

December 16, 2021

## **NIJC Pro Bono Case List: 77 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.

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

- **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:

- **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)
- **LGBT** cases, contact Bek Erl at [jerl@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:jerl@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 and especially after the Attorney General's recent vacatur of negative case law. 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., is 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 a teenager. 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 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, IL. NIJC will assist her attorneys in identifying an interpreter. (17-0116073) (19-0132975)***

D. grew up in the Mongolian countryside and moved to the capital, Ulaanbaatar, to attend university. 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. ***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.

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

Growing up, R. lived with her grandparents, aunts, and uncles. When she was a child, her uncle began to molest her. 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 a teenager 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. 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.

- 5. P. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter A. is a derivative on her application. P.'s individual merits hearing is on January 17, 2023. P. and her children speak Spanish and live in Southcentral Wisconsin. (18-0128597) (18-0128605)**

When P. was around a teenager, she entered a relationship with a much older man, T., in order to be able to leave her home and alleviate the burden on her impoverished family. Soon after the birth of their children, T. started to beat P. He often verbally abused her and choked her with his belt, calling her stupid and threatening to kill her if she ever tried to leave him. While she was pregnant with their third child, T. hit her multiple times on the stomach, and P. ran away in order to protect the baby. T. followed P. and the children to their new home and tried to break in on multiple occasions by breaking down the door. One of these times, P. reported him to the police for property damage because she believed that would get the police to respond even if the abuse would not. The police arrested T, but quickly released him. T. continued to threaten her, and P. saw that the police were unwilling to protect her. P. fled to the United States with her young daughter. Her minor sons fled to the United States later as unaccompanied children and NIJC is representing them in their asylum cases before the asylum office. NIJC timely filed P.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 30 days prior to her merits hearing.

- 6. J. is a young woman from Honduras. Her son, D., will be a derivative on her asylum application. Their Master Calendar hearing was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has not been rescheduled. J. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, IL. (20-0140744) (20-0142504)**

J. endured many years of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse by her ex-husband in Honduras. When J.'s ex-husband discovered J. was pregnant with their son, he punched her in the stomach. During one incident after D.'s birth, J.'s ex-husband became angry with J. and he shot her in the leg, and hit her in the head with his gun. J. reported this incident to the police, but J.'s ex-husband was never forced to appear in court. About one year later, in 2015, J. was able to escape and come to the United States with her son, but her ex-husband has continued to look for her and threaten her even though J. divorced him. NIJC filed a skeletal asylum application for J. Because this application was filed more than one year after J. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 30 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

- 7. S. is a woman from Ecuador. Her son T. and her daughter K. will be derivatives on her asylum application and are also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on March 17, 2023. S., T., and K. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, IL. (21-0149817) (21-0150532) (21-010530)**

S. married her children's father in approximately 2007. They were married for about five years, during which time he verbally and physically abused S. After they divorce, S. moved in with a new partner. About a year into the relationship, he began to emotionally and physically abuse S., T., and K. constantly. When he was abusive, S. would try to leave the house with her children, but her ex-partner forced them to return. He also threatened to harm S. and the children if she

ever tried to report him to the police. After approximately five months of abuse, S. tried to leave the relationship for good, but her ex-partner threatened to harm S., T., and K if they did not return. Fearing what he could do, S. fled Ecuador with T. and K., and they arrived to the United States in the summer of 2021. Although S. and her children were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. USCIS must receive their asylum applications by June 12, 2022. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due a week before their asylum interview or 30 days before their individual merits hearing.

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

R. lived in Mexico with her ex-partner and three children. Throughout their relationship, R's ex-partner severely abused her, including threats, verbal abuse, and physical abuse that resulted in R. needing to go to the hospital during her second pregnancy. R.'s ex-partner also physically and emotionally abused R.'s son A. About one week before R. and A. left Mexico for the United States, her ex-partner attacked R. with a machete. R. has two children who remain in Mexico with their paternal grandparents. R. and A. have not yet been placed in removal proceedings. NIJC filed skeletal asylum applications for R. and A. Because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 30 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

### **Asylum: Based on Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation**

*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. *M. is a transgender woman from El Salvador. She is currently in removal proceedings and seeks asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture. She speaks Spanish and lives near Appleton, WI. Her merits hearing is scheduled for May 27, 2022, in Chicago, IL. (17-0118651)***

M. has been threatened and mistreated from a young age because of her identity as a transgender woman. The Mara gang attempted to force her to sell drugs for them, as they do with many transgender women. When she refused, they threatened her and her family. She fled El Salvador in February 2017 and went to Mexico for several months where she was attacked on the street. In Mexico, she met up with a group of gay men and transgender women who were traveling together to the United States to seek asylum. They entered in August 2017 and were immediately detained. M. was released in September 2017 and is now living in Greenleaf, WI. She has her merits hearing on May 27, 2022, in Chicago, IL.

NIJC filed her skeletal I-589 asylum application in 2017. Pro bono attorneys will assist M in filing for work authorization and preparing her asylum case. M.'s affidavit and other supporting documents will be due 30 days prior to her merits hearing.

***10. J. is a gay man from Mexico. He speaks Spanish and lives in Indiana. USCIS must receive J.'s affirmative asylum application prior to April 12, 2022. (21-0151397)***

J. always knew that he was gay and tried to hide it, but faced harassment for it from a young age. J. eventually joined the police force and his coworkers verbally harassed him because of his sexual orientation. In 2018, J. was diagnosed with HIV was eventually pressured into leaving the force because of his health. His attempt to open his own business was also unsuccessful because of discrimination due to his HIV status. Before J. left the police force, he had been assigned to investigate Sinaloa Cartel's involvement in the murder of Mexican journalist Javier Valdez Cardenas. In April 2021, J. received notice that the defendants wanted J. to testify on their behalf, but J.'s supervisor warned him that it would be unsafe to do so. Fearing for his safety, J. decided to leave Mexico days after he received this news. J. entered the United States on April 13, 2021 on a tourist visa. After arriving to the United States, J. learned that someone had broken into his house in Mexico and destroyed everything. He believes that this break-in was connected to the criminal court case of the Sinaloa Cartel members. USCIS must receive J.'s asylum application by April 12, 2022. All affidavits and supporting materials in D.'s case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office.

***11. R. is a gay man from Ghana. He speaks English and lives in a southwest suburb of Chicago, IL. His affirmative asylum application must be filed with the Asylum Office by May 22, 2022. (21-0152152)***

Growing up in Ghana, R. always presented as more feminine and was drawn to traditionally feminine toys and games. From second grade through high school, R.'s teachers repeatedly beat him at school with a cane or made him kneel in the corner for acting too feminine. R.'s father also repeatedly beat him with a belt for not acting masculine enough during this time. When R. was in high school, he lived in a boarding house where senior boys would often accuse him of staring at them or showing sexual interest. Then, they made him kneel down or whipped him. While R. lived at home with his family, he was not allowed to go out freely. His father sent his friends to follow R. because he suspected R. was gay. R. is particularly afraid to return to Ghana because of the legislation currently in parliament criminalizing homosexuality and LGBT advocacy. R. has seen names of gay people he knows through social media being published online so they can be arrested once the bill passes. R. fears his name being published as well. R. first entered the United States on a B1/B2 tourist visa in 2017, but did not know about asylum at the time and returned to Ghana after about two months. He entered again on May 23rd, 2021, also on a tourist visa. R.'s one year deadline is May 22nd, 2021, and his application for asylum will need to be filed before then. All affidavits and supporting materials in R.'s case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office, which may occur four to six weeks after filing.

***12. D. is a gay man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in a suburb of Chicago, IL. USCIS must receive D.'s affirmative asylum application prior to May 31, 2022. (21-***

**0151661)**

D. knew he was gay from a young age and was harassed at school by both classmates and teachers for appearing gay. He had his first relationship with a boy when he was a teenager, but after D.'s boyfriend's brother found out about the relationship, the brother attacked D., called him homophobic slurs, and accused D. of making his brother gay. After this incident, D. tried to hide his homosexuality and focus on his studies. While in university, his classmates attacked him because they saw him kissing a man. After graduating from university, D. worked for the Mayor of Bucaramanga before co-founding an arts collective. Through this collective he connected with other queer people, but he also faced increasingly severe discrimination as a public-facing queer activist. He was mugged and received death threats. One man baited D. into going on a date with him, then revealed that he was a member of a far-right paramilitary group. He threatened D. with a gun, told D. to leave the country, and dumped D. on the outskirts of the city. In April 2021, D. was assaulted by two strangers in the street who were alleged members of the previously mentioned far-right paramilitary group, who yelled homophobic slurs at him and told him to leave the country because of his sexual orientation. After this incident, D. fled to the United States and entered on June 1, 2021 with a tourist visa. USCIS must receive D.'s asylum application by May 31, 2022. All affidavits and supporting materials in D.'s case should be filed at least a week prior to his interview at the asylum office.

***13. M. is a gay man from Nigeria. He lives in western Illinois and speaks English. His affirmative asylum application must be filed with the Asylum Office by July 17, 2022. (21-0151548)***

When M. was in his late teens, a neighbor caught M. and his boyfriend together and alerted M.'s parents. M.'s parents beat him severely and strictly monitored him, cutting him off from friends and frequently preventing him from leaving the house. The following year, he managed to leave the house to attend a party with other LGBTQ individuals, but the party was raided by police. He was arrested and beaten and only released after his family paid a bribe. Several years later, some classmates offered him a ride home because it was raining, but then took him to a friend's house where they raped him, threatened to kill him, and told him to stop being gay. He was subsequently diagnosed with HIV, which his family told him was a punishment for being gay. After his diagnosis, his family forbade him from cooking in the house and made him use a separate set of plates and cups. Since coming to the United States, he has also been diagnosed with syphilis and hepatitis B. M entered the United States on an F1 student visa and is currently enrolled in a business program, although he hopes to transfer to a political science program. M's asylum application should be filed with the Asylum Office prior to his one-year filing deadline on July 27, 2022, although if he maintains his student status, he will qualify for an exception to the filing deadline and may be able to file later. His affidavit and other supporting documentation will need to be filed prior to his asylum interview, which could be scheduled for as soon as six weeks after the submission of his asylum application.

***14. B. is a gay man from Nigeria. He speaks English and lives in Indianapolis, IN. His affirmative asylum application must be filed with the Asylum Office by August 19, 2022. (21-0151392)***

Earlier this year, a group of men who knew B. is gay cornered him and threatened, beat, and robbed him by forcing him to share his PIN and using his bank cards to withdraw large sums of money from his accounts. When B. tried to report the incident to the police, the men outed him as gay, and B. was arrested. B. had previously been married to a woman in an attempt to hide his sexual orientation, but she had separated from him after returning home early from a trip and finding him at home with another man. After B was arrested, his estranged wife told his church that he is gay, effectively outing him to his entire community. He fled to Lagos where he hid out until he was able to get together money for a ticket to the United States. Prior to the attack and arrest, B. had applied for an F1 visa to study psychology in the United States, which he used to enter the United States in July 2021. However, he was not able to afford to begin his studies due to the violent robbery prior to leaving Nigeria. His asylum application must be filed with the Asylum Office prior to his one-year filing deadline in August 2022. His affidavit and other supporting documentation will need to be filed prior to his asylum interview, which could be scheduled for as soon as six weeks after the submission of his asylum application.

***15. J. is a woman from Ecuador. Her daughter, S. is a derivative on her application for asylum and is also independently eligible. J. and S. are awaiting a Master Calendar hearing date. They speak Spanish and live in Chicago, IL. (21-0150688) (21-0151647)***

When J. was a young woman, she met her first partner and father of her first two children. He abused her for several years until they separated. She made several reports against him. J. met her next partner, S.'s father, a few years later. He severely abused J. throughout their relationship. He beat and threatened her often. She finally separated from him after several years, but he continued to threaten her. J. then entered a relationship with a woman. She and her partner faced a lot of discrimination, harassment and threats for being together. J.'s second partner often called to threaten her, insult her, and even found her and beat her up again. Several months before coming to the United States, J. and her partner received a letter at their home calling them lesbians and telling them they were going to be killed. They began preparing to come to the United States and fled as soon as they had the money. J. arrived in the United States in July of 2021. Although J. and S. were issued Notices to Appear (NTA) by the Department of Homeland Security 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. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due one week prior to their interview with the asylum office, which could occur at any time in the coming months unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court.

## **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 straightforward 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.*

***16. K. is a woman from El Salvador. K.'s individual merits hearing is March 31, 2022. K. speaks Spanish and lives in Central Indiana. (21-0146239) \*Urgent\****

The leader of the local Mara Salvatrucha (MS) gang stalked K. at her place of employment, kidnapped her, and attempted to rape her. When K. resisted, the gang leader punched her. The gang leader later told K. that she had to quit her job and leave with him. He threatened to kill K. if she did not comply. Fearing for her life, K. fled to the United States. Several years later, the gang leader began contacting K. and her husband in the United States. The gang leader believes that K. is to blame for the arrest of a fellow gang member in Indiana. Gang members continue to contact K. and her husband to threaten them. Since her application was filed more than one year after entering the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she meets 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 her case will be due 30 days prior to K.'s individual merits hearing.

***17. F. is a man from Somalia. His merits hearing is on June 24, 2022. F. speaks Somali and lives in Chicago, IL. (20-0145316) \*Urgent\****

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 residency. 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.

***18. 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, IN. (21-0145602) (21-0145603)***

As a child, J. lived with an aunt and uncle. The uncle molested her and her aunt verbally abused her and forced her to work. When she was a teenager, J. moved in with a different aunt in a small community where she lived and studied for several years. During this time, she had her first child, N. One night in 2019, an armed man stopped J. while she was walking home and he raped her in a cemetery. He threatened her not to tell anyone what he had done and indicated that he knew she had brothers and a child. She believes that he was affiliated with a gang because in her community, only gang members have guns. J. did not tell anyone about the rape, but lived in fear

and felt like people were watching her. A couple of months later, she realized that she was pregnant from the rape and decided to flee because she feared that the man who raped her would come after her if he found out about the pregnancy. J. filed her asylum application in December 2020. Since this application was filed more than one year after J. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to J.'s case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

In 2018, armed cartel members threatened to kill S. and his family. They demanded that S. and his siblings join the cartel. The armed cartel members also threatened to rape the women in their family if they refused. S.'s brother fled Mexico and S. was then targeted by the cartel to disclose his brother's whereabouts. Fearing further attacks from the cartel, S. and his family fled to the United States in January 2019. S. and his wife, B. filed their applications for asylum pro se. NIJC filed L.'s independent application for asylum after her one-year deadline. Because L.'s application was filed more than one year after L. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. This family was previously scheduled for a merits hearing in August 2021, but the hearing was continued so that the family could obtain pro bono counsel. The new merits hearing could be scheduled for date as early as late 2021.

***20. 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. They are awaiting the rescheduling of their merits hearing. The family speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. (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 merits hearing. This family was previously scheduled for a merits hearing in September 2021, which was rescheduled at T.'s request to allow him time to obtain pro bono counsel. A new hearing may be scheduled for as soon as late 2021 or early 2022.

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

**22. K. is a man from Honduras. His next Master Calendar hearing is on February 10, 2022. K. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. (20-0143330)**

K. was part of an opposition political party in Honduras and was very active in the protest movement. In 2015, armed men from the Honduran military kidnapped and beat him. They threatened that he had to leave the country or end his participation in the political party. After K. escaped, he reported the kidnapping and torture to the police. After filing the police report, Honduran military and government officials constantly threatened K. that he had to leave the country. Fearing further attacks, he fled to the United States July 2018. K. filed his application for asylum pro se with the immigration court after the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist his attorneys in arguing that he meets an exception to the one-year deadline. 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.

**23. A. is a man from Cuba. His wife L. will be a derivative on A.'s asylum application and is independently eligible for asylum. A. and L. speak Spanish and live in a suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0150113) (21-0148960).**

A. was drafted for military service but when he refused, he was detained, tortured, and subjected to beatings and threats to disappear him because he was deemed counterrevolutionary. Afterwards, A. continued to refuse to participate in the military and began protesting on the streets against the government. Later, A. began a small business, but his supplies were confiscated by government officials at the airport and later government inspectors came to his home to confiscate all of his work tools, equipment, and supplies. The inspectors threatened to disappear A. and extorted A. for money. A. fled Cuba in early 2018. L. was forced to participate in pro-government school and community events when she was young which solidified her anti-government beliefs. Later, L. became an attorney and worked for a state-owned company where she was singled out by her employer as someone who did not participate in pro-government events. L. was asked to testify falsely on behalf of her employer and when she refused, she was

threatened, suspended from her job, and interrogated and sexually assaulted by the police. L. fled Cuba in July 2018. L and A met while still in Cuba, and later married en route to the United States. Although A. and L. were issued Notices to Appear (NTA), the Department of Homeland Security has not filed the NTAs with the immigration court, so they are not yet in removal proceedings. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. USCIS must receive their asylum applications by February 22, 2022. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due a week before their asylum interview.

***24. J. is a young man from El Salvador. His next Master Calendar hearing is on March 3, 2022. He speaks Spanish and lives in Northcentral Indiana. (20-0145126)***

The Mara 18 gang regularly extorted J. When J. was unable to pay the extortion fees, a group of gang members showed up at his house and brutally attacked him. Salvadoran police arrested one of the assailants, based on a report by J.'s mother. In retaliation, the gang threatened to kill J. A few days later, the gang members attempted to kill J. by shooting at him on his way to work. J. fled the country shortly after, but the gang continues to threaten him through his mom and is currently threatening to kill his mom and brothers. Because J. filed his asylum application with the immigration court more than one year after entering the United States, J.'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 this argument. All affidavits and supporting documents to J.'s case will be due 30 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***25. 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. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on April 13, 2022. J. and D. speak Spanish and live in Indianapolis, IN. (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.

***26. A. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter, B., is a derivative on A.'s application and is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on May 5, 2022. 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 filed 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.

***27. P is a man from Rwanda. P.'s next Master Calendar hearing is on July 15, 2022. P. speaks English, but his best language is Kinyarwanda. P. lives in Northcentral Indiana. (21-0145852)***

P. supported a candidate in the 2017 Rwandan presidential elections that ran against the current president on a platform of free speech. As a volunteer, P. worked as a field director collecting signatures of supporters. Once it appeared that the candidate might win the election, the Rwandan government quickly disqualified her, accused her of crimes and arrested her. After disqualifying the candidate, government police raided her campaign office and arrested P. along with others. Police interrogated P. about his involvement in the campaign, and beat and threatened him before releasing him. Over the next year, police detained P. several more times, each time beating him and demanding information about the candidate he supported. P. fled Rwanda to come to the United States with a student visa after one of the police beatings hospitalized him. P. filed a pro se application for asylum with the asylum office in 2019. The asylum office referred him to the immigration court. Because P.'s asylum application was untimely, he will need to establish that he merits an exception to the one-year filing. NIJC will assist his attorneys in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to P.'s case will be due 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***28. V. is a young woman from Honduras. V. speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis, IN. (21-0150127)***

V. grew up in Honduras with her mother and older brother. In approximately 2017, members of a local gang murdered her cousin and began threatening members of his family in a neighborhood near where V. lived. Many members of V.'s family had to flee Honduras as a result of these threats. By spring 2021, the same gang had established control of V.'s neighborhood. One day, gang members passed by V.'s family's house, saw her brother outside, and ordered him to go inside his home. In an act of defiance, V.'s brother refused to go inside, claimed that it was his neighborhood and he could do what he wanted. The gang members mentioned his relation to the cousin who had previously been murdered, brandished their gun, and said that they would kill V.'s brother as well as kill and rape V. if the family did not leave Honduras. As a result of this threat, V. fled Honduras. She entered the United States as an unaccompanied child, and was detained in a shelter. As a previously designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has initial jurisdiction over her case. USCIS must receive V.'s skeletal asylum application by July 3, 2022. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office, which may occur as soon as four – six weeks after the skeletal application is filed.

***29. R is a woman from Venezuela. Her next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for***

***November 10, 2022. R. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, IL. (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 way 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, but the asylum office referred her case 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.

***30. Z. is a woman from Colombia. Her husband D. will be a derivative on her asylum application and is independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on November 17, 2022. Z. and D. speak Spanish and live in a western suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0148469) (21-0150073).***

Z. became a joint owner of a transportation co-op in Colombia where she owned a vehicle and coordinated transport. Z. hired a driver to transport goods in her vehicle. On the way to the destination, a nationally known armed group created a roadblock for the driver, attempting to collect an extortion fee. The driver sped through the roadblock, injuring one of the armed group members. Because Z. is the registered owner of the vehicle, the armed group initiated proceedings against her during a time that the Colombian government were in peace negotiations. Later, the armed group member who was hit in the accident died and the armed group escalated threats against Z. and D. Z. was brutally attacked by people identifying themselves as part of the armed group, resulting in a miscarriage. Z. and D. fled Colombia for the United States in December 2019, were placed in removal proceedings, and filed for asylum in December 2020. Z. and D.'s affidavits and supporting documents will be to the immigration court due 30 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***31. 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.

***32. 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.

***33. B. is a man from Guatemala. He is currently awaiting the rescheduling of his next Master Calendar hearing. B. speaks Spanish and lives in Kentucky, near the border with 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.

***34. 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, IL. (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.

***35. R. is a man from Mexico. His wife, L., and his daughter, B., are derivatives on his application for asylum, and are also independently eligible for asylum. R. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, IL. (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 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.

***36. 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, IL. (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 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.

***37. 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, IL. (19-0138764) (19-0138767) (19-0139752) (19-0139755)***

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

***38. F. is a man from Mexico. His wife, C., and their children, T. and R., will be derivatives on his application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. The family is waiting for their next Master Calendar hearing to be rescheduled. F. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, IL. (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.

***39. 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 has not filed the NTA with the immigration court so P. is not yet in removal proceedings. As a previously designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has initial jurisdiction over his case. NIJC filed P.'s asylum application with the asylum office, 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.

***40. 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, IL. (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 filed 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.

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

V.'s former partner, K., is a gang member in Honduras. During their relationship, he physically and sexually abused 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.

***42. 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 suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0146760) (21-0147488)***

S.'s step-father abused her throughout her childhood. The father of S.'s first child beat and raped her. He prohibited her from studying or working outside the home. The abuse worsened when S. found a radio job. S. developed severe anxiety and depression. The father of her child admitted her to a psychiatric hospital and told staff she was crazy. While at the hospital, a nurse raped S. multiple times, leading to the birth of her second child, J. Later, S. worked as a television reporter. Her boss routinely sexually harassed her, forced her to report on violent, gang-related stories, and used his connections to highly ranked gang members to intimidate her against reporting him. After S. reported his treatment, members of the Mara 18 gang threatened her outside of her home, saying there would be consequences if she spoke out. In early 2019, gang members attacked and beat her brother. Soon afterwards, S. fled to the United States with her son. NIJC filed S.'s asylum application with the immigration court. Because this application was filed more than one year after S. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to S.'s case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***43. A. is a woman from Guatemala. Her four children are derivatives on A.'s application for asylum. A. and her son B. do not currently have a future hearing date scheduled. Her eldest daughter C. has a Master Calendar hearing on March 8, 2023. Her eldest daughter C. has an independent asylum case at the asylum office. Her two youngest daughters recently arrived as unaccompanied minors and are not yet scheduled for court. The family speaks Spanish and live in central Illinois. (20-0143124) (20-0143123) (20-0143125) (21-0148945) (21-0148946)***

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

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

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

***45. R. is a woman from El Salvador. Her son, A. will be a derivative on her application. R. and A.’s next Master Calendar hearing has not been scheduled. R. speaks Spanish and lives in a northern suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0147562) (21-0147563)***

During much of their relationship, R.’s ex-partner and father of her children, H., was verbally, physically, and sexually abusive. H. was a police officer in El Salvador. For some time, H. was able to hide his status as a police officer from the community and 18<sup>th</sup> Street gang members. Eventually, gang members took notice of his role. They began calling the family and sending pictures of R.’s daughter threatening to kill the family if R. and H. did not pay the extortion fees. Although R. and her family repeatedly tried to relocate to other towns in El Salvador, the gang members continued to find them and targeted R.’s son A. for being the son of a police officer. H. fled to the United States and was granted asylum, but the gang continued targeting the family, particularly A., making it impossible for them to leave their home. Finally, R. fled to the United States with A. in late 2019. NIJC will file R. and A.’s skeletal asylum applications with the immigration court. Since their application will be filed more than one year after entering the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they meet an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials for R. and A.’s case will be due 30 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***46. E. is a man from Guatemala. His children D. and S. are derivatives on his application and are also independently eligible for asylum. They are waiting for their next Master Calendar hearing date. E. and his family speak Spanish and live in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, IL. (20-0141236) (20-0141259) (20-0141261)***

E. began working as a taxi driver in 2018. Shortly after, members of the MS-18 gang began to threaten and extort him and his co-workers. They obtained his personal number and would call threatening to kill him and his family if he did not pay them. They began killing multiple of E.’s co-workers for failing to pay, and threatened to kill E. if he reported the murders or stopped paying as well. The payments and threats continued to increase, so E. decided to flee to the United States in November 2018. The gang had also begun threatening D. E. timely filed his

application for asylum pro se in May 2019. NIJC filed individual applications for D. and S. in January 2021. All affidavits and supporting materials to E.'s case will be due 30 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***47. R. is a woman from Honduras. She is waiting for her next Master Calendar hearing date. R. speaks Spanish and lives near Indianapolis, IN. (21-0146095)***

R.'s partner was a member of the gang Mara 18. Soon after they started living together, her partner became controlling and abusive. He would not allow her to leave the house to see her family. He beat and raped her often. He told her that she had to stay with him, and threatened to hurt and kill her if she tried to leave the relationship. She reported him to the police once, but nothing came from it. She was also involved in the Libre political party and attended protests regularly over the course of several years. Police shot at, beat, and tear-gassed her and fellow party members at many protests. She fled the country and traveled to the United States in 2019 to escape the dangerous political climate and free herself from her abusive partner. R. timely filed her asylum application with the immigration court in 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials to R.'s case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***48. N. is a woman from Honduras. N. speaks Spanish and lives in a suburb of Indianapolis, IN. (21-0147272)***

N.'s third child's father was abusive and controlling. He raped N. and told her he would not let her end the relationship. When N. became pregnant and refused to get an abortion, he threatened to kill her and the child. Out of fear, N. fled to the United States in late 2020, but at the border N. was placed in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP or "Remain in Mexico") program and was prevented from entering the United States to seek asylum. N. subsequently entered the United States and gave birth to her third child. Although N. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) at the border, it has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until her NTA is filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over her application for asylum. USCIS must receive N.'s asylum application by November 24, 2021. N.'s affidavits and supporting documents will be due one week prior to her interview, which will likely occur about 1-2 months after her application is filed.

***49. V. is a woman from Guatemala. Her son X. will be a derivative on her application. The family speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0148257) (21-0148864)***

When V. was young, her father was killed and her mom moved to the United States, leaving V. and her younger sisters with an aunt who physically abused them. When V. and her sisters moved to a different aunt's home, another family member who was involved with a gang threatened the girls with violence and made sexual advances towards them. V.'s two sisters fled to the United States and were granted asylum, but V. stayed in Guatemala. When she was 17 years old, V. was in a relationship with a man who began to verbally and physically abuse her once he knew of her pregnancy. He tried to force V. to have an abortion. Living in her partner's home, his family members also abused her, eventually causing her to be hospitalized for several

days. About a year later, V. began a relationship with another man. When she confronted this man about being in a relationship with another woman, he punched her in the face and stomach, causing her to be hospitalized for about two weeks. Soon after, V. fled to the United States with her eldest son and later gave birth to her second child in the United States. Although V. and her son were issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) at the border, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their asylum applications. USCIS must receive their individual asylum applications by March 10, 2022. V. and her son's affidavits and supporting documents will be due one week prior to their interview, which will likely occur about 1-2 months after their applications are filed.

***50. O. is a man from Haiti. His partner, R., and their son, L., will be derivatives on his application for asylum, and they are also independently eligible for asylum. O. and his family speak Haitian Creole and live in Indianapolis, IN. (21-0148753) (21-0148754) (21-0149461)***

O. was an organizer for a prominent political party in Haiti. While at a party event, men from a rival political party attempted to break up the event, threatening O. with machetes. Around that same time, armed individuals from a rival party tried to run O. off a road. Later, the family's home was burned to the ground. Fearing for their lives, O., R, and L. fled to the United States in 2021. Although O., R, and L. were issued Notices to Appear (NTA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not filed the NTAs with the immigration court, so O., R, and L. are not yet in removal proceedings. Unless and until DHS files the NTAs with the court, USCIS maintains jurisdiction over any asylum applications they file. USCIS must receive their skeletal asylum applications by March 19, 2022. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to their asylum interview, which may occur as soon as four – six weeks after the skeletal application is filed. O., R., and L. are independently eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and have TPS applications currently pending before USCIS.

***51. R. is a man from Venezuela. His wife D. and his minor son S. will be derivatives on his asylum applications and are also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on January 26, 2023. R., S., and D. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, IL (21-0149049) (21-0149429) (21-0150197).***

R. is an attorney and worked for an anti-government political organization. R. and D. held administrative meetings for the party in their home and were openly involved in antigovernment protests. Armed pro-government actors kidnapped R., beat him, and threatened to rape his wife and kill R. and his family if he continued working for the organization. R. was hospitalized and received treatment for injuries and later received psychological treatment for trauma. Pro-government actors continued to threaten R. and D., at one point surrounding their family home and shooting in the air. R. received a citation to present himself to the police in May 2021, which he feared meant he would be arrested and tortured in Venezuelan government custody. The day he received the citation, the family fled from Venezuela to the United States, were apprehended by immigration officers, and then released. Although R., D., and S. were issued Notices to Appear (NTA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not filed the NTAs with the immigration court, so they are not yet in removal proceedings. Unless and until DHS files the

NTAs with the court, USCIS maintains jurisdiction over any asylum applications they file. USCIS must receive R., D., and S.'s asylum applications by May 22, 2022. All affidavits and supporting documents will be due one week prior to their asylum interview.

***52. A. is a man from Honduras. His wife, T., and their child, P., will be derivatives on A.'s asylum application and are also independently eligible for asylum. The family speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0151168) (21-0151261) (21-0151263)***

Cartel members frequented a restaurant in Honduras owned by A. and T. because they wanted A. and T. to use their restaurant to sell drugs. A neighbor, who also owned a local business, received a similar demand from the cartel. When he refused to cooperate, cartel members killed him in his home. The cartel threatened to do the same to A., T., and their son P. if they defied the cartel's demands. Unwilling to comply with the cartel and fearing for their lives, the family fled to the United States. Upon entering the country, the Department of Homeland Security issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) to A., but not to T. or P. As T.'s NTA has not yet been filed with the immigration court, she is not yet in removal proceedings. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the immigration court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. USCIS must receive their asylum applications by their one-year deadline, August 27, 2022. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to their interview at the asylum office, which may occur as soon as four – six weeks after the skeletal application is filed.

***53. S. is a young man from Guinea. S. speaks French and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0150361)***

S. grew up in Conakry, Guinea. He and his family are ethnic Pules, and S.'s father was a member of the opposition political party, Union de Force Democratique de Guinea (UFDG). When S. was six years old, government forces shot and killed his father during an anti-government protest. Afterwards, S. had a normal childhood until anti-government protests re-started in 2019, while S. was at school. On his way home, S. ran into state security forces who thought that S. was a protester. The government arrested him and killed one of his friends. The government detained S. for a month and tortured him. S.' mother managed to bribe a guard to help S. escape and he fled the country. S. entered the United States on April 14, 2021, was detained for two months and released after passing a credible fear interview. Upon release, the Department of Homeland Security issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) to S. His NTA has not yet been filed with the immigration court, so he is not yet in removal proceedings. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the immigration court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. USCIS must receive his asylum application by his one-year deadline, April 14, 2022. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to his interview at the asylum office, which may occur as soon as four – six weeks after the skeletal application is filed.

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

S. worked as an engineer for a Colombian airline. His position involved overseeing the influx of luggage and goods, and granted him access to many parts of the airport that are generally restricted. In 2018, two of S.'s colleagues approached him and asked him to collaborate with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) by facilitating the transportation of drugs through the airline. S. declined this request, subsequently receive more requests, and eventually threats from members of the FARC. S. tried to report the attempted recruitment to airport administrators and the police, but the threats only worsened. At one point, two men went to A.'s workplace and told her that she'd better advise her husband to collaborate with them or else he'd be in danger. At the end of 2018, the family received a letter indicating that S. had until the end of the year to collaborate with them, or the lives of his entire family would be at risk. The family immediately fled. Then, family and friends reported that people had come to S.' home looking for him. S. submitted his application for asylum with USCIS in December 2020, completed an asylum interview in 2021, and was referred to the immigration court. Because the asylum application was filed more than one year after S. and his family entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 30 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***55. J. is a young woman from Honduras. Her next Master Calendar hearing is on May 17, 2022. J. speaks Spanish and lives in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, IL. (21-0149718)***

J. grew up in Tegucigalpa with her mother and older brother. More than a year ago, members of the Mara 18 gang began trying to force J. to be in a relationship with them. They would threaten her both in person and through messages, saying that she would be killed if she did not have a relationship with them. J. moved to another part of the city to try to get away from the gang, but continued to receive messages from gang members. She and her mother made a police report against the gang and then J. fled to the United States with her mother in the spring of 2021. Her mother was deported to Mexico, but J. entered the United States as an unaccompanied child, and was detained in a shelter. As a previously designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has initial jurisdiction over her case. Because J. has not yet filed for asylum, her pro bono attorneys will need to submit her application for asylum with USCIS before her one-year deadline of May 6, 2022. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office, which may occur as soon as four – six weeks after the skeletal application is filed.

***56. J. is a woman from El Salvador. She does not have any derivatives on her asylum application. J. speaks Spanish and lives with her partner and two U.S. citizen children in Northern Indiana. (21-0148122)***

J.'s mother physically and emotionally abused her throughout her childhood. When J. was a teenager she lived on the border between rival gang territories. She was accused by MS-13 gang members of passing information to the rival gang. A group of about 10 armed gang members surrounded her and threatened to kill her if she didn't leave within 24 hours. J. went to a different city to report this incident to the police but was still scared of violent repercussions from the



gang. She fled to the United States soon after. The MS-13 gang now regularly extorts J.'s family in El Salvador and has threatened J. with harm upon her return to El Salvador. J. entered the United States as an unaccompanied minor in 2016. She filed her skeletal asylum application in 2019. She attended an interview with the Asylum Office in February 2020, and her case was referred to immigration court in March 2021. Because her application was filed more than one year after J. entered the United States her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due one week prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***57. 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. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on August 17, 2022. M. and C. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, IL. (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. 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.

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

R. grew up in a physically abusive home and was raped by her mother's boyfriend when she was a child. When she was teenager, she moved in with an older man who was physically abusive and had her first child, K., as a teenager. To escape the abuse, she moved back in with her aunt and brother. A gang began demanding her brother join them, and attacked him when he refused. Around 2012, R., K., and R.'s brother moved to escape the gang. Around 2019, the gang found them and began threatening R.'s brother again. He then fled the country to escape the gang, but they murdered him in Mexico. Shortly thereafter, the gang threatened R. She and her children fled to the United States in the summer of 2021. Although R. and her children were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their applications for asylum. Their asylum applications must be filed with USCIS by their one-year deadline of June 29, 2022. All affidavits and supporting materials for their case will be due a week prior to their interview at the asylum office, which could occur at any time in the coming months, unless their NTAs are filed with the immigration court.

***59. E. is a young man from Guatemala. His next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled on November 2, 2022. E. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. (21-0150685)***

When E. was in high school, local gang members began to demand that E. help them with their illegal activities. E. refused and the gang members pushed him to the ground. The gang members continued demanding that E. assist them. Each time, E. refused and the gang members beat him. The gang then killed E.'s cousin for defying their demands. The gang's threats escalated to the point that the gang members threatened him with a gun in late 2020/early 2021. E. fled Guatemala soon afterwards. He was apprehended by immigration officers, and was placed in ORR custody as a minor. As a previously designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has initial jurisdiction over his case even though E. is scheduled for a Master Calendar Hearing on November 2, 2022 in immigration court. USCIS must receive E.'s skeletal asylum application by his one-year deadline of April 6, 2022. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to his interview at the asylum office, which may occur as soon as four – six weeks after the skeletal application is filed.

***60. M. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, J., is a derivative on her asylum application and is also independently eligible for asylum. M.'s next Master Calendar Hearing is May 3, 2022; J.'s next Master Calendar Hearing is on February 23, 2022. M. and J. speak Spanish and live in Indianapolis, IN. (21-0152248) (20-0143734)***

When M. was a teenager, her father was murdered. Shortly thereafter, she moved in with an older man who physically and sexually abused her over the course of several years. Early in the relationship, M. and her sister reported the abuse to the police, but they did not hold him accountable. After she separated from her abuser, M. was robbed at gunpoint by armed men. Then gang members began extorting her, demanding she pay them or they would kill her. She reported this to the police, but the gang continued to extort and threaten her until she and her son fled Honduras. At the United States-Mexico border, they were returned to Mexico and forced to pursue their asylum cases through the MPP "Remain in Mexico" process. M. timely filed her asylum application while in Mexico and NIJC later filed an updated asylum application for her and J. Their cases are both now under the jurisdiction of the Chicago Immigration Court and NIJC is seeking to consolidate their cases. M.'s next Master Calendar Hearing is May 3, 2022; J.'s next Master Calendar Hearing is on February 23, 2022, but their cases can be consolidated. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 30 days prior to their 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. 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.*

***61. M is a 17-year-old girl from Mexico who turns 18 in August of 2022. She speaks Spanish and lives with her father in Northern Illinois (Lake County). (21-0150437)***

M.'s father moved to the United States when M. was very young and M. lived with her mother in Mexico until she was around eight years old. After suffering physical and sexual abuse in her mother's home, M. was sent to live with her maternal grandparents and uncle. M. continued to suffer further sexual and physical abuse at the hands of her grandfather and uncle. M.'s father maintained a good relationship with M. and sent money to provide for her education throughout the years. M. saved that money and fled to the United States around May of 2021 to escape the abuse and reunite with her father. Pro bono counsel will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of M.'s father, and obtain an order finding that M.'s reunification with her mother is not viable due to abuse and abandonment, and it will not be in M.'s best interest to return to Mexico.

***62. Q. is a 17-year old girl from Honduras who turns 18 in November of 2022. She speaks Spanish and lives with a family friend in Chicago, IL (Cook County). (21-0152013)***

Q. was raised by her paternal grandmother in Honduras. Her father abandoned her when she was about one year old and has had no contact with her nor provided financial or other support since that time. When she was about five years old, her mother took her to live with her grandmother and Q. has not spoken to her mother since. Her mother has not provided financial or other support since. Gangs began threatening Q. in Honduras and it was no longer safe for her to live there. She came to the United States in June 2021 to live with a family friend in Illinois. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for guardianship on behalf of Q.'s family friend, and obtain an order finding that Q.'s reunification with her mother and father is not viable due to their abandonment, and that it is not in Q.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

***63. Z. is a 16-year-old boy from Guatemala. He speaks Spanish and lives with his Uncle in Chicago, IL (Cook County). (21-0150166)***

Z. lived with his mother and father in Guatemala until Z.'s father left the home in 2017. After he left, Z.'s father would regularly return to the house and abuse the family. Z.'s father has not provided support financially or otherwise since 2017. In 2019, Z. came to the United States with his mother to flee the abuse. Z. and his mother moved to Chicago to live with Z.'s uncle. Z.'s mother died of COVID-19 in 2020 and Z.'s uncle is now his primary caregiver. A pro bono attorney will need to file for guardianship on behalf of Z.'s uncle, obtain an order finding that Z.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to abuse and abandonment, that reunification with his mother is not viable due to abandonment, and that it is not in Z.'s best interest to return to Guatemala.

***64. 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. Her 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 it is not in B.'s best interest to return to Mexico.

***65. M. and N. are 14- and 15-year-old boys from Honduras. They speak Spanish and live with their father in Chicago, IL (Cook County). (21-0150244)***

M. and N. were abandoned by their mother four years ago. When M. and N. were toddlers, their father came to the United States. M. and N. were left in the care of their paternal grandparents, and their mother would occasionally visit them there. While in the United States, M. and N.'s father would communicate with them often and send them money. About four years ago, M. and N.'s mother stopped contacting them altogether. M. and N. received threats from gangs in Honduras, so they came to the United States to be reunited with their father in Illinois. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of M. and N.'s father, and obtain an order finding that M. and N.'s reunification with their mother is not viable due to her abandonment, and that it is not in M. and N.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

***66. L. is a 14-year-old boy from Ecuador. He speaks Spanish and lives with his mother in Northern Illinois (Lake County). (21-0150093)***

L.'s mother and father came to the United States in 2007, and L has no memories of his father. L. was raised by his maternal grandparents in Ecuador. His mother would send money to Ecuador and speak with him frequently by phone, but his father provided no support. Around 2010, L.'s mother and father separated, though they remained married. L. did not have contact with his father before this and has not had contact since. L. came to the United States in April 2021 to live with his mother, as his grandparents were no longer able to support him due to their age. Although L.'s mother and father were previously married, L.'s mother believes that his father has obtained a divorce from her in Ecuador. A pro bono attorney will need to determine if L.'s parents are divorced, and then either file for divorce or for allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of L.'s mother. The pro bono will then need to obtain an order finding that L.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to his father's abandonment, and that it is not in L.'s best interest to return to Ecuador.

***67. A. is a 15-year-old girl from Honduras. She and her uncle speak Spanish and live in Peoria, IL (Peoria County). (21-0150928)***

A.'s father and mother abandoned her when A. was around 10 years old and was placed in the care of her maternal grandparents. Her parents failed to provide any financial or emotional support after they abandoned A. A.'s mother has had minimal contact with her in the past years, but A.'s father has not contacted A. in years. Around 2021, A. fled Honduras and now lives with her maternal uncle. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for guardianship on behalf of

A.'s uncle and obtain an order finding that reunification with her mother and father is not viable due to their abandonment and that it is not in her best interest to return to Honduras.

***68. T. is a 14-year-old girl from Honduras. She and her mother speak Spanish and live in Northern Illinois (Kane County). (21-0151271)***

T.'s father abandoned her when she was an infant and did not provide any financial or emotional support throughout her childhood. T.'s father passed away in June 2021 of cirrhosis. Before his passing, T.'s father attempted to kidnap T. on various occasions and was abusive towards T.'s mother. T.'s mother fled to the United States around 2017 and left T. in the care of her maternal grandmother. Around February 2020, T. fled Honduras to escape death threats by gang members and to reunite with her mother. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of T.'s mother, and obtain an order finding that T.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to abandonment and abuse, and that it will not be in T.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

***69. B. is a 16-year-old boy from Guatemala. He and his sister speak Spanish and live in Northern Illinois (DuPage County). (21-0151049)***

B. lived with his mother and father in Guatemala until he fled to the United States. B. was about 10 years old when his father began to physically and emotionally abuse him. His father is an alcoholic and would routinely beat B., his mother, and B.'s siblings. Around 2021, B. received threats from local gang members and fled for safety to the United States to live with his older sister. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for guardianship on behalf of B.'s older sister, and obtain an order finding that B.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to his abuse, and that it is not in B.'s best interest to return to Guatemala.

***70. C. is a 15-year-old boy from Honduras. He and his mother speak Spanish and live in Northern Illinois (Lake County). (21-0150534)***

C.'s father abandoned him when C. was very young, has not provided any financial or emotional support throughout his childhood, and rarely communicated with him. C.'s mother came to the United States when C. was around a year old, they maintained regular contact, and she sent money to provide for his well-being. C. was raised by his paternal grandmother; but in 2019 C. left Honduras to reunite with his mother because his grandmother was too old to care for him. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of C.'s mother, and obtain an order finding that C.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to abandonment and neglect, and that it will not be in C.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

## **U Visas**

***71. J. is a woman from Mexico. J. speaks Spanish and lives in the suburbs of Chicago, IL. J. qualifies for a U Visa because she was the victim of domestic violence, rape, and stalking. J. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. J's U Visa must be received by USCIS on or before February 25, 2022. (21-0150152) \*Urgent\****

J. was the victim of domestic violence, rape, and stalking by her ex-boyfriend, G. J. called the police numerous times when G. would hit her, rape her, or harass her. There was a time where G. and J. were leaving a laundromat and, in the parking lot, G. got very loud and aggressive. G. threw laundry carts and detergent at J. and kicked her in the leg when her back was to him. J. was able to tell the police what happened once they arrived and G. was arrested. J. filed for an order of protection and had to live in a domestic violence shelter for some time. J. is now in a safe home and has been able to go therapy and get a job. However, she is still cooperating in the prosecution of the crime because the case investigation against G. remains on-going. J. would like to include her three children living in Mexico as derivatives on her U Visa application, and they are pending a consultation with NIJC to assess eligibility.

***72. M. is a woman from Mexico. M. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. M. qualifies for a U Visa because she was the victim of domestic violence and felonious assault. M. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. M.'s U Visa must be received by USCIS on or before March 7, 2022. (21-0151385) \*Urgent\****

M. was the victim of domestic violence and felonious assault by her husband. On January 25, 2019, M.'s husband punched and choked her in front of her daughter. M.'s husband later grabbed a knife and put it to her stomach. He threatened to kill her and hurt her children. M. also obtained an emergency order of protection against her husband following this crime. M. and her children attended therapy in the months following this incident. M. has four young children who are all US citizens and depend on her.

***73. P. is a woman from Mexico. P. speaks Spanish and lives in the city of Chicago, IL. P. qualifies for a U Visa because her daughter was sexually assaulted. P. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. USCIS must receive P.'s U Visa application prior to May 16, 2021. (21-0151627) \*Urgent\****

P.'s daughter was sexually assaulted by her adult cousin. On December 6, 2020, P.'s daughter had gone to her cousin's house for a sleepover. The cousin, his girlfriend, their young child, and P.'s daughter all slept in the same bed. At some point the next morning, the girlfriend and the child had left and while the cousin and P.'s daughter were alone he sexually assaulted her. P.'s daughter told P. what happened on January 3, 2021 and said she was experiencing pain in her abdomen. P. took her daughter to the hospital that same day and hospital staff called the police to report the incident. The cousin was arrested that same day. P.'s three daughters are U.S. citizens and she is their primary caretaker.

## **VAWA**

***74. M. is a from Mexico. M. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. M. qualifies for protection under VAWA because she was the victim of domestic violence from her legal permanent resident husband. M. is also eligible to file for a one-stop adjustment of status. There is not a deadline since M. is still legally married to her husband. (21-0151854)***

M. was the victim of domestic violence. M.'s husband started abusing her shortly after they got married in September 2019. M. says there was physical abuse and a lot of psychological abuse. M. was thrown around and was threatened when she attempted to call the police. M. found out in April 2020 that her husband had been touching her daughter's breast for several months. M.'s daughter is a U.S. citizen and is the stepdaughter of M.'s husband. M. has been receiving counseling services and is seeking counseling services for her daughter. M. filed a police report detailing the physical abuse she endured from her husband. M. and her daughter filed an Order of Protection that was granted. M. is currently unemployed due to a work injury.

***75. T. is a woman from Mexico. T. speaks English and lives in Chicago, IL. T. is eligible to file a VAWA self-petition concurrently with an one-stop adjustment application because of the domestic violence she suffered from her U.S. citizen husband. There is not a deadline since T. is still legally married to her husband. (20-0143321)***

T. was the victim of domestic violence by her husband. T. called the police numerous times in 2017 and 2018. The first time T. called the police her husband threatened her with immigration and death threats. As a result, out of fear, T. withdrew the charges. In May of 2020, she got home from a friend's house and he was very angry. The next day T.'s husband told her to take another way to work because her friends have been warned. T. recorded the conversation and he threw her. T. called the police and he fled. T. separated from her husband in July 2020. T. has yet to file divorce proceedings and has been advised to seek counseling.

***76. A. is a woman from Mexico. A. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL. A. qualifies for VAWA because her U.S. citizen husband subjected her to battery and extreme cruelty. They are still married but he is currently in prison. A. started the process for divorce. (18-0126851)***

A. has been the victim of physical and mental abuse by her current U.S. citizen husband. They were married in 2015 and her husband has been physically abusive towards A. throughout the years. A. has called the police and made reports against him. A.'s husband abused her when he became angry with A. for any reason. Before her husband was in prison, A. lived with him and she was scared to go anywhere for fear that he may become suspicious of anything or that she may be late and make him angry. In one incident, he became aggressive because he wanted to have intercourse with her but she did not want to. A. called the police and was able to get an order of protection against her husband. Her husband was also physically abusive towards their son. Her husband is currently in prison for offenses not related to the abuse of A.

***77. C. is a woman from Bolivia. C. speaks Spanish and lives in the suburbs of Chicago, IL. C. qualifies for VAWA because she has been subjected to extreme cruelty by her U.S. citizen husband. C. is separated from her husband. There is not a deadline since C. is still legally married to her husband. (21-0151389)***

C. has been the victim of emotional, financial, and mental abuse by her U.S. citizen husband. They began dating while she was in Bolivia and after becoming engaged, she entered the United States on a fiancé visa. C. married her husband within the 90-day requirement. Soon after marrying, her husband began abusing C. He did not allow her to enroll in college or English classes. He did not allow her to open her own bank account or get a driver's license. C.'s husband kept her under the impression that she needed him to apply for her adjustment of status. He kept promising to begin her immigration process but he never did anything to help her secure her status in the United States. He traveled to Bolivia without her several times and stayed with C.'s family. For years, he intimidated C. to control her; to the point where she thought several times that he was going to hit her. C. and her husband have no children together and are now separated, though they remain legally married. She has a psychiatrist and a case worker that referred her to NIJC. She is currently seeking therapy.

### **NIJC Announcements**

**As the remote work continues to evolve, review these updates to stay informed:**

#### **[Chicago Immigration Judges Announce Move To Tele-Video Hearings](#)**

Certain Chicago Immigration Judges have announced that they will be holding all hearings via WebEx, which raises concerns about due process protections for noncitizens in removal proceedings, particularly asylum seekers. Please review the announcement on NIJC's website for more information about opposing a Tele-Video hearing.

#### **Thinking of Leaving Your Firm?**

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