

November 23, 2022

## **NIJC Pro Bono Case List: 76 cases need pro bono representation.**

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

- **Priority Asylum Matters:**
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- **Asylum Seekers in Need of Pro Bono Counsel:**
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- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)**
- **U Visa**
- **VAWA**

### **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 Lili Henkel at [lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org)
- **SIJS** cases, contact Hillary Richardson at [hrichardson@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:hrichardson@heartlandalliance.org).
- **U Visa** or **VAWA** cases, contact Katie Mayopoulos at [kmayopoulos@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:kmayopoulos@heartlandalliance.org)
- **LGBT** cases, contact Moises Lopez Soltero at [mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:mlopezsoltero@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).

## Priority Asylum Matters

### Defensive Cases with Upcoming Hearings

1. *A. is a transgender woman from El Salvador. She speaks Spanish and lives in Central Indiana. A. is scheduled for a merits hearing on June 14, 2023. (20-0141072).*

A. was beaten by her brothers and father as a teenager because she was perceived as gay. She was also bullied in school. She worked as a cook on a military base, where she was frequently harassed. A psychologist on the base counseled her to no longer be trans. When she finally left this job, members of the military threatened her. In 2016, she was raped by gang members. Many of her friends were murdered in El Salvador because they were trans. A. fears the same would occur if she returns. A. left El Salvador in 2019 and was detained at the U.S. border. After passing a credible fear interview, she was released from detention and went to live with her supportive aunt. NIJC filed her I-589 within the one-year filing deadline. All affidavits and supporting materials for A.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which is currently scheduled for June 14, 2023.

2. *C. is a gay man from Honduras. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago. C. is scheduled for a merits hearing on June 27, 2023. (22-0152980).*

C. realized he was gay as a teenager. He came out to his family at age 17; they rejected him and his brother attacked him. He was threatened on the street with physical harm. One time, police arrested him at an LGBT party, but the charges were eventually dropped. Many of his friends were murdered in Honduras because of their sexual orientation. C. fears the same would occur if he returns. He did not file within his one year filing deadline, but he is a *Mendez Rojas* class member and filed his notice of class membership before the deadline. NIJC also filed his I-589. All affidavits and supporting materials for C.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which is currently scheduled for a merits hearing on June 27, 2023.

## Asylum Seekers in Need of Pro Bono Counsel

### Asylum: Affirmative Cases before USCIS

*If interested in representing these clients, please contact Moises Lopez Soltero, LGBT Pro Bono Project Coordinator*

1. *O. is a gay man from Pakistan. He speaks Urdu and English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His affirmative asylum application must be filed by December 19, 2022. (22-0155667)*

While growing up in Pakistan, O. was emotionally abused by peers who perceived him as feminine. He was sexually abused by multiple teachers. After he pierced his ears and dyed his hair, strangers accosted him in public to ask if he is gay, which he denied out of fear. He was in a relationship with a man for several years, but his boyfriend sexually and emotionally abused him.

O. was afraid to report the abuse for fear it would lead to further harm. Later, O. met up with a man from a dating app who held him at gunpoint and sexually assaulted him. He was also afraid to report this assault. He is currently in graduate school and may be eligible for an exception to the one-year filing deadline if he remains in valid F1 (student) status. However, since he is unsure whether he can afford to remain in school, pro bono counsel should plan to affirmatively file O.'s asylum application by December 19, 2022. Pro bono counsel must file all affidavits and supporting materials for O.'s case one week prior to O.'s asylum interview, which could occur as soon as four to six weeks after the application is filed.

**2. *R. is a gay man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His affirmative interview should be prepared for as soon as possible. (22-0156683)***

From an early age, R. was taught that gay people are mentally ill. To protect himself, he hid his sexual orientation, and grew up fearing his family and friends would discover that he is gay. At the age of 19, his uncle sexually abused him. When he told his family, they blamed R. for the abuse. When R.'s family members later learned that he was in a relationship with a man, they kicked him out of the house. R.'s partner became emotionally, verbally, and physically abusive. R. attempted to leave the relationship after years of abuse, but his former partner threatened to kill him. R. tried to report the death threats to the police, but the police refused to take a report because the relationship involved two men. After receiving another death threat in early 2022, R. fled to the United States. R. entered the United States in March 2022 and timely filed an affirmative asylum application *pro se* in August 2022. Pro bono counsel should plan to update R.'s application and file all revised affidavits and supporting materials for R.'s case one week prior to R.'s asylum interview. NIJC asks that pro bono counsel prepare R.'s materials by the end of January 2023 because R. could be called for an asylum interview at any time.

**3. *R. is a gay man from Russia. He speaks Russian and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His affirmative asylum application must be filed by October 16, 2023. (22-0159603)***

While growing up in Russia, R. was verbally abused in school based on his ethnicity and because he was perceived as feminine. Later, a man called him homophobic slurs and tried to rob R. when he was exiting a gay night club. R. didn't go to the police because he felt the police don't protect people like him who are gay and have darker skin. After Putin imposed a draft in Russia's war with Ukraine, R. feared having to be part of the homophobic Russian military. He also opposes the war in Ukraine and fears criminal prosecution if he refuses to participate. R. is an artist who also fears prosecution for his LGBT-themed art in Russia due to "anti-gay propaganda" laws as other LGBT artists have been persecuted under this law. USCIS must receive R.'s affirmative asylum application no later than October 16, 2023. Pro bono counsel must file all affidavits and supporting materials for O.'s case one week prior to O.'s asylum interview, which could occur as soon as four to six weeks after the application is filed.

## **Asylum: Based on Domestic and Gender Violence**

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

- 5. *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, Illinois. (20-0140744) (20-0142504)***

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

- 6. *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, Illinois. (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 divorced, S. moved in with a new partner. About a year into the relationship, S.'s partner, Y., began to emotionally and physically abuse her, T., and K. constantly. When Y. was abusive, S. would try to leave the house with her children, but Y. 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 Y. 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 in the United States in the summer of 2021. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

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

When J. was a young woman, she met her first partner and the father of her first two children. He abused her for several years until they separated. She made several reports against him. J. met her next partner, the father of her third child, S., a few years later. He 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 together with J.'s daughter S. as soon as they had the money to do so. J. and S. arrived in the United States in July of 2021. Although they were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security when they entered the United States, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their cases. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications with USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing.

**9. M. is a 17-year-old girl from Ecuador. She was designated an Unaccompanied Minor upon entering the United States. Her next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for April 14, 2023. M. speaks Spanish and lives with sister in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0151914)**

M. was physically and verbally abused by her father since she was a toddler. M.'s father beat M., her mother, and her siblings almost daily. When M. escaped with her siblings, her father found them and dragged them back to their home to beat them. M. and her mother called the police on him several times, but the police never arrived. M. fled Ecuador and came to the United States. When she entered the United States, M. was placed in a shelter, and designated an unaccompanied minor. As a previously designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has initial jurisdiction over her case. NIJC timely filed her skeletal asylum application with USCIS on June 29, 2022. All affidavits and supporting materials to M.'s case will be the week before her interview at the Asylum Office, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

L. was forced into marriage as a child. Her husband routinely raped and abused her. He threw their newborn baby against the wall, killing the infant. After several years of horrific abuse, L. escaped and relocated to another city, but was left homeless. While on the streets, she suffered multiple rapes. A woman found L. and offered her a place to stay, but the woman's husband also raped L. The woman and her husband then trafficked L. to Brazil, promising L. work as a maid in a family member's home, but instead forcing her into a life of prostitution. While in Brazil, L. met O., who had fled Cameroon several years prior to escape political persecution. O. helped L. escape the forced prostitution, and the two relocated to another city in Brazil. After giving birth to their daughter, B., L. learned that her traffickers, who are members of the Nigerian mafia, continued to search for L., O., and B. and intended to kill them. Fearing for their lives, L., O., and B. fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum with the Chicago Immigration Court. Their *pro bono* attorneys should be prepared to argue, with NIJC support, that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to their cases. All filings will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing.

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

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

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

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

***14. D. is a woman from El Salvador. Her son W. and daughter K. are derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible. D., W. and K.'s next Master Calendar hearing is on February 14, 2023. D. and her children speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (22-0153805) (22-0154693) (22-0154694)***

D. and her son W. are from El Salvador. D.'s daughter, K., was born in Mexico. In about 2009, D. fled to the United States to escape W.'s father who abused and threatened to kill her. D. left her son, W., under the care of her mother, a devout Jehovah's Witness. In the United States, D. met Y., the father of her daughter, K. Y. convinced D. to go to Mexico with him. In Mexico, Y. severely sexually and physically abused D. With Y.'s consent, doctors sterilized D. while she was unconscious during K.'s birth. Y. physically abused K. as well. Meanwhile, D.'s mother and family refused to let her communicate with her son, W., because D. had left the Jehovah's Witness church. D.'s mother forced W. to practice her religion against his will. After multiple attempts to escape Y., D. fled to a women's shelter and reported the abuse to the authorities in Mexico. Y. was in jail for a short period of time. In 2021, D. reconnected with W. and learned

that a gang in El Salvador threatened W. when he refused to join their gang. W. fled El Salvador and reunited with D. in Mexico. Fearing Y.'s release from jail in Mexico and W.'s father in El Salvador, D. and her children fled to the United States in December 2021. NIJC timely filed D., W., and K.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

From a young age, J. was bullied in school by peers who suspected that she was a lesbian. J.'s family was extremely religious, and when they learned of her sexual orientation, they beat and attempted to exorcise her before kicking her out of the house. Around 2019, J. moved to Chile to be with M., a Venezuelan woman she met online. M.'s family had fled Venezuela due to her dad's work and civil unrest at the time. M. had also previously participated in protests in Venezuela. M. had previously attempted to enter the U.S. in 2019, but she was detained at the airport and returned to Venezuela. She then went to Chile. In Chile, J. and M. were called homophobic slurs and were attacked by a group of men. They decided to come to the United States in order to live safely and freely. They entered the U.S. and were detained in August 2021. Upon being released from detention, both J. and M. were issued Notices to Appear (NTAs) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), but they have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their cases. NIJC timely filed J.'s and M.'s skeletal asylum applications with USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. With NIJC support, pro bono attorneys will need to argue that there is not a firm resettlement issue in their case due to lack of permanent residency status in Chile. All filings will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

### ***16. X. is a gay man from El Salvador. He speaks Spanish and is living with a sponsor in San Jose, California. (21-0150406)***

X. is a gay man from El Salvador who suffered homophobic violence while living there, including childhood sexual abuse and a brutal beating with a baseball bat by a group of men. X. also witnessed the murder of a friend by gang members and later testified in court against the gang. However, after this trial, the police forced him to testify, under threat, in other gang cases that he knew nothing about. As a result of this testimony, the gang threatened to kill both X. and his family and attacked him on multiple occasions. Upon entering the United States in April 2021, he was detained for nearly eight months on spurious gang allegations despite the fact that he was himself targeted by gang violence. He was finally released in December 2021 after prolonged advocacy from NIJC. X. was scheduled for an Individual Hearing on his asylum case while detained. Accordingly, NIJC has already filed a pre-hearing statement and all evidence in X.'s case. He was released just days before this hearing, and his case was reset for a Master Calendar Hearing on March 11, 2022 before the Immigration Court in San Francisco, California.

NIJC is seeking the assistance of pro bono counsel to represent X. in court at this hearing. Pro bono counsel will review all previous filings, prepare X. and prepare X. his witnesses for the merits hearing.

***17. S. is a bisexual man from Ghana. He speaks English and lives in Chicago, IL with his fiancé, R. and their son, D. (22-0155411) (22-0155206) (22-0155624)***

S was attacked by a group of vigilantes who cut him with a knife, which left a scar on his chest. His then-girlfriend, R., who pregnant with their child, was also attacked by the group; they pushed her to the ground and beat her. They told her they didn't want the child to end up like their father, because he is gay. Fearful of future attacks, S. and R. left Ghana and came to the United States. R. gave birth to their son, D., in Guatemala. Their asylum applications must be filed by January 1, 2023. They are scheduled for a master calendar hearing on October 28, 2022.

***18. P. is a lesbian woman from Venezuela. She speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. P. has a one year-filing deadline for January 5, 2023, and is scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing on August 1, 2023. (22-0155956)***

When P. was a teen her family learned she was in a relationship with another girl. They isolated P. and sent her to meet with pastors and a psychologist in order to change her sexual orientation. After moving to another city for university, P. started a campaign to support young people questioning their sexual orientation. P. was attacked and received death threats because of this work. Later, the father of P.'s ex-girlfriend threatened to kill P because of her sexual orientation and advocacy for LGBT rights. After graduating, P. worked as an architect but eventually left her job because of discrimination and threats based on her sexual orientation. She continued to participate in political campaigns and protest against the government. Guerrilla groups threatened to kill and/or imprison her because of her political views and her sexual orientation. Pro bono counsel must file P.'s asylum application prior to January 5, 2023, before the Chicago Immigration Court. If pro bono counsel and client mutually agree, it may be possible to file a motion to advance this hearing given changing country conditions in Venezuela. In addition, her pro bono attorney should be prepared to argue, with NIJC support, that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to her, as she may have birthright citizenship in Colombia.

***19. M. is a bisexual man from Peru. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. M. is awaiting to be scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing and has a one-year deadline of June 18, 2023. (22-0155931).***

M. was raised to believe that homosexuality was wrong. From a young age he didn't disclose his sexual orientation out of fear that he could be harmed. Around the beginning of the year 2022, a group of men forced M. in a vehicle and raped him. While M. was sexually assaulted, they made references to his sexual orientation and political involvement. M. knew he could not file a police report because of his LGBT identify, leaving him no choice but to flee for his life. After M. was no longer in Peru, his sister was targeted and asked about M.'s whereabouts. M. entered the United States in June 2022, was detained, and then released on parole. Pro bono counsel must file M.'s I-589 prior to June 18, 2023, before the Chicago Immigration Court. All affidavits and supporting materials for M.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing,

which has not yet been set. If M. and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set this case for merits once the I-589 has been filed.

***20. O. is a bisexual man from Nicaragua. He speaks Spanish and lives in Northern Indiana. His asylum application must be filed by January 9, 2023, and is scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing on August 17, 2023, before the Chicago Immigration Court. (22-0155907).***

In O.'s early adulthood, he worked for the Nicaraguan government's public health department. As a government employee, on a few different occasions he was either forced to vote for the Sandinista National Liberation Front ("Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional") or prohibited from voting. He was later targeted by the Sandinista Youth ("Juventud Sandinista"), the youth wing to the Sandinista National Liberation Front. After attempting to resign in October of 2021, they threatened him by saying that quitting would make him an enemy of the government. In November of 2021, O.'s ex-partner's father discovered of their relationship and threatened to kill O. That same month, he was sexually assaulted by another man. O. fled Nicaragua. The Chicago Immigration Court must receive O.'s asylum application no later than January 5, 2023. All affidavits and supporting materials for O.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been set. If O. and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set this case for merits rather than waiting to receive a date at P.'s August master calendar hearing.

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

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

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

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

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

**23. 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, Illinois. (20-0140260) (20-0140262) (20-0140264) (20-0140265) (20-0140266) (20-0140267)**

T. was a landowner and vocal advocate against cartel activity in his community. In August 2018, *Guerreros Unidos* cartel members demanded that T. join their cartel and allow them to take over his family's land, but T. refused. In November 2018, the heavily armed cartel members threatened and beat T. After T. escaped to a neighboring village, cartel members threatened T.'s wife, R. and demanded to know where he was. T. and R. left with their children and fled to the United States shortly afterwards. Since then, cartel members have ransacked T.'s family home and have taken over T.'s family land. T. filed a timely, pro se asylum application in July 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials for the family's case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been rescheduled. 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.

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

In 2018, L. was living with his former partner, D., when she began to receive threatening text messages from her ex-husband. Within a few days, D.'s ex-husband murdered her. Soon after, L. began to receive threatening messages from men associated with D.'s ex-husband. These men also started to intimidate L.'s family while they were looking for him. L. assisted D.'s family in making a police report about the murder, but nothing significant came of it and police even tried to blame L. for D.'s death. L. fled Honduras about a month after D.'s death, fearing that the same

people who killed her would come for him next. L. filed a pro se application for asylum with the immigration court in 2020. Because this application was filed more than one year after he entered the United States, L.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that he merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to L.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

K. was part of an opposition political party in Honduras and was very active in the protest movement. In 2015, armed men from the Honduran military kidnapped and beat him. They threatened that he had to leave the country or end his participation in the political party. After K. escaped, he reported the kidnapping and torture to the police. After filing the police report, Honduran military and government officials constantly threatened K. that he had to leave the country. Fearing further attacks, he fled to the United States July 2018. K. filed his application for asylum pro se with the immigration court. Because he filed more than one year after his arrival, K.'s pro bono attorneys will need to argue that he merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making that argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to K.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**29. V. is a young woman from Honduras. V. speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. (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. NIJC timely filed V.'s application with USCIS. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to her interview at the asylum office, which has not yet been scheduled.

***30. R is a woman from Venezuela. R. speaks Spanish and lives in western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (21-0145778)***

R. worked as an attorney for a government-run company for many years, where she was responsible for monitoring projects and partnerships to ensure legal compliance. While R. was part of the opposition, her supervisor was vocally pro-government. 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 in a 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 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***31. Z. is a woman from Colombia. Her husband D. is a derivative on her asylum application and he is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Merits hearing is on March 27, 2024. Z. and D. speak Spanish and live a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (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 was in peace negotiations. Later, the armed group member who was hit in the accident died and the armed group escalated threats against Z. and her husband, 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 timely filed for asylum in December 2020. Z. and D.'s affidavits and supporting documents will be due to the immigration court 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which is scheduled for March 27, 2024.

***32. 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. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on July 17, 2023. R. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (19-0138307) (19-0138308) (19-0138311)***

R. and his family lived in a rural community in central Mexico. In early 2019, members of *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. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

V.'s former partner, K., is a gang member in Honduras. During their relationship, K. physically and sexually abused V., tried to force her to have an abortion, and threatened to kill her if she ever left him. He also abused V.'s children and tried to force her son to join his gang by threatening to kill V. and her children if he refused. Gang members also attempted to extort V. by threatening to kill her and her children if she refused. V. and her daughters fled to the United States in late 2018. NIJC filed V., C., and T.'s applications for asylum with the immigration court, but because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that V., C., and T. merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. V.'s son L. entered the United States as an unaccompanied child and as a result, his case was in a different procedural posture. NIJC filed his asylum application with USCIS and USCIS granted him asylum in May 2021, which should be helpful when presenting the case of his mother and sisters.

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

S.'s step-father abused her throughout her childhood. The father of S.'s first child also beat and raped her. He prohibited her from studying or working outside the home. The abuse worsened when S. found a radio job. S. developed severe anxiety and depression. The father of her child admitted her to a psychiatric hospital and told staff she was crazy. While at the hospital, a nurse raped S. multiple times, leading to the birth of her second child, J. Later, S. worked as a television reporter. Her boss routinely sexually harassed her, forced her to report on violent,

gang-related stories, and used his connections to highly ranked gang members to intimidate her against reporting him. After S. reported his treatment, members of the Mara 18 gang threatened her outside of her home, saying there would be consequences if she spoke out. In early 2019, gang members attacked and beat her brother. Soon afterwards, S. fled to the United States with her son. NIJC filed S.'s asylum application with the immigration court. Because this application was filed more than one year after S. entered the United States, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that she merits an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to S.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***38. A. is a woman from Guatemala. Her four children are derivatives on her application for asylum. A.'s eldest daughter, C., has an independent asylum case at the asylum office. Her two youngest daughters recently arrived as unaccompanied minors and are not yet scheduled for court. A. and her family speak Spanish and live in Central Illinois. (20-0143124) (20-0143123) (20-0143125) (21-0148945) (21-0148946)***

A's partner abused A. and their children, raped A., and controlled her church attendance. He became particularly violent after she gave birth to their second daughter because he was angry that the child was a girl. As a result of the abuse, A. has long-term hearing loss. A.'s partner forced her daughter, C., to scavenge for food at a local dump, attempted to sell C. to a drug trafficker, and threatened to rape C. When A. moved with her children to another part of Guatemala, her partner found them and threatened to kill them with the help of his drug trafficking associates. Fearing for their lives, A. fled with her children to the United States. Because A. and her son filed for asylum after their one-year deadline, her pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All documentation to their cases will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. Documentation in C's case will be due one week prior to her asylum interview. The timing of the interview is uncertain.

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

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

and supporting materials to L.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

During much of their relationship, R.'s ex-partner H., was verbally, physically, and sexually abusive. H. was a police officer in El Salvador. For some time, H. was able to hide his status as a police officer from the community and 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 filed R. and A.'s asylum applications with the immigration court in November 2021. Since their applications were filed more than one year after entering the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they meet an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum eligibility. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials for R. and A.'s case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***41. 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 set for a Merits hearing on August 1, 2023. E. and his family speak Spanish and live in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (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 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 E.'s son, D. E. timely filed his application for asylum pro se in May 2019. NIJC filed individual applications for D. and S. in January 2021 and moved to consolidate their cases. All affidavits and supporting materials to their cases will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which is scheduled for August 1, 2023.

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

R.'s partner was a member of the MS-18 gang. Soon after R. and her partner started living together, her partner became controlling and abusive. He would not allow her to leave the house to see her family. He beat and raped her often. He told her that she had to stay with him, and

threatened to hurt and kill her if she tried to leave the relationship. R. reported him to the police once, but nothing came from it. She was also involved in the Libre political party and attended protests regularly over the course of several years. Police shot at, beat, and tear-gassed her and fellow party members at many protests. She fled the country and traveled to the United States in 2019 to escape the dangerous political climate and free herself from her abusive partner. R. timely filed her asylum application with the immigration court in 2019. All affidavits and supporting materials to R.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

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

When V. was young, her father was killed and her mom moved to the United States, leaving V. and her younger sisters with an aunt who physically abused them. When V. and her sisters moved to a different aunt's home, another family member who was involved with a gang threatened the girls with violence and made sexual advances towards them. V.'s two sisters fled to the United States and were granted asylum, but V. stayed in Guatemala. When she was 17 years old, V. was in a relationship with a man and became pregnant. Once he learned of her pregnancy, V.'s partner began to verbally and physically abuse her. He tried to force V. to have an abortion. During this time, V. was living in her partner's home, where his family members also abused her and eventually caused her to be hospitalized for several days. About a year later, V. began a relationship with another man. When she confronted this man about being in a relationship with another woman, he punched her in the face and stomach, causing her to be hospitalized for about two weeks. Soon after, V. fled to the United States with her son, X., and later gave birth to her second child in the United States. Although V. and X. were issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) at the border, their NTAs have not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until their NTAs are filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over their asylum applications. NIJC filed their asylum applications with USCIS on November 12, 2021. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, V. and X. will be placed into court proceedings. All

affidavits and supporting materials will then be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

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

S. worked as an engineer for a Colombian airline. His position involved overseeing the influx of luggage and goods, and granted him access to many parts of the airport that are generally restricted. In 2018, two of S.'s colleagues approached him and asked him to collaborate with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) by facilitating the transportation of drugs through the airline. S. declined this request, subsequently received more requests, and eventually threats from members of the FARC. S. tried to report the attempted recruitment to airport administrators and the police, but the threats only worsened. At one point, two men went to S.'s wife, A.'s, workplace and told her that she'd better advise her husband to collaborate with them or else he'd be in danger. At the end of 2018, the family received a letter indicating that S. had until the end of the year to collaborate with them, or the lives of his entire family would be at risk. The family immediately fled. After this, family and friends reported that people had come to S.'s home looking for him. S. submitted his application for asylum with USCIS in December 2020, completed an asylum interview in 2021, and was referred to the immigration court. Because the asylum application was filed more than one year after S. and his family entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials to their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**47. 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 R. 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, R. moved back in with her aunt and brother. A gang began demanding her brother join them, and attacked him when he refused. Around 2012, R., K., and R.'s brother moved to escape the gang. Around 2019, the gang found them and began threatening R.'s brother again. R.'s brother then fled the country to escape the gang, but they murdered him in Mexico. Shortly thereafter, the gang threatened R. She and her children fled to the United States in the summer of 2021. 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. NIC timely their asylum applications with USCIS. Once their NTAs are filed with the court, they will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing.

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

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

**49. M. is a woman from Honduras. Her son, J., is a derivative on her asylum application, and is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar Hearing is on April 30, 2024. M. and J. speak Spanish and live in Indianapolis, Indiana. (21-0152248) (20-0145265)**

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 the police did not hold M.'s abuser accountable. After she separated from her abuser, M. was robbed at gunpoint by armed men. Then, gang members began extorting M., and threatened to kill her if she did not pay them. M. reported these threats to the police, but the gang continued to extort and threaten Ms. until she and her son, J., fled Honduras. At the United States-Mexico border, M. and J. 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 consolidated in immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. M. and J. are independently eligible for T Visas because M. was the victim of human trafficking in the United States. NIJC will handle the preparation and filing of their T Visa applications in coordination with their pro bono counsel.

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

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

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

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

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

C. was part of Venezuela’s national criminal investigations unit. She witnessed how the government represses pro-democracy protestors when her unit became involved in arresting protestors. C. refused orders to work at a demonstration, and her supervisors punished her and prohibited her from resigning as a result of her opposition. Out of fear, C. fled the country. She believes that if she were to return to Venezuela, she would be detained and mistreated by the

government. When C. entered the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued her a Notice to Appear (NTA), but the NTA has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Unless and until her NTA is filed with the court, USCIS retains initial jurisdiction over her asylum application. For this reason, NIJC attorneys filed C.'s asylum application with USCIS in October 2021. Once her NTA is filed with the court, C. will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

K. lived with her partner, T., and their children, M. and P., in Mexico. T. disappeared in 2016. K. filed a report with local law enforcement. While investigating T.'s disappearance on her own K. discovered that armed men had taken him. K. joined *Familia Unidas*, a group advocating for information about their disappeared family members, and participated in marches and group meetings. Through the advocacy of *Familias Unidas*, K. filed a second police report to elevate her partner's disappearance. She began to notice trucks parked outside her house at night. K. feared for her life when she learned that other members of *Familias Unidas* had been killed. She fled with her children, M. and P., to the United States in 2019. After K. and her children fled Mexico, armed men kicked T.'s parents out of their house and threatened to kill them if they did not leave. After T.'s parents fled, they learned that their house had been burned down. NIJC filed K., M., and P.'s skeletal asylum applications with the immigration court in January 2022. Because their applications were filed more than one year after they entered the United States, their pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they merit an exception to the one-year filing deadline for asylum. NIJC will assist them in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

When R. was a child, the director of her school molested her several times. As a teenager, a much older man forced her into a relationship. He then verbally and sexually abused her. After several years of abuse, R. left him. Later on, R. got involved in politics. When the local gang realized that she was involved in politics, they told R. to help the local gang leader get involved in her political party, or the gang would kill her. R. refused and fled the country with her children. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

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

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

***57. L. is a man from Congo (Brazzaville). His wife, R. and his daughter, N., are derivatives on his application for asylum. They are currently scheduled for a Master Calendar Hearing before the Chicago Immigration Court on October 4, 2023. L. and his family speak French and live in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0151916) (21-0152424) (21-0152425)***

L. lived in Congo with his wife, R., and his daughter, N. L. was a member of an opposition party in Congo and was targeted after attending a protest. Congolese police officers followed L. and ordered him to appear for questioning. After L. failed to appear, police officers arrived at his home, attacked him, and raped his wife and his daughter. L. was then detained and tortured. After L. was released, he and his family fled to Brazil. L., R., and N. arrived in the United States around June 2021. NIJC timely filed asylum applications for L., R., and N. with the Chicago

Immigration Court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***58. C. is a woman from Cameroon. Her next Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for April 17, 2023. C. speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (22-0153318)***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***62. P. is a man from Afghanistan. He speaks Pashto and lives in Chicago. (22-0155909)***

P. was a member of the Khost Protection Forces (KPF) for many years. He joined the military group young to help his country fight against the Taliban and support his family financially. P. first worked as a security guard, then as a soldier and eventually as a medic treating soldiers who were injured during military operations. P.'s uncle worked for the KPF as well. A couple of years ago, P. and his uncle received a threat letter from the Taliban demanding they stop working with the KPF. His uncle reported the letter to military commanders, but nothing ever happened. P. continued his work with the KPF until he was evacuated to the United States when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan. P.'s one-year asylum filing deadline has passed, so his attorneys will need to be prepared to argue that his parole status warrants an exception to the one-year deadline. His attorney will also need to be prepared to argue that P.'s military experience did not involve activities that may be construed to constitute persecution or terrorist activity. NIJC will provide support in both of these arguments. His attorney will need to be prepared for the interview to take place within 45 days of filing the asylum application with USCIS.

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

F., M., and R. were all threatened by F.'s ex-partner who is a member of the Nicaraguan paramilitary. He and other armed paramilitary members threatened to kidnap R. and beat M. in the street. F.'s ex-partner refused to accept that F. was in another relationship and threatened to kill M. Separately, armed paramilitary members tried to force M. to join them and support the current administration in Nicaragua. M. refused several times because they support the opposition party in Nicaragua. Armed paramilitary members went to their home and threatened to harm M. and report him to the Nicaraguan police. F., R., and M. fled to the United States.

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

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

L. attended anti-government protests in July of 2021. A few days later, police arrived to his house and began threatening him, telling him he would have to pay 200 pesos otherwise he was going to be jailed. Eventually, L was jailed and detained for about 3-4 days. Fearing that he would be jailed again, he decided to leave for the United States. L. received a Notice to Appear, but it has not yet been filed with the court. Unless his NTA is filed with the court, his asylum application will need to be filed with USICS before March 30, 2023. After his NTA is filed with the court, he will be placed into court proceedings. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing.

***65. M. and T. are a husband and wife from Venezuela. They have Master Calendar hearings scheduled for March 22, 2023 and December 6, 2022, respectively. M. and T. speak Spanish and live in a western suburb of Chicago. (21-0151358) (21-0151546).***

M and T were both student activists with an anti-government, pro-democracy political party in Venezuela. M. was a leader with the party. In his role, M. helped organize peaceful demonstrations, distributed pamphlets, and assisted the main leader of the student activists. M. also helped the community by distributing food, water, and other necessities. One day, pro-government actors shot at T.'s house and kidnapped, beat, and threatened to kill M. Afterwards, M. continued to go to demonstrations, and as a result the pro-government actors announced that he had one week to leave the country or else he would be killed. M. fled to Colombia, and T. later joined him. M is also a citizen of Colombia, where he fears harm because of a land dispute between the FARC and his father's family. M. and T. entered the United States together and were placed in removal proceedings. With NIJC's support, M. and T's pro bono attorneys will need to argue that they are not barred from asylum due to firm resettlement. M. and T. are scheduled for their first master hearings on March 22, 2023 and December 6, 2022, respectively. Their NIJC attorneys timely filed their I-589 asylum applications and will request that their cases be consolidated in court. All supporting documents will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***66. L. is a man from Cameroon. He has a Master Calendar hearing scheduled for February 1, 2024. L. lives in a northern suburb of Chicago and speaks English. (22-0153507)***

L. was arrested by the government because he was falsely identified as having participated in anti-government protests. While in detention, government officials beat him and threatened to kill him. After L. was released, anti-government separatists accused him of speaking to the military about their movement and threatened to kill him. Fearing both the government and the separatists, L. fled Cameroon and entered the United States. When L. entered the United States, he was placed in removal proceedings. L. filed his I-589 asylum application after the one-year deadline, but he is a class member of the Mendez-Rojas settlement agreement and is therefore

not subject to the one-year deadline bar. L. is scheduled for his master calendar hearing in on February 1, 2024. Afterwards, he will be scheduled for his individual merits hearing. All supporting documents and affidavits will be 15 days prior his merits hearing.

**67. T. is a woman from Haiti. She lives with her partner, W., and his two children, V. and Z. T. lives in a northern suburb of Chicago and speaks Haitian Creole. (22-0155059) (22-0155637) (22-0157686) (22-0157680).**

T. worked as a nurse in Haiti. She was also a leader in a women's rights organization that provides support to women and girls affected by domestic violence. As women's rights activists, T. and her colleagues voiced opposition to the Haitian government's policies and actions regarding violence against women. The police beat T. multiple times for her participation in political demonstrations. T. also received death threats from the government because of her activism. T. fled Haiti after some of her women's rights colleagues were killed by the government. On her way to the United States, T. met her current partner, W. W. and his children, V. and Z., are Jehovah Witness, and their religion prohibits them from becoming involved in politics. After W. refused to assist a political party due to his religious beliefs, the party threatened and attempted to kill W., V., and Z. This prompted them to flee Haiti. T., W., V., and Z. were all paroled into the United States in September 2021. Their NIJC attorney timely filed their asylum applications with the Asylum Office. They are now waiting for their asylum interviews to be scheduled at any time, and all supporting documents will be due to the Asylum Office one week before their interviews.

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

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

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

Members of a drug cartel murdered J.'s sister. J.'s family reported the murder to police, who eventually arrested several cartel members in connection with the murder. When the cartel members were released from jail, they stalked and threatened J. and her family members. They threatened to kidnap J.'s nephews, the sons of J.'s slain sister. Fearing for their lives, J. and her family fled to another city in Mexico, but cartel members continued to call and threaten J., so she fled to the United States. NIJC timely filed an asylum application for J. Her next master calendar hearing is on April 18, 2024. All supporting documents will be due no fewer than 15 days before her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

Members of an organized criminal group in Guatemala tried to force E.'s daughter, N., into prostitution. When N. and E. refused, the criminal group threatened to kidnap N. Fearing for her life, N. fled to the United States. After N. fled, the same people who had targeted N. threatened to force E. into prostitution and to kidnap her other daughters. E., C., and A. fled to the United States to seek safety. NIJC timely filed E.'s asylum application, which includes N., C., and A. as derivatives. NIJC also filed an independent asylum application for N. E.'s next Master Calendar hearing is on April 30, 2024. N. is in separate proceedings and does not have a scheduled future hearing date. E.'s and N.'s pro bono attorneys should be prepared to request that their cases be consolidated. All supporting documents will be due no fewer than 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

***71. T. is a woman from Honduras. Her daughter L. is a derivative on her asylum application and is also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on April 13, 2023. T. and L. speak Spanish and live in Northcentral Indiana. (22-0155223) (22-0155529)***

X. targeted T. and forced her into a relationship when she was a young teenager. He physically and sexually abused her. T. attempted to escape X. by moving in with another man, but X. found them and physically beat T.'s new partner multiple times. When X. discovered T. was pregnant, he pointed a gun at her and told her to choose between him and death. X. believes he is L.'s father, but T. is uncertain. After X.'s threat, T. returned to her mother's house and X. continued to abuse her. Because of actions taken by X. and T.'s brother, T. was arrested and held in jail for over a year in Honduras. She was found innocent of all charges and released. X. was not arrested and told T. that he went to El Salvador. X. sent gang members to stalk T. while he was in El Salvador. MS-13 gang members killed T.'s brother in early 2021. The MS-13 gang demanded that T. pay back her brother's debt. T. and L. fled Honduras when the MS-13 gang threatened that she would not live to see her baby be born if she did not pay the money. T. and L. arrived in the United States in November 2021. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum. All affidavits and supporting materials are due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not been yet scheduled.

***72. K. is a woman from Cameroon. Her next Master Calendar Hearing is May 24, 2023. K. speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (22-0155655)***

K. and her family were members of a political party that opposed the current president of Cameroon. K.'s parents were kidnapped and murdered by the police because of their participation in this party. K. was detained and imprisoned three times for her involvement in the opposition party. The final time she was detained, she was raped and beaten by the police and sustained several injuries. She was taken to a hospital where she stayed for several days while under police surveillance. The opposition party was able to negotiate her release and K. fled to the United States. K. timely filed her application for asylum pro se in March 2016. All affidavits and supporting materials to K.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

## **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)**

***73. A. is a 15-year-old girl from Honduras. She speaks Spanish and lives with her uncle in Central Illinois (Peoria County). (21-0150928)***

A.'s father and mother abandoned her when A. was around 10 years old, and A. was placed in the care of her maternal grandparents. A.'s parents failed to provide any financial or emotional support after they abandoned her. 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.

## **U Visa**

***74. M. is a 46-year-old man from Venezuela who is eligible to file a U Visa application. M.'s wife J. will be a derivative on his application. M. will not require a waiver of inadmissibility. M. speaks Spanish and resides in Chicago. USCIS must receive M.'s application prior to February 3, 2023. (21-0152444)***

On October 30, 2021, M. was the victim of armed robbery at his place of employment in a cellphone store. Three masked males entered the store. One of them asked M. if he was in charge and struck M. with a firearm in the head. The three offenders took M. to a back office where the offenders stole several cellphones, stole money from M., and stole money from a cash register. The offenders asked for codes to be able to access the safe but M. did not know them. M. says the gun was also placed in his mouth. The offenders fled the scene. M. was physically attacked and sustained injuries on his head, clavicle, and partial damage to his front tooth. M. was medically treated at a hospital. M. is seeking counseling.

## **VAWA**

**75. M. is a 42-year-old woman from Ecuador. M. is eligible to file a VAWA self-petition concurrently with an application for adjustment of status and employment authorization. M. speaks Spanish and resides in Chicago. There is no set deadline since M. is still legally married to her husband. (22-0155102) (22-0157765)**

M. has been the victim of emotional, financial, physical, and mental abuse by her U.S. citizen husband. M. married her husband on July 14, 2021, and they began living together. M. and her husband worked together. He became possessive once M. stopped working with him, because he did not know her whereabouts. He was jealous and used M.'s lack of immigration status against her. M. stated that her husband tried to kill her on two occasions. On August 5, 2021, on their way to her job, he was driving and they began arguing. He started speeding and hitting himself while yelling and cursing at her. M. was afraid for her life because he was driving recklessly and was acting violently. On August 8, 2021, they were both in the car and he was speeding and said "today is a beautiful day to die." M. left the apartment they shared on August 10, 2021 and started the divorce process. M. has sought counseling and has an active order of protection against her husband.

**76. L. is a gay HIV+ man from Honduras. L. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (22-0155621) \*If interested in this case please contact Moises Lopez Soltero, LGBT Pro Bono Project Coordinator**

L. is a survivor of domestic violence eligible for VAWA protection. Around 2017, in his early twenties, L. met his now ex-husband, who abused him. L. hid the relationship from his family because he was uncomfortable disclosing his sexual orientation. After getting married, L.'s ex-husband mocked his weight, HIV positive status, and even threatened to have L. deported. L.'s husband both verbally and physically abused him. His husband hit L. hard enough to bruise him, but L. did not report the abuse because he felt ashamed. On one occasion, L. did seek medical attention for the bruising, but the doctor assumed the bruises were secondary effects of his HIV treatment. L. divorced his abuser in 2022. Since obtaining the divorce, L. has cut off all means of communication and has been actively working with mental health professionals. Of note, L. was ordered removed in absentia in 2015. He entered as a minor and his family did not support him attending his court date. L.'s pro bono attorney will need to file a I-360 petition on behalf of L. Then, the attorney can file a Motion to Reopen after the I-360 is approved to either terminate the case and seek adjustment before USCIS or seek adjustment with the Immigration Judge.

## **NIJC Announcements**

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

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