono attorney to ensure that the pleadings and orders in state court comply with the immigration requirements.

59. M. is an 8-year-old boy from El Salvador. He speaks Spanish and lives with his mom in Newton County, IN. (17-0119852)

M. does not remember his father and has not had a relationship with him in many years. M.'s mother fled to the U.S. in 2012 after receiving threats from gangs, leaving M. and his older sister with another family member. The next year, M.'s older sister was threatened as well, and fled to the U.S. with M., who was only 2 years old at the time. M. and his older sister, who is now an adult, live with their mother in Newton County, Indiana. M.'s father is still in El Salvador, and has not provided for M. emotionally or financially. A *pro bono* attorney will need to file a custody case on behalf of M.'s mother, and obtain an order finding that M.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to abandonment, and that it is not in M.'s best interest to return to El Salvador.

60. U. is a 14-year-old girl from Honduras who speaks Spanish and lives with her mother in Hamilton County, IN. (16-0110180)

U.'s father has never provided her with any financial support, and as a result, U.'s mother came to the United States in 2012 to find work and send money home to support her children. U. and her sister were left with an aunt, as their father had a new girlfriend and refused to care for them. In 2016, U. and her sister began receiving threats from gang members and fled to the United States. U. and her sister, who is now an adult, live with their mother in Indiana. A *pro bono* attorney will need to file a custody case on behalf of U.'s mother, and obtain an order finding that reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment and that it is not in her best interest to return to Honduras.

U Visa Cases

61. H. is a young woman from Honduras. H. is also eligible for a U visa as an indirect victim of a qualifying crime because her son P. was the victim of domestic violence as a minor. P. will be a derivative on H.'s U visa petition and both H. and P. will require waivers if inadmissibility for the U visa. H. is also seeking asylum and P. is a derivative on H.'s application for asylum, and is also independently eligible for asylum. H. and P. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0141408) (20-0141410) (20-0141208) (20-0141209)

H.'s ex-partner, J., began physically abusing H. after she became pregnant with their son, P. Soon after, J. was arrested and imprisoned for two years. After he was released, J. sought out H. and began threatening her. He also began associating with gang members. H. told J. that she did not want a relationship with him. This made J. furious, and he continued to stalk and threaten H. One night, J. sexually assaulted H. and threatened to kill her if she tried to leave him. Fearing for her life, H. fled to the United States with her son. H. filed a timely, *pro se* application for asylum with the immigration court. Her *pro bono* attorneys should also plan to file an independent application for asylum for P. prior to their merits hearing. All affidavits and supporting materials to H. and P.'s case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

Separately, in July 2018, H.'s son P. was the victim of domestic battery as a young child when H.'s brother-in-law grabbed P. by his hair and shirt and pulled him across a room, leaving P.

with scratches on his shoulder. H.'s sister called the police because she witnessed the abuse and H. spoke with and cooperated with the police. This incident affected H. emotionally and P. began to act out in school and against H. Both H. and P. are seeking counseling to help them move forward. C.'s U visa application must be received by USCIS on or before July 13, 2020.

62. M. is a woman from Mexico. She speaks Spanish and resides in a suburb of Chicago. M qualifies for a U visa because she was the victim of domestic violence by her spouse. M. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. M.'s U visa application must be received by USCIS on or before October 13, 2020. (19-0138343)

M. was the victim of domestic violence. M.'s husband, C., approached her in the driveway and began accusing her of cheating on him. As he was yelling, he slapped M. across the face with an open hand. M. ran into her house, screaming, and told her children what happened. M. immediately called the police. When the police arrived, they noticed that she had a large red mark on her cheek from where she had been slapped. C. was arrested on site. M. later obtained an Order of Protection against C., and is currently in divorce proceedings. M. regularly attends domestic violence counseling. M. hopes to move forward and build healthy lives for herself and her US citizen children.

63. Y. is a woman from Mexico. She speaks Spanish and resides in a suburb of Chicago. Y. qualifies for the U visa because she was the victim of domestic violence. Y. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. Y.'s application must be received by October 13, 2020. (19-0139162) (19-0139170).

Y. was the victim of domestic violence at the hands of her ex-husband, S. On October 08, 2008, S. got angry with Y. and struck her with a closed fist on her back and on her chin. The next day, Y. reported the incident to the police as she could no longer take the abuse. When responding officers from the Plano Police Department arrived at the scene, Y. informed them that S. had been physically and emotionally abusive in the past. Y. also provided a written statement of the incident to the officers, which led to S.'s arrest. Y also filed an emergency order of protection against S. Y.'s daughter, A., is eligible to be a derivative on Y.'s application.

NIJC Announcements

The immigration world is changing! Bookmark NIJC's [Immigration Procedural Update](#) page and check it frequently for news that may impact your *pro bono* case.

Guidance for *Pro Bono* Attorneys Regarding COVID-19 and Immigration Matters

Please check [here](#) for regular updates regarding changes that may affect your *pro bono* case.

Practice Alert for U Visa and Asylum Cases

Attorneys representing U visa and asylum applicants before USCIS should be aware that USCIS may reject your Form I-918, Form I-918 Supplement A, or Form I-589 if you leave a field blank,

unless the field is optional. For more information, please review the [practice alert](#) on NIJC's Immigration Procedural Updates page.

Upcoming Training and Events

NIJC offers a wide variety of virtual trainings and presentations on updates in immigration law and policy. Check out the [Events Calendar](#) on NIJC's website for the most updated opportunities.