

August 23, 2023

NIJC Pro Bono Case List: 98 cases need pro bono representation.

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

- **Priority Matters for Pro Bono Placement:**
 - Defensive asylum cases with upcoming hearings
 - Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

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

- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)**
- **U Visa**
- **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 more information or to connect with a case, please contact the pro bono teams:

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

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

Priority Matters for Pro Bono Placement

Defensive Asylum Cases with Upcoming Hearings- Priority

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

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

- 2. B. is a woman from El Salvador. Her son, L., is a derivative on her application for asylum. Their merits hearing is on April 22, 2024. B. and L. speak Spanish and live in Central Indiana. (22-0159762) (22-0159886)***

T. is the father of B.'s son, L., and a Barrio 18 gang member in El Salvador. T. forced B. to be his woman. He physically and sexually abused B., kept her isolated in his home, and threatened to kill her if she left him. When B. tried to end the relationship, T. cut her with a knife so that she has a lasting reminder that she can never leave him. Police officers eventually arrested T. In their pursuit of him, they beat B. while she was pregnant and accused her of also being part of the gang. While T. was in jail, he sent fellow gang members to stalk and threaten B., letting her know that they had orders to kill her if she left him. B. also fears rival gang members, who have threatened to kill her because they believe she is T.'s woman. B. and L. fled El Salvador a few days before T. was released from jail. B. and L. entered the United States after escaping a Mexican cartel that kidnapped them for two months. NIJC timely filed their applications for asylum with the Immigration Court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 30 days prior to their merits hearing, which is scheduled for April 22, 2024.

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

V. recently came out as transgender. As a child, she was mistreated because people saw her as an effeminate gay boy. She was physically and verbally harmed in school. V. became increasingly afraid of living in Mexico after LGBTQ friends were murdered. She fears that now, as a transgender woman, she would be targeted. V. missed her one-year filing deadline, as she entered in September 2018 and applied for asylum in November 2020. V.'s pro bono attorneys can argue that V.'s coming out as transgender is a changed circumstance that excuses her one-year filing deadline. V.'s merits hearing is on May 20, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to V.'s merits hearing, which is set for May 20, 2024.

4. *O. is a gay non-binary person from Honduras in removal proceedings. She speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His merits hearing is June 3, 2024. (23-0160818)*

O. uses he/him and she/her pronouns. O. was repeatedly verbally abused in Honduras for not conforming to society's gender expectations. He was raped as a child by a stranger who called him anti-LGBTQ slurs. She was beaten in public as an adult while being called anti-LGBTQ slurs, and the assailant told her that he would kill her if she did not flee the country. O. received refugee status in Mexico but was afraid to stay because of his gender identity. She fears returning to Honduras because she believes that members of the public will physically and sexually abuse her because of her gender identity and eventually kill her. O.'s case is scheduled for a merits hearing on June 3, 2024. All affidavits and supporting documents for O.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which is set for June 3, 2024

5. *P. is a lesbian woman from Venezuela. She speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. Her merits hearing is August 2, 2024. (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 LGBTQ 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 or imprison her because of her political views and her sexual orientation. Pro bono counsel will need to determine whether P. has birthright citizenship in Colombia and, if she does, argue, with NIJC's support, that this does not bar her from a grant of asylum. NIJC timely filed P.'s asylum application with the Chicago Immigration Court on December 29, 2022. P. is currently set for a merits hearing on August 2, 2024. All affidavits and supporting documents for P.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which is set for August 2, 2024.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) – Priority

- 6. *M. is a 20-year-old girl from Mexico. She lives with her mother, who speaks Spanish, in Chicago (Cook County). The predicate order must be obtained before M. turns 21 in April of 2024. (23-0163006)***

M. lived with her mother and father in Mexico, when in 2004 the entire family was involved in a tragic car accident that resulted in the death of M's father. M. suffered severe head trauma that resulted in her becoming visually impaired and to suffer from seizures. M.'s father was the sole provider for the family. After the accident, M.'s mother believed M. would be provided with better medical care in the United States as they had no money otherwise to pay for her medical expenses, and they came to the United States in August 2005. The *pro bono* attorney will need to file a post-18 guardianship case on behalf of M's mother, asking that the mother be appointed as M.'s legal guardian until M. turns 21. The guardianship order must include findings that M.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his death (which constitutes abandonment under Illinois law) and that it is not in M's best interest to return to Mexico.

Asylum Seekers in Need of Pro Bono Counsel

Asylum: Affirmative Applications Before USCIS

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

- 7. *T. is a man from Nicaragua. His wife D., will be a derivative on his application and is also independently eligible for asylum. T.'s son, A., and daughter, S., will also be derivatives on his application for asylum. T., D., A., and S. speak Spanish and live in Chicago. USCIS must receive their affirmative applications by February 8, 2024. (23-0162816) (23-0163302) (23-0163303) (23-0163306)***

T. was a campaign leader and president for the youth of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party. He began to attend protests against the government in 2018. Government officials and paramilitaries started following him in July of that same year. These individuals told T. that they wanted to see him in jail or dead. After these encounters, T. moved around often to make himself more difficult to find. In 2020, the police and paramilitaries stopped T. and claimed that his motorcycle had been involved in a murder. They took him to the police station, where they held him for five hours. Later that year, the police and paramilitaries again stopped T. on the road. They beat, handcuffed, and arrested him on false charges of robbery. While T. remained imprisoned, D. fought to bring the injustices that T. faced to light. T. spent nearly three years as a political prisoner before the Nicaraguan government stripped him of his citizenship and exiled him. USCIS must receive T., D., A., and S.'s asylum applications by February 8, 2024. All supporting materials must be filed with the Chicago Asylum office one week prior to their interview, which could occur within four to six of weeks of filing his asylum application.

- 8. A. is a queer non-binary person from Ghana. They speak English and live in the Western suburbs of Chicago. USCIS must receive their affirmative asylum application by July 22, 2023. (22-0159561)**

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

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

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

- 10. G. is a lesbian woman from Nigeria. She speaks English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. USCIS must receive her affirmative asylum application by August 16, 2023. (23-0161614).**

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

- 11. S. is a gay man from Russia. S. speaks Russian and lives in Chicago, Illinois. He is waiting for an asylum interview. (22-0159964)**

S. knew he was gay as a young teen. S. remained closeted because he knew that people in his life were not accepting of gay people. In 2013, a group of unknown assailants stopped S. in the street, beat him up, and looked through nude photos and messages with men on S.'s phone. The group stole his phone. S. went to the ER and filed a police report. S. did not tell the police he is gay due to fear of how they would react. S. met his partner, E., through a dating app about three years ago. He also fears Russia will force him to fight against Ukraine if he returns, and he opposes the war in Ukraine. S. was born in Kazakhstan, so pro bono counsel will need to determine whether he is eligible for citizenship in Kazakhstan and, if so, address why he could not live safely in Kazakhstan. NIJC filed his asylum application on August 2, 2023. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to his interview at the asylum office. Because interview timing can vary, NIJC recommends pro bono counsel plan to work up this case within about 12 weeks of case acceptance.

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

A.'s mom beat him during his childhood for acting feminine. A.'s mom threatened to kill herself and said her husband would kill himself if they ever found out A. is gay. They told A. being gay is a sin worse than murder. A. protected himself by hiding his sexuality. A. tried dating girls in high school to hide himself but felt uncomfortable. While serving mandatorily in the Turkmen army, two soldiers beat A. after catching A. look at them in the communal shower. A. studied in Turkey where he had secret casual relationships out of fear the Turkish authorities would catch and punish him for being gay. When A. returned to Turkmenistan, airport security interrogated him, looked through paintings of men on A.'s phone, and accused A. of being gay. A. fears the security forces and the Turkmen police will blackmail him. A. does not have status in Turkey. A. came to the US on a student Visa on September 10, 2022, but cannot pay tuition and is out of status. USCIS must receive A.'s asylum application by September 9, 2023.

13. D. is an HIV positive gay man from Nicaragua. He speaks Spanish and lives in Wisconsin. USCIS must receive his affirmative asylum application by September 23, 2023. (23-0162205)

D.'s parents physically and verbally abused him throughout his childhood because they suspected he is gay. At a young age, D.'s uncle, with whom he shared a room, sexually assaulted him. D. stopped attending school because he classmates bullied him for his feminine mannerisms. When he told his mom he was gay, she kicked him out of their home. D. was diagnosed with HIV in 202. After he was denied HIV treatment in Nicaragua, D. filed a police report against the health center and traveled monthly to Honduras for medication. However, the Nicaraguan government viewed this as an antigovernment act and issued a warrant for his arrest. He entered the United States on September 24, 2022. USCIS must receive D.'s asylum application by September 23, 2023. All supporting materials must be filed with the Chicago Asylum office one week prior to his interview, which could occur within four to six of weeks of filing his asylum application.

14. E. is a young man from Guatemala. His next Master Calendar hearing is on

October 4, 2023. E. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0150685)

When E. was in high school, local gang members began to demand that E. help them with their illegal activities. E. refused and the gang members pushed him to the ground. The gang members continued demanding that E. assist them. Each time, E. refused, and the gang members beat him. The gang then killed E.'s cousin for defying their demands. The gang's threats escalated to the point that the gang members threatened him with a gun in late 2020/early 2021. E. fled Guatemala soon afterwards. Immigration officers apprehended E. and placed him in ORR custody. As a previously designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has initial jurisdiction over E.'s case even though he 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.

15. E. is a lesbian woman from Benin. She speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. USCIS must receive her affirmative asylum application by October 6, 2023. (23-0161849).

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

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

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

17. Z. and N. are a married couple from Afghanistan. Each is independently eligible for asylum and will be listed as a derivative on the other's application. Their children, F., L., H., and M., will also be derivatives on their applications. The

family speaks Pashto and lives in a suburb in central Illinois. USCIS must receive their affirmative asylum applications by December 16, 2023. (23-0163272) (23-0163731)

Z. worked as a watchman at the border and at a military base for a military unit that supported United States interests. During his time with this unit, Z. received many threats in the form of letters and phone calls. They told him that he and his family would be killed if he did not leave his job. The Taliban had killed and injured several of Z.'s family members due to their position in the military. Z.'s wife, N., also feared for her and her family's safety due to Z.'s job. The Taliban had similarly killed and injured many of N.'s family members for their military involvement. When the Taliban took control of the government in 2021, Z. and N. had an even greater fear for their family's safety. Z., N., and their children evacuated Afghanistan and entered the United States with OAR parole in December 2021. Pro bono counsel must file Z. and N.'s applications for asylum with USCIS no later than December 16, 2023.

18. S. is a lesbian woman from Namibia. She speaks English, and lives in a northern Chicago suburb. S. is now waiting for an asylum interview. (22-0160456)

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

19. C. is a gender fluid lesbian from Zambia. They speak English and live in Chicago, Illinois. C. is now waiting for an asylum interview. (23-0162285)

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

in making this argument. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due one week prior to C.'s asylum interview, which has not yet been scheduled.

20. R. is a gay man from Nicaragua. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago. (23-0160836.

R. participated in anti-Sandinista protests at his university. Because of this, the police detained him for hours, searched his phone, and called him derogatory slurs. He was threatened to stop protesting and, out of fear, he complied. R. also fled Nicaragua because he could not be open with his sexual orientation. He was bullied throughout his youth and was called homophobic slurs. Even when he had boyfriends, they had to act as friends in public for fear of violence. R. fears he would be murdered because of his sexual orientation and increased homophobia in the Sandinista regime. R.'s asylum application was timely filed within the one-year deadline, on June 26, 2023. When R. entered the United States, he was paroled in and no NTA has been issued. Therefore, R was able to file affirmatively. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to his interview at the asylum office. Because interview timing can vary, NIJC recommends pro bono counsel plan to work up this case within about 12 weeks of case acceptance.

Asylum: Based on Domestic and Gender Violence

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

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

22. 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.

23. J. is a woman from Ecuador. Her daughter, S., is a derivative on her application and is also independently eligible for asylum. Their Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for April 22, 2024. J. and S. speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (21-0150688) (21-0151647)

When J. was a young woman, she endured several years in an abusive relationship with the father of her first two children. She made multiple reports against him before they separated. J. met the father of her third child, S., a few years later. He also severely abused J. throughout their relationship, beating and threatening her often. He continued to threaten J. even after she finally separated from him several years later. J. then entered a relationship with a woman. She and her partner faced discrimination, harassment, and threats for being together. J.'s second partner continued to harass her with threatening phone calls. Once, he found and physically assaulted her. In 2021, 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. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications with USCIS. J.'s first Master Calendar hearing is on April 22, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

24. 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.

25. 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.

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

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

27. S. is a woman from Honduras. She speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Illinois with her children, who are derivatives on S.'s asylum application and are also independently eligible for asylum. (22-0153208) (22-0153680) (22-0153681) (22-0153682)

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

28. L. is a woman from Guatemala. Her children, G. and J., are derivatives on her

application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. This family speaks Spanish and lives in the Indianapolis area. (22-0159967) (22-0160378) (22-0160379).

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

29. 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.

30. 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.

Asylum: Based on Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation

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

Throughout J.'s childhood, he was perceived to be LGBT and was sexually assaulted on numerous occasions. While in school, J. remembers being called homophobic slurs and alienated from the rest of his classmates. J. then became fearful to express his sexual orientation. Around 2022, J. started to receive death threats from a gang in his neighborhood after having been seen with his boyfriend at the time. J. had a partner in Colombia, and one night, gang members saw J. and his boyfriend and started yelling homophobic slurs at them. Afterwards, the harassment became constant when he left the house. The gang then started throwing things like stones and bottles at J. and his family members, when they were with him. Around late June or early July, the gang started making death threats against J. and his family members because J. is gay. They left pamphlets at J.'s house, they sent text messages, and they sent Facebook messages. One of the letters had pictures of J. and his family members and said that their time was coming and used homophobic slurs. When the death threats began, J. and his siblings reported the threats to the neighborhood and city police but did not feel protected. A few weeks after the death threats began, J. and his family members left Colombia. Pro bono counsel must file J.'s I-589 with the Chicago Immigration Court prior to July 15, 2023. At J.'s Master Calendar on March 20, 2024, he will be set for a merits hearing. While the hearing date is ultimately up to the judge, pro bono counsel may be able to advocate for a timeline that works well for both pro bono counsel and J.

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

G. was an active member of an opposition political party in Nicaragua. While protesting peacefully with friends in May 2018, snipers suddenly started shooting into the crowd and police became violent. A police officer beat G. with a baton while he was running away and pushed him into a barbed wire fence. One of G.'s friends who attended the protest is presumed dead while the other two are still in police custody. After discovering that G. does not support the government, G.'s politically connected neighbor sent police patrols to his house. Separately, G.'s mom also verbally and physically abused him for his gender identity and sexuality. G. fled

Nicaragua in 2019 and lived in Mexico until coming to the United States in 2022. G is in removal proceedings before the Chicago Immigration Court; there are no future hearing dates scheduled in his case. Pro bono counsel must file G.'s I-589 with the Chicago Immigration Court prior to July 22, 2023. His pro bono attorneys should be prepared to argue, with NIJC support, that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to his case. All affidavits and supporting materials for G.'s case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

33. M. is a gay man from Peru. He speaks English and Spanish and lives in Wisconsin. M. is scheduled for a Master Calendar Hearing on August 30, 2023. (23-0163784)

While growing up in Peru, M.'s family routinely beat him and called him anti-LGBTQ slurs because they perceived him as feminine. His mom tried to kill him on more than one occasion by pushing him into traffic or drowning him. His uncle and cousin sexually abused him. Because M. did not timely file his asylum application, counsel will need to screen for exceptions to the one-year deadline and, if there are none, argue that M. is eligible for withholding of removal. M. was placed in removal proceedings after receiving multiple DUIs. M.'s asylum application was denied by an immigration judge in 2020, and NIJC took the case on appeal, arguing M. had received ineffective assistance of counsel. The case went up to the Seventh Circuit and was remanded back to immigration court in May 2023. M. is scheduled for a master hearing on August 30, 2023. If pro bono counsel and M. agree, counsel can file a motion to set this case for merits. All affidavits and supporting materials to M.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing.

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

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

35. G. is a bisexual man from Ghana. He speaks English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. He is scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing on November 19, 2024 and his asylum application must be filed with the court no later than January 18, 2024. (23-0162515)

When G. was in his late teens, his mother discovered he was in a relationship with another man. She became very controlling, limited his movements, and had multiple religious figures pray

over him to try to expel the demons she believed made him attracted to men. His partner's family threatened and beat G. on multiple occasions. They also reported G. to the police, who arrested him for engaging in a same-sex relationship and released him only after his mother paid a bribe. In his late twenties, G. married a Mexican woman, believing this would both stop rumors about his sexual orientation in his community and give him an opportunity to leave Ghana, where he did not feel safe. G. and his wife lived in Mexico together for about three years, and G. became a permanent resident. However, he did not feel safe in Mexico because of anti-Black racism and because his wife became very controlling once she became suspicious that he is attracted to men. Towards the end of the three years, he returned to Ghana to renew his passport, at which time he was again attacked and threatened by his former's partner family. No longer feeling safe in Ghana or Mexico, he traveled to the United States to seek asylum. G.'s pro bono team should be prepared to argue, with support from NIJC, that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to him. All affidavits and supporting documents for G.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing. If client and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set the case for merits after the asylum application is filed.

36. J. is a gay man from Cuba in removal proceedings. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. J.'s asylum application is pending with the Immigration Court, and he is scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing on January 23, 2024. (23-0161988)

J. fears returning to Cuba because of his past advocacy for LGBTQ rights and HIV prevention work. He was detained with other gay men and HIV prevention activists and was surveilled in his neighborhood. J. entered the United States on May 30, 2022, and timely applied for asylum *pro se* on January 9, 2023. All affidavits and supporting documents for J.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. If client and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set the case for merits.

37. 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.

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

have their first Master Calendar Hearings on Jan. 19, 2024. (23-0160649, 22-0160096, 23-0161192

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

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

As a child, I.'s peers frequently called him anti-LGBTQ slurs because they perceived him as feminine. In 2018, men attacked and sexually abused I. while calling him slurs. I. contracted HIV from the assault. Later that year, another group of men beat I. while calling him anti-LGBTQ slurs and threatening to kill his family if he went to the police. I. fears living openly as a gay man in Colombia and fears that sharing his HIV status and abuse with anyone would put him at risk for further harm. I. believes the Colombian police are corrupt and anti-LGBTQ and would not protect him from future harm. I. fled to the United State after meeting his partner online who told I. about the possibility of living freely as a gay person in the United States. I. filed his asylum application *pro se* on March 13, 2023. All affidavits and supporting documents for I.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing. If client and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set the case for merits.

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

40. 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 February 14, 2024. 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.

41. 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 May 07, 2025. 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 in which he verbally and sexually abused her. R. left him after several years of abuse. Later, R. became involved in politics. The local gang told R. to help their gang leader get into her political party and threatened kill her otherwise. R. refused and fled the country with her children. NIJC timely filed their asylum applications. R.'s next Master Calendar Hearing is on May 07, 2025. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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.

47. 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.

48. 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.

49. 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.

50. A. is a woman from Guatemala. Her four children are derivatives on her application for asylum. A.'s eldest daughter, C., has an independent asylum case at the asylum office. Her two youngest daughters arrived subsequently as unaccompanied minors and are not yet scheduled for court. A. and her 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. 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.

51. 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.

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

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

53. 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.

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

S. worked as an engineer for a Colombian airline. His position involved overseeing 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, but 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.

55. 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.

56. 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.

57. 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 West Central 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.

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

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

59. K. is an Igbo man from Eastern Nigeria. His Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for July 15, 2025. He speaks English and lives in Chicago. (23-0161085)

K. was a member of an opposition political party in Nigeria. He attended protests and was very active on social media, speaking out against the government and police brutality. In 2021, police came to K.'s home, looking for him. When they did not find him there, they went to his brother's home and demanded to know where K. was. When K.'s brother failed to disclose his whereabouts, the police beat him badly. Fearing that the police would harm or kill him if they found him, K. fled Nigeria. He went to Brazil and obtained asylum there before coming to the United States. For this reason, K. may only be eligible for withholding of removal or relief under the Convention Against Torture. NIJC timely filed K.'s asylum application. All supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

60. P. is a man from Venezuela. His wife, Q., and daughter, R., are derivatives on his application and are also independently eligible for asylum. They are scheduled for a Master Calendar hearing before the Chicago Immigration Court on April 17, 2024. P. and his family speak Spanish and live in a northwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (22-0155558) (22-0155580) (22-0158920)

P., Q., and P.'s brother worked for the opposition party in Venezuela. In 2020, the Venezuelan government special action forces murdered P.'s brother for his political activity. Police searched, threatened, and interrogated P. several times because of his work to mobilize voters. Venezuelan police and government agents entered their home and stole valuables on three occasions. P., Q. and R. fled Venezuela and arrived in the U.S. in June 2022. NIJC timely filed their I-589s in March 2023. Their next Master Calendar hearing is April 17, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials for their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

R. was a member of the PNP political party in Togo. He participated in meetings and protests with the aim of ousting the current president and instituting democracy in Togo. He became a PNP member in 2017. In 2018, he participated in protests in which the police arrived and teargassed protesters. The police then detained R., hit and kicked him, and took him to a military camp where he was detained for several days. A soldier helped R. escape. R. resumed activities with the PNP while trying to hide his identity and continuously moving to different locations to evade government detection. R. decided to escape Togo after the government arrested his friend

from the PNP. After R. left, the government detained his girlfriend and called R. to threaten him. R. entered the United States in November 2021, was placed in removal proceedings, and timely filed for asylum. His first Master Calendar Hearing is scheduled for September 7, 2023. Once he is scheduled for his individual merits hearing, all supplementary filings will be due to court at least 15 days before the hearing date.

62. 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.

63. 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.

64. 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.

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

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

66. 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 15 days before their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

67. 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.

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

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

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

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

70. L. is a man from Cuba. His Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for June 16,

2025. L. speaks Spanish and lives in the Western suburbs of Chicago. (22-0155448)

L. attended anti-government protests in July 2021. A few days later, police arrived to his house and began threatening him. They told him that unless he paid 200 pesos, he was going to be jailed. Eventually, L was put in jail and was detained for several days. Afraid to be jailed again, L. fled for the United States. NIJC timely filed his asylum application with USCIS. L.'s first Master Calendar hearing is on June 16, 2023. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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

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

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

H. was a prominent journalist, newsroom director and mayoral secretary for the government of Kabul. The Taliban threatened H. through messages and phone calls prior to the governmental collapse. After the fall of the Republic of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban issued a decree demanding that H. be arrested on sight and brought to the Taliban. H. frequently reported against the Taliban's atrocities and was an active member in various human rights groups. H. fled Afghanistan in 2021 and lived in Brazil for some time before coming to the United States in 2023. NIJC timely filed H.'s asylum application with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials for H.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

73. A. is a woman from Mexico. Her three daughters, B., C., and D. will be derivatives on her application for asylum and are also independently eligible for asylum. A. and her children speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois. (22-0159472) (22-0159487) (22-0159488) (22-0159489)

A. lived in Mexico with her partner and three children. The cartel La Familia Michoacana extorted A. and her partner's fish vendor business. Despite relocating to another part of Mexico, the cartel found them and increased the extortion demands. When A.'s partner didn't pay, the cartel kidnapped both A. and her partner. The cartel released A. to gather the money. A day later, cartel members raped A. because she had failed to gather the money. The cartel threatened to kill her if she did not have the money upon their return and sent her photos of her partner tied up. A. went to the police, but they refused to take down a report. A. and her daughters fled. Soon after, they learned their home was burned down. A.'s partner is presumed dead. Although A. and her daughters 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 them 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 A. and her daughters' individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

74. L. is a woman from Venezuela. Her next Master Calendar hearing is on September 10, 2024. L speaks Spanish and lives in a northwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (23-0162043)

L. was an active member in an opposition political party in Venezuela. During a protest in June 2021, Venezuelan police gassed, beat, pushed, and arrested L. While detained, police threatened L. using her name and party affiliation, and beat her, causing L. cervical injury in her neck. L. fled Venezuela and arrived in the US in October 2021. All affidavits and supporting materials for L.'s case will be due 15 days prior to her individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

75. R. is a man from Colombia. His wife, M., and children, J., G., and S., are derivatives on his application and are also independently eligible for asylum. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on February 24, 2025. R. and his family speak Spanish and live in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, Illinois. (23-0161686) (23-0161899) (241726739) (241726740) (241726741)

R. owned a computer repair business in Colombia. While doing a job in 2022, he accidentally discovered an organization that stole motorcycles and overheard an official's name. After finishing the job, he and his family received numerous threats. A police officer stopped R., placed him in the police car, and threatened him to stay silent about what he saw on the computer. Later, men kidnapped and beat R., threatening the life of his pregnant wife and disabled son. R. and his family fled Colombia and arrived in the US July 2022. Their next Master Calendar hearing is on February 24, 2025. All affidavits and supporting materials for their case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

76. L. is a man from Guinea. His next Master Calendar hearing is on September 13, 2023. L. speaks Fulani and French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (23-0161062)

L. supported the FNDC political party in Guinea. In 2020, he participated in protests against the government, which was trying to change the constitution. The police beat protestors and sprayed

hot water at them. One day, people in uniform kidnapped L. and his cousin were their home while they slept. They were held in prison for several days where they were mistreated, physically harmed, and interrogated not only for attending protests, but also because of their Fulani ethnic identity. After a relative paid for their release, L. and his cousin escaped with L.'s brother to a different city in Guinea. The police eventually found L. and his cousin a few months later in the new city. L. escaped, but the police captured his cousin and severely beat him. L. later learned that his cousin had died after this encounter with the police. He decided to flee Guinea. L. entered the United States in November 2021, was placed in removal proceedings, and timely filed for asylum. His Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for September 13, 2023. 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.

77. S. is a man from Togo. His next Master Calendar hearing is on September 4, 2024. He speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (23-0161245)

S. joined the PNP political party in 2017 to protest the lack of democracy in Togo. He became party secretary and mobilized individuals to join PNP protests. In 2018, the police beat S. during a protest and threatened to kill him. The police attempted to drag S. to their vehicle, but other protesters saw this and threw things at the officers. The police let go of S. and he was able to escape. With help from his father, S. fled to another village. He remained in hiding there for two weeks, but continued to receive threats daily via phone. During this time, the police gave S.'s father a summons for S. to go to the police station. S. fled to Brazil and lived there without status for almost two years until he received more threats. He then went to Mexico before entering the United States in 2021. S. timely filed his asylum application with the Chicago Immigration Court. All filings will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

78. I. and S. are a married couple from Afghanistan. Both are independently eligible for asylum and listed as derivatives on each other's applications. Their children, H. and Y., are also derivatives on their applications. I., S., H., and Y. speak Pashto and live in a northern suburb of Chicago. (23-0163112) (23-0163405)

I. worked at the UNODC as a poppy field surveyor. His work involved destroying poppy fields to limit opium production, which was a source of Taliban funding. The Taliban killed several of I.'s coworkers and sent him death threats for his work. Fearing for his safety, I. left his UNODC job after one year, but continued to receive death threats. I.'s wife, S., was a graduate from a midwifery program in Kabul. S. worked as a civil society activist, promoting education for girls. The Taliban threatened S.'s family because of her education. S. left her vocation as a midwife when the Taliban began targeting clinics for bombings. I., S., H., and Y. fled to Indonesia, where they remained for a year. However, they were unable to work or obtain permanent status and had to return to Afghanistan, where the Taliban continued to threaten them. When the Taliban retook the country, S.'s father, a local governor under the former government, was injured in fighting. Late last year, the Taliban came to I.'s parents house in search of I. Fearing for their safety, I., S., H., and Y. fled to Pakistan, then Brazil, and made it to the US in March 2023. NIJC timely filed asylum applications for I. and S. in June 2023. 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 individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

79. X. and Z. are half-siblings, 19 and 16, from Honduras. They live with their mother, who speaks Spanish, in Chicago (Cook County). (22-0159962) (22-0159963)

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

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

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

81. D. is an 18-year-old boy from Guatemala. He lives with his brother, who speaks Spanish, in Chicago (Cook County). (23-0163371)

D.'s father stopped all of his emotional and financial support when D. was ten years old. D. was raised in by his mother along with nine other siblings. D.s father would not provide for him and he would spend his money on alcohol. When he lived in Guatemala, he was attending school but was later forced by his father to work. Apart from that, his father was physically abusive towards his mother and D. D. has not had contact with him since January of 2022. D. came to the United States to live with his brother in Illinois. The pro bono attorney will need to file a post-18 guardianship case on behalf of D.'s brother asking that the brother be appointed as D.'s legal guardian until D. turns 21 and obtain an order finding that D.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to his abuse and neglect and that it is not in D.'s best interest to return to Guatemala.

82. A. is an 11- year-old boy from Honduras. He lives with his mother, who speaks

Spanish, in Central Illinois. (23-0161657)

A. has never had a relationship or any contact with his father. A.'s father's name is not on his birth certificate because he left his mother before he was born. In Honduras A. lived with his mother and never received any emotional or financial support from his father. A's father passed away when he was two years old. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition seeking to establish paternity and obtain an order finding that A.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to his death and that it is not in A.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

83. E. is an 18-year-old boy from Guatemala. He lives with uncle, who speaks Spanish, in Northern Illinois (Kane County). (22-0160150)

E. has never met his father. He abandoned E. and his mother when she got pregnant, and they have not heard from him since. He was raised by his mother in Guatemala and lived with his mother and grandparent's. He never provided him with any emotional or financial support. E. left Guatemala because gang members were threatening him to join them. He has never had contact with his father, but he continues to speak with his mother every day. The pro bono attorney will need to file a post-18 guardianship case on behalf of E.'s uncle, asking that the brother be appointed as D.'s legal guardian until D. turns 21 and obtain an order finding that E.'s reunification with his parents is not viable due to his father's abandonment and due to gang threats in Guatemala.

84. B. is a 10-year-old girl from Honduras. She lives with her mother, who speaks Spanish, in Northeast Illinois (Will County). (23-0161060)

B's mother and father separated when B. was about three years old. After their separation, B. would see her father about once a month when her mother would take her to visit him. About two years ago, B.'s mom filed a lawsuit demanding that B.'s dad provide her with financial support to help raise B. Prior to that, B.'s father provided no financial support, and he has not provided emotional support since he separated from her mother. The last time B. spoke to her father was in 2021 when she went to see him for Christmas. B.'s mother came to the US fleeing threats she received in Honduras, and B. has since joined her here. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of B.'s mother, and obtain an order finding that B.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment, and that it is not in B.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

85. A. is an 18-year-old boy from Ecuador. He lives with his aunt, who speaks Spanish, in a suburb of Chicago (DuPage County). (23-0163391)

A. came to the U.S. in 2021 after he was bullied in school in Ecuador because of his sexual orientation. A. initially stayed with an aunt, one of his mother's sisters. However, he did not feel safe living with her because she did not respect his sexual orientation and so in 2022 A. moved in with another aunt. A.'s father passed away in 2020. The pro bono attorney will need to file a post-18 guardianship case on behalf of A.'s aunt, The guardianship order must include findings that A.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his death (which constitutes abandonment under Illinois law), and that it is not in A.'s best interest to return to Ecuador.

86. A. and P. are brothers, 13 and 10, from Ecuador. They live with their mother who speaks Quichua and Spanish, in Chicago (Cook County). (23-0162217)

A. and P.'s mother and father separated when they were seven and five years old respectively. Afterwards, the brothers had no contact with their father and he has never tried to see them, contact them, or provide for them financially. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities for A. and P., and obtain an order finding that A. and P.'s reunification with their father not viable due to abandonment, and that it is not in A. and P.'s best interest to return to Ecuador.

87. J. is an 18-year-old boy from Honduras. He lives with his aunt, who speaks Spanish in southwest Illinois (Madison County). (23-0162536)

J. was raised by his grandmother and older sister in Honduras after J.'s mother abandoned him when he was five years old. J. was also abandoned by his father and never knew him. J. has not received any emotional or financial help from them. A pro bono attorney will need to file a post-18 guardianship order on behalf of J.'s aunt, finding that J.'s reunification with his parents is not viable due to their abandonment and that it is not in J.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

88. S. is a 9-year-old girl from Nicaragua. She lives with her mother, who speaks Spanish, in a western suburb of Chicago (Cook County). (22-0160462)

When S. was two years old, her parents separated, and she and her mother moved in with her maternal grandmother. After they separated, S. rarely saw her father, and sometimes they would have a phone call once a month. S.'s father never provided financial support after the separation. Instead, S.'s father would use the money on drugs and alcohol. A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of S.'s mother and obtain an order finding that S.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his neglect and abuse and that it is not in S.'s best interest to return to Nicaragua.

89. C. is a 16-year-old girl from Venezuela who speaks Spanish and lives with his mother in southwest Chicago (Cook County). (23-0163942)

C.'s parents separated when she was eight years old due to her father's abuse towards her mother. Since he left, C. has had no communication with her father and he has not provided her with any financial support. A pro bono attorney would need to obtain an order for sole custody finding that C.'s reunification with her father not viable due to his abandonment and abuse, and that it is not in C.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

U Visa

90. R. is a man from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. R.'s wife A.

will be a derivative on his application. USCIS must receive R.'s application prior to October 17, 2023. R. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago. (22-0160383) (23-0163929)

R. was attacked by two men while he was driving a delivery service in December 2018. When he was walking the two men approached him and one threatened him with a gun against his stomach. The men took his money and phone. They hit R. until he hit the ground and the men fled. When he was able to get up, he knocked on the houses in the neighborhood until someone answered the door and asked to call the police for him. R. made a police report. R. has sought counseling for the crime he suffered. Along with his U Visa application, R. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection, possible expedited removal, and possible permanent bar of inadmissibility. A. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection, possible expedited removal order, and possible permanent bar of inadmissibility.

91. L is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. L.'s husband J. will be a derivative on her application. USCIS must receive L.'s application prior to November 9, 2023. L. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago. (23-0163436)

L. was a victim of robbery with a weapon in July 2013. An individual who witnessed the crime called the police. The police arrived at the scene and L. cooperated and was helpful in the police investigation. L. went to counseling to help her cope from the crime she endured. L. and J. have two children together whom they care for.

92. F. is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive F.'s application prior to November 9, 2023. F. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago. (23-0163249) (23-0163465)

F. was the victim of domestic violence at the hands of her ex-boyfriend, J. In July 2021, as F. was trying to leave the apartment, J. struck her several times in the face, drawing blood. F. called the police and obtained an order of protection against J. that remains valid until September 29, 2023. In September 2021, J. found and approached her. F. reported this to the police as a violation of the order of protection. F. is the sole caretaker for her two children and wants to secure her immigration status so she can stay in the United States with them. F. is receiving counseling. Along with her U Visa application, F. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection, the permanent bar of inadmissibility, misrepresentation, and for false claim to United States citizenship.

93. V. is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive V.'s application prior to November 14, 2023. V. speaks Spanish and lives in Joliet. (22-0154984) (23-0163601)

V. is an indirect victim due to her son being murdered. On July 28, 2020, V.'s minor son A. was shot and killed in Joliet. A. was with a friend who had issues with gangs. The friend was driving and A. was in the passenger's seat when a gun shot went through the window hitting A. The friend drove him directly to a hospital and he was pronounced dead upon arrival. The detectives

spoke with V. and she cooperated with the investigation. The detectives later informed V. that the friend had committed suicide. Her son's death has caused V. unbearable pain. She has received counseling to cope her son's death. Along with the U Visa application, V. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection, the ten-year bar of inadmissibility, the permanent bar of inadmissibility, CIMT (crime involving moral turpitude), and for possible smuggling.

94. J. is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. J.'s daughter P. will be a derivative on her application. USCIS must receive J.'s application prior to November 16, 2023. J. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago. (21-0151395)

J. has faced years of abuse from her partner who is the father of her children. J.'s daughter P. has witnessed the abuse. J. reported to the police on May 24, 2022, while they were laying down J.'s ex-boyfriend touched her private area inappropriately. J. was granted an order of protection against him. On August 30, 2022, J. made a report to the police again that her partner had been sending harassing text messages and phone calls using different phone numbers which is a violation of the order of protection J. had been granted. On a different occasion, J.'s partner has threatened to shoot J. and her children with a gun. J. separated from him and remains to have an order of protection for the safety of herself and children. J. has received counseling for the trauma and abuse she has endured.

95. C. is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive C.'s application prior to November 22, 2023. C. speaks English and lives in Chicago. (23-0163721) (23-0163772)

C. was verbally and physically abused by her ex-boyfriend P. In November 2020, C. came home from work and P. became aggressive towards her and started to make suicidal comments. C. tried to talk to P. to calm him down but P. stated "I am going to get my gun and shoot myself." C. attempted to intervene by blocking him from entering the bedroom when P. grabbed C. by the throat and started choking her. After a physical struggle, C. took possession of the gun and ran to the bathroom to call the police. C. received medical attention for her visible injuries. A protective order was signed against P. for domestic battery. C. remains in counseling for the traumatic event and the physical and emotional abuse she suffered. C. lives with her parents and cares for her mother who has a serious chronic medical condition. Along with the U Visa application, C. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection.

96. A. is a man from Togo who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive M.'s application prior to November 25, 2023. A. speaks French and English. (23-0161140) (23-0163518)

A. was attacked by two masked offenders while he was driving a delivery service in September 2022. A. was walking when approached by the two masked offenders and one threatened him when holding a gun to his head. The offenders took his wallet, phone, and car key. A. went to the police station to file a police report. A. is in therapy as he has been diagnosed with post-

traumatic stress disorder. Along with the U Visa application, A. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection

97. M. is a woman from Venezuela who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive M.'s application prior to December 6, 2023. M. speaks Spanish and lives in Aurora. M. has a pending asylum application and is also in need for representation for her asylum case before the Immigration Court. Ideally the same attorney(s) would work with M. on both cases. NIJC will provide guidance on both matters. (22-0160209) (23-0163779)

M. was the victim of domestic battery from her male roommate P. From May 2022 to July 2022, M. was living with her roommate who was verbally and physically abusive to M. During her stay, P. isolated M. by prohibiting her from speaking to her family and friends. P. intimidated and threatened her by saying that if she left the apartment he would notify immigration due to her lack of status. On several occasions, P. grabbed her and pushed her around causing bruising and direct harm to M. P. believed that they were in a romantic relationship but M. has a husband who lives in Venezuela and she needed a place to live. She felt like a prisoner. In July 2022, M. escaped from the apartment. She reported the crime to the police and filed an Order of Protection against P. She received medical treatment where she was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. After this, M. was living in a residential housing and she now lives with a family. She barely makes enough money to financially support herself. M. wants to continue with counseling as she is still traumatized from the abuse she experienced. M. hopes to heal and secure legal status. Along with the U Visa application, M. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection.

VAWA

98. A. is a woman from Pakistan. A. is eligible to file a VAWA self-petition concurrently with an application for adjustment of status and employment authorization. A. speaks English and lives in Chicago. USCIS must receive A.'s application prior to March 21, 2025. (22-0155457) (23-0164004)

A. has been the victim of physical, sexual, financial, emotional, and verbal abuse by her former U.S. citizen husband. Throughout her marriage, A.'s husband exerted financial control over her, constantly threatened her, and was physically and verbally abusive. In one occasion, he had a gun and shot her daughter's parked car. After this incident, A. obtained an order of protection against him. They divorced in March 2023. She lives in a domestic violence shelter and has sought counseling for the abuse she suffered.

NIJC Announcements

Thinking of Leaving Your Firm?

When pro bono attorneys leave their firms, it can significantly affect their pro bono matters. If you are thinking of leaving your firm and have an open NIJC pro bono matter, make sure you avoid

prejudicing your client by establishing a transition plan with your firm and your client, and notifying your NIJC point-of-contact of your departure. [This guidance](#) can help plan the transition.