

May 21, 2021

## **NIJC Pro Bono Case List: 43 cases need pro bono representation.**

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

- **Asylum Matters:**
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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 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, contact Dave Faherty at [dfaherty@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:dfaherty@heartlandalliance.org).
- **LGBT** cases, contact Aneesha Gandhi at [AGandhi@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:AGandhi@heartlandalliance.org).
- All other **asylum** cases, contact Beatriz Schaver at [bschaver@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:bschaver@heartlandalliance.org).
- **SIJS** cases, contact Hillary Richardson at [hrichardson@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:hrichardson@heartlandalliance.org).
- **U Visa** or **VAWA** cases, contact Lizbeth Sanchez at [lisanchez@heartlandalliance.org](mailto: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](mailto:emiller@heartlandalliance.org).

## **Asylum Matters**

### **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.*

- 1. M. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter, D., will be a derivative on her asylum application and is also independently eligible for asylum. M. and D. speak Spanish and live in northcentral Indiana. (20-0143663) (20-0143734)***

When M. was a young teenager, her uncle raped her and then forced her to live with him for years, where he beat and raped her regularly. As a result, M. gave birth to her daughter when she was about 16 years old. After continued abuse, M. finally escaped to the United States with her daughter, D., in 2019. Although M. 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 with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. NIJC filed M. and D.'s applications for asylum with USCIS in August 2020. Because these applications were filed more than one year after M. and D. entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due one week prior to M. and D.'s interview at the asylum office, which could occur at any time in the coming months, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court.

- 2. 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 with USCIS in May 2017. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office. The date of the interview is uncertain at this time.

- 3. M. is a young woman from Honduras. Her son, O., is a derivative on her application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. They are currently awaiting the scheduling of their merits hearing. M. and O. speak Spanish and live in northern Illinois (18-0130624) (18-0131084)***

M.'s father and other caretakers physically and emotionally abused her throughout her life in Honduras. When she was 15 years old, she met O.'s father. Soon after they began a relationship, he started to beat and rape M. frequently, and continued to do so throughout her pregnancy with O. He and his family also emotionally abused M. and blamed her for the abuse. M. fled to the United States shortly after O.'s birth. NIJC timely filed M. and O.'s applications for asylum in 2019. All affidavits and supporting documentation for M. and O.'s case will be due 30 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

- 4. H. is a woman from Nigeria. Her husband, D., and their three children, will be derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. Their Master Calendar hearing was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has not been rescheduled. H. and her family speak English and Yoruba and live in Central Indiana. (20-0145257) (20-0144688) (21-0145523) (21-0145524) (21-0145525)***

H. and her husband, D., have been practicing Christians for over 30 years and have held senior leadership positions within their church for some time. H. and her husband both adamantly oppose the spiritual practices of their family ethnic group, which include fertility rituals, female circumcision, and the worship of idols. Because of their opposition, H. and her family members suffered physical attacks and ongoing threats from family elders. They relocated to Lagos in order to avoid further harm, but were unable to live there safely. In 2010, a group of elders forced their way into H.'s home and beat her with sticks. H. was badly bruised all over her body and was hospitalized for over a month; this attack resulted in the stillbirth of her child. In 2014, family elders began to demand that H. and her husband submit their daughter, K., to them for female circumcision. When they refused, the elders began threatening to kidnap H. and D.'s children and kill H. and D. if they did not comply. H. and her family fled to the United States in 2019 and filed for asylum with the USCIS asylum office, but USCIS referred their applications to the immigration court for further review. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

- 5. K. is a woman from Honduras. K.'s merits hearing is on June 6, 2023. K. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0134871)***

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, but 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. K. is otherwise eligible for withholding of removal and relief under the Convention Against Torture. All affidavits and supporting materials to K.'s case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing in 2023.

***6. K. is a woman from Mexico. Her daughter, L., will be included in her application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. They are awaiting the scheduling of their merits hearing in Chicago. K. and L. speak Spanish and live in southern Indiana. (20-0142644) (20-0142680)***

K.'s husband verbally, sexually, and physically abused her in Mexico for about three decades. In 2019, K. discovered that her husband was also sexually abusing their daughter, L. As a result of the abuse, L. began to self-harm and experience suicidal ideation. K. began making plans to flee her husband, but he threatened to kill both her and L. if she ever tried to leave or take his child away from him. Fearing for her own life and for the life of her daughter, K. and L. fled Mexico soon thereafter. NIJC timely filed K. and L.'s skeletal applications for asylum with the immigration court, and also responded to a scheduling order. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***7. P. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, T., is a derivative on P.'s application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. They are waiting for their Master Calendar hearing to be rescheduled. P. and T. speak Spanish and live in northcentral Indiana. (20-0144943) (20-0144967)***

As a young teenager, P. was abducted by an older man who forced her to live with him in a secluded area. He sexually abused P. and she became pregnant with her child, T. Although P.'s family went to the police, her abductor was never held accountable because he paid someone to make the police report disappear. P. was forced to live with him and his family for several years, as he continued to abuse her. He threatened to hurt her and her family if she left him. One day, P. and T. were able to escape the house and flee to her family's home. Her abuser continued to threaten her and her family if she did not return. Not long after she escaped, someone set fire to her family's home during the night. After that, P. was raped by another man and became pregnant again. Her first abuser tried to force her to abort the baby since it was not his. P. and her child, T. fled to the United States in 2018. NIJC filed P. and T.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court, but because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that P. and T. merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All

affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

- 8. *A. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughters B. and C. are derivatives on A.'s application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. A. has not yet been placed in removal proceedings; B.'s next Master Calendar is on September 15, 2021; and C.'s next Master Calendar is on February 24, 2022. The family speaks Spanish and live in a northern suburb of Chicago. (20-0142226) (20-0142227) (20-0142231)***

A. was a single mother of two daughters when their home was robbed. After A. reported the robbery to police, she received threats stating the attackers knew that only women lived in A.'s home. When A.'s home was attacked again, she and her daughter identified their attackers to the police. The attackers were arrested, released shortly thereafter, and escalated their threats including multiple written notes and firing shots at their house. Fearing for their lives, the family fled to the United States shortly after. Because A. and B. did not file their applications for asylum with the immigration court until more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All documentation to their cases will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

- 9. *R. is a young woman from Honduras. Her son, X., is a derivative on her application for asylum. R. and X are awaiting the scheduling of their next Master Calendar Hearing. R. and her son speak Spanish and live in the Indianapolis area. (21-0147328) (21-0147374)***

R.'s parents were largely absent from her life. When she was a young child, she went to live with her grandparents, who shared a home with her aunts and uncles. While living there, her uncle began to regularly molest her, beginning when she was about 8 years old. Her aunt and grandmother also abused her verbally and physically, and did not believe her when she shared about her uncle's abuse. R. ran away when she was about 15 and eventually met the father of her son, who physically, verbally, and sexually abused her. R. fears her ex-partner will try to take X. from her if she has to return to Honduras. R. fled Honduras after being robbed and threatened at gunpoint, but when she attempted to seek asylum in the United States, she was placed in the MPP "Remain in Mexico" process where she was forced to remain in Mexico for about one and a half years while waiting for her asylum case to be adjudicated. During this time, she received threatening messages from the father of her child. In March 2021, R. and her son were paroled into the United States after the administration ended the Remain in Mexico policy. R. timely filed her asylum application while in Mexico, although due to the challenges of seeking asylum while in Mexico, the application does not fully account for all of the past persecution she suffered. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

*Asylum claims based on political opinion or religious beliefs 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.*

### ***10. L. is a man from Honduras. L.’s Master Calendar hearing was cancelled due to COVID-19. He is currently awaiting the rescheduling of the hearing. L. speaks Spanish and lives in a southwestern suburb of Chicago. (20-0142467)***

In 2018, L. was living with his former partner, D., when she began to receive threatening text messages from her ex-husband. Within a few days, D.’s ex-husband murdered her. Soon after, L. began to receive threatening messages from men associated with D.’s ex-husband. These men also started to intimidate L.’s family while they were looking for him. L. assisted D.’s family in making a police report about the murder, but nothing significant came of it and police even tried to blame L. for D.’s death. L. fled Honduras about a month after D.’s death, fearing that the same people who killed her would come for him next. L. filed a pro se application for asylum with the immigration court in 2020. Because this application was filed more than one year after he entered the United States, L.’s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that he merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to L.’s case will be due 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

### ***11. F. is a man from Somalia. He is waiting the rescheduling of his next Master Calendar hearing. F. lives in Chicago and speaks Somali. (20-0145316)***

When F. returned to Somalia after studying at a university in Ethiopia, Al-Shabaab repeatedly threatened him and accused of being an infidel and a spy. Even after F. tried to relocate, Al-Shabaab found him and continued to threaten his life. An immigration judge previously granted F. withholding of removal while he was detained and pro se, but denied him asylum as a matter of discretion solely because the judge disliked the fact that F. had traveled through multiple countries before reaching the United States. After F. appealed the asylum denial to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), the BIA granted the appeal and remanded to allow the court to conduct further fact-finding on the discretionary determination. Because the government did not appeal the withholding grant, that decision is not at issue on remand. With asylum, F. will have a path to citizenship in the United States, but with only a grant of withholding, he will not be able to obtain permanent status. F.’s attorneys will need to prepare additional evidence to support a positive discretionary grant prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**12. R. is a woman from El Salvador. Her children, S. and A., are derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. R., S., and A. are currently awaiting the rescheduling of their Master Calendar hearing. The entire family speaks Spanish and lives in a northern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (20-0145270) (20-0145273)(20-0141796) (20-0142695) (20-0142696)**

The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang controlled the neighborhood in El Salvador where R. lived with her family. Gang members extorted, threatened and robbed R.'s husband, J., ultimately forcing him to flee the country with their son, P. In early 2019, Salvadoran police shot and killed a gang member near R.'s home. Shortly after, gang members came to R.'s home and accused her of collaborating with the police and giving them information about gang activity. During the same period, gang members attempted to forcibly recruit R.'s son, and threatened to kill the entire family if he refused. R. made a police report, then quickly fled to the United States with her children, S. and A. NIJC filed R., S., and A.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court in August 2020. All affidavits and supporting documents to R., S., and A.'s case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. Although J. and P. 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 applications for asylum. NIJC filed their asylum applications with USCIS in January 2021. J. and P.'s affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to their interview at the asylum office. The timeline for this interview is uncertain. Because the family's applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making that argument.

**13. 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. They are awaiting a new Master Calendar hearing date. 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 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. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**14. B. is a man from Guatemala. He is currently awaiting the rescheduling of his next Master Calendar Hearing. B. speaks Spanish and lives in southern Indiana. (20-0142513)**

B. was a member of a human rights group in Guatemala that protested mining projects and advocated for the rights of agricultural workers in his village. In 2019, Guatemalan police came to B.'s home and threatened to kill him if he continued his involvement with this group. Soon after, police kidnapped and detained B. for about a day and a half, during which time they beat him and interrogated him about his participation with the group, telling him that if he continued to defy them he would not survive. Fearing for his life, B. fled to the United States as soon as he was released from police custody. B. filed his application for asylum with the immigration court in 2019. Due to a previous deportation, B. is not eligible for asylum, but remains eligible for withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture. All affidavits and supporting materials to B.'s case will be due 30 days prior to his individual hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***15. X. is a man from Honduras. His daughter, I. is a derivative on his application for asylum and is also independently eligible for asylum. X. and I. are awaiting the rescheduling of their next Master Calendar hearing. X. and I. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0143463) (20-0143713)***

X. is an indigenous man from Honduras who owned land and fought for environmental rights in his community. A criminal organization took note of X.'s work and began forcibly recruiting him and demanding he give up the rights to his land. During the same period, X. participated in a national campaign with other members of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) to protest the construction of a hydroelectric dam that would have disenfranchised indigenous landowners. The Honduran police began threatening X. for his participation in this campaign and demanded that he stop opposing the construction of the dam. The criminal organization that previously attempted to recruit X. also began threatening him for his participation in the campaign, leading X. to believe that the criminal organization was working with the police to put down the protests. X. fled to the United States with his daughter, I., in 2019. NIJC timely filed X. and I.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will likely be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***16. 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. R. 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. Cartel members then 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. NIJC timely filed R., L., and B.'s skeletal applications for asylum with USCIS in April 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials for the family's case will be due one week prior to their interview at the asylum office, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court.

***17. P. is a man from Mexico. His wife S. and his three daughters, E., G., and R. will be derivatives on his application for asylum, and they are also independently eligible for asylum. P. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0142076) (20-0142077) (20-0143342) (20-0143343) (20-0143344)***

In Mexico, P. worked for a bank. In 2018, a known member of a large drug cartel came to P.'s bank and demanded that P. open a bank account for him. P.'s bank would not approve the new account, and the cartel member became furious with P. Afterwards, the same cartel member started threatening P. and other members of the cartel contacted P. demanding money. Out of fear, P. left his job and relocated to another town, but he was unable to support his family and eventually resumed working at the bank. Despite his attempts to keep a low profile, the cartel continued to target and threaten P. and his family. Fearing escalating attacks from the cartel, P. and his family fled to the United States. Although P. 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. NIJC timely filed P., S., E., G., and R.'s skeletal applications for asylum with USCIS in September 2020. All affidavits and supporting materials for the family's case will be due one week prior to their interview at the asylum office, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court.

***18. J. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, 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. Around 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 continued to stalk and threatened them. Around January 2019, J. fled to the United States 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 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 applications 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.

**19. R. and L. are a husband and wife from Honduras. Their children, P. and T., will be derivatives on their applications for asylum. The family is waiting for their next Master Calendar hearing to be rescheduled. R., L., P., and T. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0138764) (19-0138767) (19-0139752) (19-0139755)**

R. owned a dental practice in Honduras and L. worked as a teacher. In early 2019, members of the Mara 18 (M18) gang started extorting L. and her son and threatening to kill them if they did not pay. When L. refused the gang's demands, gang members began threatening R. and threatening to kill the entire family if they continued to refuse to pay extortion fees to the gang. R. reported the threats to the police in Honduras, but the police did not investigate and the family was unable to obtain protection from the gang. Fearing for their lives, R., L., and their two daughters fled to the United States in 2019. NIJC timely filed the family's asylum applications. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**20. F. is a man from Mexico. His wife, C., and their children, T. and R., will be derivatives on his application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for June 16, 2021. F. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0143334) (20-0143335) (20-0143338) (20-0143339) (20-0143340)**

F. and his eldest son, T., were working together at their wood mill in Mexico when members of a cartel approached them and demanded that T. start working for them. F. refused to let the cartel take his son, and told the cartel members that T. wanted to remain with his family and earn an honest living. Soon after, the cartel members threatened to kill the entire family and kidnap T. if he did not work with them. The cartel gave the family two days to decide, and F. chose to flee with his wife and children. F., C., T., and R. entered the United States in December 2019. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum. All documentation to F., C., T., and R.'s cases will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**21. 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 Mara 18 (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 L. on the street and tried to hit him. His companion told him to stop, but the next day, the gang member went to L.'s home, flashed his gun, and told L. to leave by morning or he would kill him. L. left Guatemala immediately and entered the United States. 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 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing in 2022.

**22. 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 L.'s store. Not wanting to support the gang, L. 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 the gang 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 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing in 2023.

**23. J. is a young man from Honduras. His merits hearing is on 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 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing in 2023.

**24. B. is a woman from El Salvador. Her children, W. and D., are derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible 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, J., selling fruit in a market. J.'s daughter did not support the relationship. J.'s daughter's boyfriend is a Mara 18 gang member. When J. came to the United States, B. was left alone to run the business. Soon after, Mara 18 gang members took control of B.'s home and began extorting her business. The boyfriend of J.'s daughter and two other Mara 18 gang members kidnapped B. and gang raped her, taking photos to send to J. 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. B. fled 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 they merit 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 30 days prior to their merits hearing in 2023.

***25. 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 in March 2017, fearing that the gang would force him to participate in worse activities or kill him if he refused. Upon his entry into the United States, 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 so P. is not yet in removal proceedings. Unless and until DHS files the NTA with the court, USCIS maintains jurisdiction over P.'s asylum application. NIJC filed P.'s asylum application, but because it was filed more than a year after he entered the United States, P.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that he merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist his pro bono attorneys in making that argument. P.'s 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.

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

M. owned a small business in Ecuador where people could pay to use computers and printers. His shop was located near the local market where corrupt police officers frequently forced vendors to pay them in order to sell there. Around August of 2018, two officers left behind a flash drive after using computers in M.'s store. After they left, M. opened the flash drive and discovered evidence of the overcharging of market vendors. When the officers came back to retrieve the flash drive, they warned M. that he would have problems if he had looked at the contents of the flash drive and spoke out against them. Afterwards, M. began to receive threats from the police and a gang affiliated with the police. Around January of 2019, gang members kidnapped M. and took him to a remote location where they beat him and took his money. After this incident, M. fled the country, but people continued to come to his shop looking for him and threatened to harm his girlfriend and daughter, which led them to flee as well. NIJC plans to file M.'s asylum application with the immigration court in April 2021. Although M. is past his one-year filing deadline, he merits an exception to the deadline and NIJC will assist his attorneys in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to M.'s case will be due 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**27. J. is a man from El Salvador. His son, D., is a derivative on J.'s application for asylum and also has an independent claim. They are awaiting the rescheduling of their next Master Calendar Hearing. J. and D. speak Spanish and live in Indianapolis. (20-0143863) (20-0143876)**

J. owned a car painting business in El Salvador. Soon after he opened his business, members of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang began demanding that he pay them every couple of weeks. They threatened to kill him and his family if he did not obey. J. paid the MS-13 on a regular basis for almost eight years, but it became more difficult over time to make the payments. At some point, J. told MS-13 members that he would have to stop paying them. Around this time, J.'s son, D., and his stepdaughter, A., were walking home when a man attempted to kidnap them. J. closed his business and he and his son D. fled to the United States. J. timely filed his asylum application with the immigration court in July 2020. NIJC filed D.'s independent asylum application with the immigration court in January 2021. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**28. V. is a woman from Honduras. Her children C. and T. are derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. The family speaks Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0143706) (20-0145601) (21-0145598)**

V.'s former partner, K., is a gang member in Honduras. During their relationship, he physically and sexually K., tried to force her to have an abortion, and threatened to kill her if she ever left him. He also abused V's children and tried to force her son to join his gang by threatening to kill V. and her children if he refused. Gang members also attempted to extort V. by threatening to kill her and her children if she refused. V. and her daughters fled to the United States in late 2018. NIJC filed V., C., and T.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court, but because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that V., C., and T. merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. V.'s son L. entered the United States as an unaccompanied child and as a result, his case was in a different procedural posture. NIJC filed his asylum application with USCIS and USCIS granted him asylum in May 2021, which should be helpful when presenting the case of his mother and sisters.

**29. T. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter, S., is a derivative on her application and is also independently eligible for asylum. They are currently awaiting the rescheduling of their Master Calendar Hearing. T. and S. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0143517) (20-0143534)**

T. and her daughter S. were both subjected to gender violence by family members, including an uncle and S.'s father. T. married S.'s father X. in 2010 and X abused T. and S. throughout the relationship. In 2017, T. and S. moved to T.'s mom's house after a particularly brutal incident of abuse. While there, X. sent gang members to watch T. and track her movements. Under pressure from his family, X. agreed to a divorce, but warned T. that she was still his woman, that he

would never let her leave, and that he would take S. from her if she ever remarried. T. reported the abuse to the police, but received no protection. T. and S. fled Honduras in 2019. NIJC filed T. and S.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court in August 2020. Because these applications were filed more than one year after T. and S. entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials for T. and S.'s case will be due 30 days prior to their individual hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***30. T. is a man from Mexico. His wife, R. and their four children, C., Z., A., and M., are derivatives on his asylum application and also independently eligible for asylum. The family speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (20-0140260) (20-0140262) (20-0140264) (20-0140265) (20-0140266) (20-0140267)***

T. was a landowner and vocal advocate against cartel activity in his community. In August 2018, Guerreros Unidos cartel members demanded that T. join their cartel and allow them to take over his family's land, but T. refused. In November 2018, the heavily armed cartel members threatened and beat T. After T. escaped to a neighboring village, cartel members threatened T.'s wife, R. and demanded to know where he was. T. and R. left with their children and fled to the United States shortly afterwards. Since then, cartel members have ransacked T.'s family home and have taken over T.'s family land. T. filed a timely, pro se asylum application in July 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials for the family's case will be due 30 days prior to their individual hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***31. R is a woman from Venezuela. Her next Master Calendar Hearing is scheduled for June 17, 2021. R. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago. (21-0145778)***

R. worked as an attorney for a government-run company for many years. R. was responsible for monitoring projects and partnerships to ensure legal compliance. Her supervisor was vocally pro-government, while R. was part of the opposition. In 2014, R. discovered significant irregularities while working on a project, but her supervisor warned her not to interfere because of the political affiliations of the people involved. In 2019, R. began to receive threatening phone calls, her car was repeatedly vandalized, and her supervisor continued to act very hostile and threatening towards her. At the end of April 2019, a suspicious car followed R. to her apartment. Shortly thereafter, somebody shot a bullet through her window. After this, R. fled to the United States. She timely filed for asylum in February 2020 and had an interview with the Asylum Office in December 2020. Her case was referred to the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to R.'s case will be due 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

The father of S.'s first child abused her and eventually brought her to a psychiatric hospital and told staff she was crazy. While at the hospital, a nurse raped S. and she became pregnant with her second child. In El Salvador, S. worked as a television reporter and her boss routinely sexually harassed her, forced her to report on violent, gang-related stories, and used his connections to highly ranked gang members to intimidate her against reporting him. After S. did report his treatment, members of the Mara 18 gang began waiting outside of her home and threatening her, saying there would be consequences if she spoke out. In early 2019, gang members attacked and beat her brother. Soon afterwards, S. fled to the United States with her daughter. NIJC plans to file S.'s asylum application with the court soon. Because this application will be filed more than one year after S. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to S.' case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***33. Y. is a young man from Honduras. He is waiting for his Master Calendar hearing to be scheduled. Y. speaks Spanish and lives in a northwest suburb of Chicago. (21-0146806)***

Y. is a young man who is exploring his gender identity and sexual orientation. Y.'s family owned a farm in Honduras. For many years, local gang members told Y.'s father that they would kill him and his family if he did not turn over his land to the Los Amadores gang. Y.'s father reported the threats to law enforcement officials, who told them they could not control the gang. In January 2020, gang members murdered Y.'s mother, father, and siblings while Y. was at a friend's house. A neighbor told Y. that gang members were searching for him. Y. fled to San Pedro Sula. Members of the gang followed him there, showing people around town photos of Y. and asking if they had seen him. Y. fled to another area of Honduras where he lived in hiding for several months before he could escape to the United States. Afraid that he would be turned away at the border, Y. used a false birth certificate so that he would be processed as a child. In addition to his fear of the gang, Y. also fears he will be targeted because of his gender identity and sexual orientation. Y. timely filed his asylum application with the immigration court in January 2021. All affidavits and supporting materials to Y.'s case will be due 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***34. A. is a woman from Guatemala. Her children B. and C. are derivatives on A.'s application for asylum. A. and her son B.'s next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for July 21, 2021. Her daughter C.'s next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for October 6, 2021. The family speaks Spanish and live in central Illinois. (20-0143124) (20-0143123) (20-0143125)***

A's partner abused A. and their children, raped A, and controlled her church attendance. He became particularly violent after she gave birth to their second daughter because he was angry the child was a girl. As a result of the abuse, A. has long-term hearing loss. A.'s partner forced her daughter C. to scavenge for food at a local dump, attempted to sell C. to a drug trafficker, and threatened to rape her. When A. moved with her children to another part of Guatemala, her partner found them and threatened to kill them with the help of his drug trafficking associates.

Because A. and her son filed for asylum after their one-year deadline, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All documentation to their cases will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***35. A. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter, B., will be a derivative on A.'s application for asylum. A. and B. are waiting for their next Master Calendar hearing date. They speak Spanish and live in northern Illinois. (21-0146245) (21-0146246)***

As a child, an older cousin raped A. As a young woman, A's partner physically and verbally abused her over the course of several years. Once separated from her abusive partner, an armed MS-13 gang member demanded she become his girlfriend since she no longer had a husband. The MS-13 gang member threatened he would take her young daughter if A. refused. A. and B. fled Honduras in 2019. NIJC will file their asylum applications with the immigration court, but because they will file more than one year after their arrival, A.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All documentation to their cases will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

L. owned and operated a textile factory in Venezuela. She was also an active member of the opposition party, Primero Justicia. L. participated in many marches and protests with the party. Starting in around 2016, L. received several threats at her factory. Members of a "colectivo", or an armed military group, came to her factory and told her that she had to pay them in order to support the revolution. She paid what they requested so that they would leave and reported this to the police afterwards. Not long after, the colectivo requested even more money. She believes that they knew about her police report. L. eventually had to close her business completely. After closing the business, she continued to receive threats from the colectivo. On several occasions, colectivo members came by her house on motorcycle shouting her name and firing guns into the air. L. came to the United States in 2018 on a tourist visa, hoping she could return to Venezuela, but soon realized it was best to stay and seek asylum after her daughter reported that colectivo members continued to come to her home looking for her. L. timely filed for asylum with USCIS in 2019 but her case was referred to the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to L.'s case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***37. J. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, N., is a derivative on her application and is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar Hearing is scheduled for February 4, 2022. They speak Spanish and live in Indianapolis. (21-0145602) (21-0145603)***

As a child, J. lived with an aunt and uncle. The uncle molested her and her aunt verbally abused her and forced her to work. When she was around 13 years old, J. moved in with a different aunt in a small community where she lived and studied for several years. During this time she had



her first child, N. One night in 2019, an armed man stopped J. while she was walking home, took her to a cemetery, and he raped her. He threatened her not to tell anyone what he had done and indicated that he knew she had brothers and another child. She believes that he was affiliated with a gang because in her community, only gang members have guns. J. did not tell anyone about the rape, but lived in fear and felt like people were watching her. A couple of months later, she realized that she was pregnant from the rape and decided to flee because she feared that the man who raped her would come after her if he found out about the pregnancy. J. filed her asylum application with the court in December 2020. Since this application was filed more than one year after J. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to J.'s case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

## **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.*

### ***38. B. is a 14-year-old girl from Mexico who speaks Spanish and lives with her mother in Northwest Illinois (Whiteside County). (20-0145327)***

B.'s father came to the United States from Mexico in 2018, and has not supported B. since that time. The family believes he lives in California, but his contact with B. has been minimal, and he has provided no financial or other support. B.'s mother came to the United States shortly thereafter, and B. remained in Mexico with her maternal aunts. Due to threats against the family in Mexico, B. also fled to the United States in 2019, and now lives with her mother in Illinois. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition on behalf of B.'s mother seeking sole allocation of parental responsibilities for B., and obtain an order finding that B.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to abandonment, and that is it not in B.'s best interest to return to Mexico.

### ***39. J. is a 12-year-old girl from Honduras. She speaks Spanish and lives in a northern suburb of Chicago with her mother. (Lake County) (20-0142589)***

J. has never had a relationship with her father. When J. was about five years old, her mother came to the United States fleeing persecution. J. was raised in Honduras by her maternal grandmother. J.'s father never emotionally or financially supported J. and she has not had contact with him since she was two months old. J.'s grandmother also began receiving threats from gang members and it was not safe for J. to remain with her, so in February 2020, J. came to the United States. She was apprehended and detained in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and was subsequently released to her mother in Illinois. A pro bono attorney will

need to file a custody case on behalf of J.'s mother, and obtain an order finding that J.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment, and that it is not in J.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

## **U Visa**

***40. E. is a woman from Mexico. E. speaks Spanish and resides in a northern suburb of Chicago. E. qualifies for a U visa because she was the victim of domestic violence. E. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. E.'s U visa must be received by USCIS on or before August 20, 2021. (21-0147791)***

E. was the victim of domestic violence by her ex-husband and father of her oldest child. She originally came to the U.S. from Mexico in search of a better future. She came with her ex-husband in hopes of starting a life together. However, her husband soon became abusive towards her, and she endured constant emotional, mental, and physical abuse. On February 16, 2020, E.'s ex-husband, while intoxicated, verbally and physically assaulted her. He insulted her, grabbed her by the shoulders, and pushed her down, causing her to fall onto a table and exacerbating back pain she was already experiencing. E. called the police and was cooperative in their investigation. She took her two sons with her to a domestic violence shelter to seek support as she figured out her next steps. She has since found more stable housing, and has been attending regular counseling sessions to process the abuse she suffered. E. hopes to remain in the U.S. to continue caring for her two U.S. citizen sons, both of whom are on the autism spectrum and for whom she is their primary caretaker and fierce advocate.

***41. J. is a man from Mexico. J. speaks Spanish and resides in Chicago. J. qualifies for a U visa because he was the victim of felonious assault. J. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. J.'s U visa must be received by USCIS on or before October 8, 2021. (21-0147332)***

J. was working at a restaurant when he was robbed at gunpoint. As J. was delivering a pizza, unknown offenders approached him and put a gun to his head, demanding his belongings. J. handed over everything on him. J. stopped working after this incident due to fear. He was afraid that the offenders, who were never caught, would find him again. J. had a preexisting heart condition, which was exacerbated as a result of the incident. J. cooperated with the police and detectives by providing them with information that could lead to the arrest of the offenders. He hopes to move forward with his life in the U.S., without fear.

***42. T. is a woman from Mexico. She speaks Spanish and resides in Chicago. T. qualifies for the U visa because she was the victim of domestic violence. T. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. T.'s U visa must be received by USCIS on or before September 17, 2021. (21-0148551)***

T.'s ex-boyfriend arrived home intoxicated and became verbally aggressive toward her, in front of their two-year-old son. T. became frightened because he was yelling and feared he might become physically violent toward her. T. told him she was going to call the police if he did not

stop harassing her. He then threatened that he would have her deported and told her that she should be scared of him. T. ran away, screaming for help from her neighbor and her ex ran after her, trying to grab her. T. was able to call the police, at which point, her ex fled the scene. The police arrested him and T. began seeking help to obtain an order of protection. T.'s ex-boyfriend had a history of violent behavior and kept weapons around the house. T. fears for her safety and her child's safety. With a U visa, T. can move forward with the hope of more security.

## **VAWA**

### ***43. A. is a bisexual woman from England. She speaks English and lives in southern Illinois. She is applying for VAWA.***

A. is a bisexual woman from England. She entered the United States in October 2019 on a visa waiver. She came to visit a woman, N., who she had met online and with whom she had become romantically involved. A. moved with N., as well as with N.'s ex-husband, M., and M.'s two children. N. quickly became verbally and emotionally abusive, demanding that A. cook and clean on a daily basis-- even if she was sick — and threatening to have her deported if she did not. N. used the promise of marriage as a tool to keep A. compliant, promising her to marry her if she did as N. asked, and threatening to report her to ICE if she did not. A. and N. married in August 2020, while A. was staying at a domestic violence shelter. N. physically was violent toward A. on two occasions: once hitting her three times in the head with her hand, and another time pushing her down onto the floor. Pro bono attorneys should anticipate preparing the VAWA petition within the next 8 to 12 weeks.

## **NIJC Announcements**

Have any recent changes in immigration laws or procedures affected your case? Bookmark NIJC's [Immigration Procedural Update](#) page and check it frequently for news that may impact your pro bono case.