

September 22, 2023

NIJC Pro Bono Case List: 88 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.

This case list is divided into sections based on the type of case. All cases that require priority placement are listed at the top of the list and organized by case type. When you select a case type, the headline will provide basic information about the case. Additional information is available below each headline.

- **Asylum - Affirmative:** Represent an individual or family who is affirmatively applying for asylum and will present their case before the Asylum Office.
- **Asylum – Defensive:** Represent an individual or family who is applying for asylum as a defense to removal and will present their case before the Immigration Court.
- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS):** Represent the guardian of an immigrant minor in state court proceedings to obtain a predicate order.
- **U Visa:** Represent an immigrant survivor of a crime committed in the United States.
- **VAWA:** Represent an immigrant survivor of family or domestic violence.

NIJC staff provide [extensive training, resources and technical assistance](#) to pro bono teams through the life of the pro bono matter.

Click to View:

[Priority Matters – Defensive Asylum](#)
[Priority Matters – SIJS](#)
[Defensive Asylum Matters](#)
[Affirmative Asylum Matters](#)
[SIJS – Predicate Order Matters](#)
[U Visa Matters](#)

Priority Matters

Priority – Defensive Asylum

1. R. is a woman from El Salvador. Her children, K., G., and A., are derivatives on her asylum claim. R., K., G., and A. speak Spanish and live in Central Indiana. Their merits hearing is on February 9, 2024.

Relief Seeking: Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 02/09/2024

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: El Salvador

Client's Story

R. grew up in a physically abusive home where her mother's boyfriend raped her when she was a child. When R. was teenager, she moved in with an older man who was physically abusive. She had her first child, K., as a teenager. To escape the abuse, R. moved back in with her aunt and brother. A gang began demanding R.'s brother join them and attacked him when he refused. Around 2012, R., K., and R.'s brother moved to escape the gang. Around 2019, the gang found them and began threatening R.'s brother again. R.'s brother then fled the country to escape the gang, but they murdered him in Mexico. Shortly thereafter, the gang threatened R. She and her children fled to the United States in the summer of 2021.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

NIJC timely filed their asylum applications. All cases are consolidated. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which is scheduled for February 9, 2024.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0151593, 21-0152264, 21-0152267, 21-0152268

2. 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

Relief Seeking: Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 04/17/2024

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: El Salvador

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0153805, 22-0154693, 22-0154694

3. T. is a gay cisgender man from Colombia. T. is scheduled for an asylum merits hearing on March 5, 2024 at 9am. T. speaks Spanish and lives in a southwest suburb of Chicago.

Relief Seeking: Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 03/05/2024

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence, LGBTQ+

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish, English

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

Throughout his childhood, T.'s father physically, psychologically, and verbally abused T. because of his femininity and perceived sexual orientation. T. was too afraid to seek police assistance because he saw how the police refused to help his mother after she reported that T.'s father also beat her. T.'s brother was also physically and verbally abusive. When T. was "outed" as a young adult, his entire family disowned him and kicked him out of the house. T. then faced discrimination in his work because he is gay, and the psychological harm became so overwhelming that T. attempted to kill himself. When T.'s boyfriend in Colombia emotionally abused him, T. fled to the United States.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

Important Client Context

T. timely filed for asylum affirmatively pro se in 2016, but without the assistance of an attorney, his asylum application was referred to the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to his merits hearing, which is on March 5, 2024.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0159830

4. R. is a man from Venezuela. His merits hearing is scheduled for March 20, 2024. R. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Relief Seeking: Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 03/20/2024

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Venue:

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

R. fled Venezuela because he was persecuted for his political opinion. He was a member of an opposition party, through which he participated in marches and drove vans that transported people to marches and anti-government events. Pro-government armed forces called colectivos found out who he was and showed up to his house on multiple occasions. The first time, the colectivo members said he needed to stop

opposing the government and stop driving people around or he would face consequences. A few days later, they showed up armed with guns, pipes and bats. They beat him severely. He received medical care, including stitches and bed rest for several days. The colectivo members told him that if he did not stop his political activities, he would be disappeared. He went into hiding. As soon as he was able, he left to Chile through Colombia. He was living in Chile for three years with temporary residency, but he was denied permanent residency. He then came to the U.S.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

Important Client Context

R. filed his asylum application pro se. All supporting documents and affidavits will be due 15 days before his merits hearing, which is scheduled for March 20, 2024.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0151581

5. 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.

Relief Seeking: Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 06/23/2024

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0160818

6. 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. S., B., and L.'s merits hearing is on August 14, 2024. S. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois.

Relief Seeking: Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 08/14/2024
Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs
Venue: Immigration Court **Language(s):** Spanish
Location: IL **Country of Origin:** Mexico

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

Important Client Context

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 is scheduled for August 14, 2024.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0142082

7. J. is a man from the Democratic Republic of Congo. His wife, S., and daughter, Z., are derivatives and have filed independent asylum applications. Their consolidated merits hearing is on September 13, 2024. J., S., and Z. speak Lingala. S.'s nieces, for whom she is seeking guardianship, are seeking SIJS. They speak Portuguese. The family lives in a northwestern suburb of Chicago.

Relief Seeking: Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 09/13/2024
Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs
Venue: Immigration Court, USCIS **Language(s):** French
Location: IL **Country of Origin:** Congo

Client's Story

J. was a known activist in the political opposition party Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS). In December 2016, J. attended a large protest after the president refused to step down at the end of his term. Police detained and beat J. He escaped and went into hiding. Soldiers broke into J. and S.'s home late at night, looking for him. S. (who was heavily pregnant) and the children were home at the time. After this incident, they left home for their safety. S., J., and their infant fled to Brazil, where they lived with temporary status until 2019, when they traveled to the United States to seek asylum. In May 2023, S.'s two teenage nieces were orphaned due to an accident shortly after arriving in the United States. S. is seeking guardianship.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

Important Client Context

In addition to the asylum claim, NIJC will assist pro bono attorneys in handling a collateral SIJS claim for S's nieces. Pro bono attorneys should be prepared to argue, with NIJC support, that the firm resettlement bar does not apply to J., S., and Z.'s cases. All affidavits and supporting materials for J., S., and Z.'s asylum case will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which is scheduled on September 13, 2024.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0143866

Priority – SIJS

8. 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,

Relief Seeking: Predicate Order - SIJS

Deadline: Predicate Order filed by 04/01/2024

Asylum Categories: n/a

Venue: Family Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163006

9. R. and B. are 17 and 15 siblings from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They live with their aunt, who speaks French, in a northwestern suburb of Chicago (Cook County). The predicate order must be obtained before R. turns 18 in July of 2024.

Relief Seeking: Predicate Order - SIJS

Deadline: Obtain Predicate Order by 07/01/2024

Asylum Categories: n/a

Venue: Family Court

Language(s): French

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Congo

Client's Story

R. and B., along with their parents, fled the Congo and arrived in the United States in April 2023. In May 2023, R. and B.'s parents were involved in a fatal car accident and passed away.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

A pro bono attorney will need to file a petition for guardianship on behalf of R. and B.'s aunt and obtain an order finding that R. and B.'s reunification with their parents is not viable due to their deaths which constitutes abandonment under Illinois law, and that it is not in R. and B.'s best interest to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163560

Asylum – Defensive

10. 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 January 5, 2024. They speak Spanish and live in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 01/05/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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. One night in 2019, an armed man stopped J. while she was walking home and he raped her in a cemetery. J. believes her attacker was affiliated with a gang. J. became pregnant from the rape and fled because she feared that the man who raped her would come after her if he found out about the pregnancy.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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 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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0145602

11. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 01/08/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0160646

12. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 01/17/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 19-0132005, 19-0132536, 19-0132566, 19-0132576

13. D. is a gay man from Venezuela. He speaks Spanish, and he lives in Chicago, Illinois. His one-year deadline is January 18, 2024, and his first master calendar hearing is January 6, 2025.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Application filed by 01/18/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161398

14. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 01/18/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): English

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Ghana

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0162515

15. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 01/23/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Cuba

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161988

16. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 01/31/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IN

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0152262

17. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 02/14/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: El Salvador

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0147903

18. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 02/24/2025

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161686

19. 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.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 02/27/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): French

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Cameroon

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0155648, 22-0155670

20. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 03/20/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161283

21. 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

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 04/17/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0155558

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

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 04/22/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): English

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Ecuador

Client's Story

When J. was a young woman, she met her first partner and the father of her first two children. He abused her for several years until they separated. She made several reports against him. J. met her next partner, the father of her third child, S., a few years later. He also severely abused J. throughout their relationship, beating and threatening her often. She finally separated from him after several years, but he continued to threaten her. J. then entered a relationship with a woman. She and her partner faced a lot of discrimination, harassment and threats for being together. J.'s second partner often called to threaten her, insult her, and even found her and beat her up again. Several months before coming to the United States, J. and her partner received a letter at their home calling them lesbians and telling them they were going to be killed. They began preparing to come to the United States and fled together with J.'s daughter S. as soon as they had the money to do so. J. and S. arrived in the United States in July of 2021.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0150688

23. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 04/30/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Guatemala

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0141426

24. 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 May 07, 2025. The family speaks Spanish and lives in Northern Indiana.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 05/07/2025

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0153250

25. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 06/16/2025

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Cuba

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

NIJC timely filed his asylum application 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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0155448

26. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 07/15/2025

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): English

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Nigeria

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161085

27. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Application filed by 07/22/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Nicaragua

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0160912

28. B. is a woman from El Salvador. Her son L. is a derivative on her application. B. and L.'s next Master Calendar hearing is on August 2, 2023. B. speaks Spanish and lives in Central Indiana.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 08/02/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: El Salvador

Client's Story

B.'s ex-partner, and her son L.'s father, T., is a Barrio 18 gang member in El Salvador. T. forced B. to be his woman. He physically and sexually abused B. and kept her isolated in his home, threatening to kill her if she left him. B. tried to end the relationship, but in response T. cut her with a knife so that she has a lasting reminder that she can never leave him. T. was eventually arrested by police officers. In their pursuit of T., police officers 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 when they heard that T. would be released from jail. T. was released from jail a few days after B. and L. fled El Salvador. 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. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to their merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context**NIJC Contact**

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0159762, 22-0159886

29. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 08/21/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Dari, English

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Afghanistan

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161459

30. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 08/30/2023

Venue: Probate Court

Language(s): English

Location: WI

Country of Origin: Peru

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163784

31. S. is a man from Togo. His next Master Calendar hearing is on September 4, 2024. He speaks French and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 09/04/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): French, English

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Togo

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161245

32. R. is a man from Togo. His next Master Calendar hearing is on September 7, 2023. He speaks French and lives in Chicago.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 09/07/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): French

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Togo

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0155322

33. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 09/10/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony,

Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

L. timely filed her asylum application. 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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0162043

34. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 09/13/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Fulani, French

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Guinea

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161062

35. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 09/18/2024

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): French

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Cameroon

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0153318

36. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 09/26/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0160649, 22-0160096, 23-0161192

37. E. is a young man from Guatemala. His next Master Calendar hearing is on October 4, 2023. NIJC timely filed his affirmative application. E. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Asylum Categories:

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 10/04/2023

Venue: USCIS

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Guatemala

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0150685

38. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 10/18/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish, Creole

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Haiti

Client's Story

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 in Chile. After P.'s children's father began to abuse her, P. decided to flee to the United States with her daughter, O.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony,

Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

In addition to pursuing an asylum claim, P. currently has Temporary Protected Status, which is valid until 2024. P. filed for asylum after her one-year deadline, but is a Mendez Rojas class member and timely filed a class membership notice. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to her merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0153744

39. L. is a lesbian woman from Colombia in removal proceedings. She speaks Spanish and lives in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. L. has a reinstated order of removal and her I-589 application must be received by the Chicago Immigration Court by October 25, 2023. L. is not scheduled for hearings at this time.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Application filed by 10/25/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

L. and her wife were attacked twice by a group of men claiming to be a part of La Mano Negra gang who said they were conducting "social cleansing" of LGBTQ people. Both L. and her wife were beaten and raped twice and told that they had to leave the country. L. came to the United States with her wife, but they were separated while detained and L.'s wife was deported to Colombia where she is now in hiding. L. is afraid of returning to Colombia because she is afraid that La Mano Negra or other gangs will continue to abuse her and will eventually kill her.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

L. is likely only eligible for withholding and CAT protection due to the reinstated order of removal. All affidavits and supporting documents for L.'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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0160544

40. K. is a bisexual woman from Colombia in removal proceedings. K. speaks Spanish and lives in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. K.'s asylum application must be filed with the Chicago Immigration Court no later than November 8, 2023, and she is not currently scheduled for hearing.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Application filed by 11/08/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

K. was bullied in high school for her attraction to girls. K. had a girlfriend in high school, but K.'s parents threatened to take K. out of school if K. did not break up with her girlfriend and find a boyfriend. K. obeyed, found a boyfriend, and became pregnant at age 15. Her child is still in Colombia. K. graduated from high school and went to university while living with the child's father, L. K. began a secret relationship with a woman, C. L. became jealous and suspicious, and beat K. In 2020, K. moved to a new apartment with her child and tried to end contact with L., who had grown increasingly abusive. L. stalked K., and in 2022, L. entered K.'s home and beat and raped her. Police refused to help K. because she was in a relationship with a woman. K.'s family did not believe that K. suffered abuse, and K.'s father who is a policeman took L.'s side. L. and K.'s father conspired to take K.'s child away from K. because they believed the child should not be exposed to K.'s bisexual identity.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

K. was paroled into the United States on November 9, 2022. K. K.'s attorneys must file her asylum application with the Chicago Immigration Court by November 8, 2023. All affidavits and supporting documents for K.'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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161378

41. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Master calendar hearing on 11/29/2023

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0143334

42. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: Application filed by 12/16/2023

Venue: USCIS

Language(s): Pashto

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Afghanistan

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

Pro bono counsel must file Z. and N.'s applications for asylum with USCIS no later than December 16, 2023.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163272, 23-0163731

43. B. is a bisexual man from Nigeria. He speaks Yoruba and English and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. B.'s asylum application has been pending before the immigration court since November 2020, but he currently does not have a hearing scheduled.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Other

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Nigeria

Client's Story

In 2019, B. was arrested, beaten, and tortured by Nigerian police after he was caught at a motel in Lagos with a man, his then-partner. The police stabbed B.'s partner in front of him, and when his partner kept fighting back against the police, the police killed B.'s partner. B. was then imprisoned for having a same-sex relationship. He escaped prison after three weeks by bribing a guard. Shortly after this, B. fled the country. B. entered the United States in December 2019 and was detained before being released on bond.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

NIJC filed timely his asylum application in November 2020. B. is able to communicate with counsel in English, but may need a Yoruba interpreter to finalize documents or discuss sensitive and complex matters. All affidavits and supporting materials for B.'s case will be due prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been set. B. is not currently scheduled for a hearing, but if B. and pro bono counsel agree, counsel can file a motion to set this case for merits.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0143635

44. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0146245

45. P. is a man from Nicaragua. P. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Nicaragua

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0152440

46. N. is a woman from Honduras. N. speaks Spanish and lives in a northwestern suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0147272

47. 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 three of their children each individually eligible for asylum.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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. After her refusal, her cousin threatened to harm M. and her family. M. noticed 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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0151700

48. 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 western suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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 messages from gang members stating that they knew the family's whereabouts and would make them pay for disobeying.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0152573

49. R. is a gay man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in Wisconsin.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: WI

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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, where it is currently pending with no hearing scheduled. 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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0160744

50. L. is a woman from Venezuela. She is awaiting a new Master Calendar hearing date. L. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0147034

51. 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.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

M. endured many years of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse by her husband in Mexico. Over time, he became more violent towards her. He threatened her with a machete and once, broke a number of items in their home including her cell phone, 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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0155215

52. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0142467

53. C. is a woman from Venezuela. C. speaks Spanish and lives in a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0151462

54. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0143330

55. I. is a gay cisman from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in a west Chicago suburb with his partner.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161824

56. 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

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Pashto, English

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Afghanistan

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163112

57. 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.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Hindi

Location: IL

Country of Origin: India

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0148068, 21-0148404

58. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0159472

59. S. is a gay man from Russia. S. speaks Russian and lives in Chicago, Illinois. He is waiting for an asylum interview.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: N/A

Venue: USCIS

Language(s): Russian

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Russian Federation

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0159964

60. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: El Salvador

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0146760

61. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Ecuador

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0145604

62. 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.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0153208

63. R. is a gay man from Nicaragua. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: N/A

Venue: USCIS

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Nicaragua

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0160836

64. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Cuba

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0150113

65. 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.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Guatemala

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0148257

66. 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.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Location: IL

Language(s): English

Country of Origin: Namibia

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0160456

67. 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.

Asylum Categories: Domestic and Gender Violence

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0150662

68. R. is a woman from Honduras. She is waiting for her next Master Calendar hearing date. R. speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IN

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0146095

69. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0143706

70. 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

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: El Salvador

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0147562

71. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court
Location: IL

Language(s): Canjobal
Country of Origin: Guatemala

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0143124

72. 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.

Asylum Categories: Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Immigration Court
Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish
Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony,

Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0147596, 21-0147271

Asylum – Affirmative

73. A. is a gay man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His asylum application was filed timely with USCIS on July 10, 2023.

Asylum Categories: LGBTQ+

Deadline: Application filed by 07/10/2023

Venue: USCIS

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

A. knew he was gay from a young age. His family tried to change his sexual orientation by beating him, and his teachers and peers psychologically tormented him. As an adult, A. became a frequent target of the Rastrojos paramilitary cartel, which extorted and threatened to kill A. because of his sexual orientation. On one occasion, cartel members held a knife to A.'s throat while calling him anti-LGBTQ slurs and asking for money. A. went to the hospital, where police met him, but they did not investigate the crime. A. fled to Bogota. In Bogota, an employee at A.'s new job revealed himself as a member of Rastrojos and threatened A. A.'s friend found a pamphlet published by the Rastrojos threatening gay locals to change their ways or face dangerous lives. After seeing this and being threatened in Bogota, A. decided to flee to the United States.

Expected Tasks

Legal research, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

Although A. was issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) by the Department of Homeland Security when he entered the United States, his NTA has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Once his NTA is filed with the court, he will be placed into court proceedings. NIJC filed A.'s asylum application on July 10, 2023. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due one week prior to A's 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.

NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161539

SIJS – Predicate Order

74. X. and Z. are half-siblings, 19 and 16, from Honduras. They live with their mother, who speaks Spanish, in Chicago

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0159962

75. 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).

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Nicaragua

Client's Story

When S. was 2 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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0160462

76. S. is a 6-year-old girl from Colombia. She lives with her mother, who speaks Spanish, in a northwest suburb of Chicago (Cook County). (23-0164380)

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Colombia

Client's Story

S. was a year old, when her parents separated. After their separation, S.'s father only provided her with money for 3 months. Since then, S. has not seen her father and he has not tried to contact her or provide any financial or emotional support. S.'s mother fled Columbia in October 2022 because the guerrilla was trying to recruit her young nephew. S. was left behind with a sister who is part of the LGBTQ+ community and because of that S. and her aunt received threats. S. fled shortly afterward and joined her mother in the United States on July 2023.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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 abandonment and that it is not in S.'s best interest to return to Columbia.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0164380

77. K. is a 13-year-old girl from Honduras. She lives with her father, who speaks Spanish, in northwest Illinois.

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0160578

78. J. is an 18-year-old boy from Honduras. He lives with his aunt, who speaks Spanish, in southwest Illinois.

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0162536

79. E. is an 18-year-old boy from Guatemala. He lives with uncle, who speaks Spanish, in Northern Illinois.

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Guatemala

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0160150

80. D. is an 18-year-old boy from Guatemala. He lives with his brother, who speaks Spanish, in Chicago.

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish, Q'eqchi' (Kekchi)

Country of Origin: Guatemala

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163371

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

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Client's Story

C.'s parents separated when she was 8 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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

A pro bono attorney would need to obtain an order for sole custody finding that C.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment and abuse, and that it is not in C.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163942

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

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Honduras

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161060

83. 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)

Deadline: N/A

Venue: Family Court

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish, Quechua

Country of Origin: Ecuador

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Litigating in state court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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 is not viable due to abandonment, and that it is not in A. and P.'s best interest to return to Ecuador.

NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0162217

U Visa

84. 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.

Deadline: Application filed by 11/09/2023

Venue: USCIS

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context**NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, jmares@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163436

85. 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.

Deadline: Application filed by 11/09/2023

Venue: USCIS

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

F. was the victim of domestic violence at the hands of her ex-boyfriend, J. In July 2021, F. 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.

Expected Tasks

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Jackie Mares, jmares@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163249

86. 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.

Deadline: Application filed by 11/14/2023

Venue: USCIS

Language(s): Spanish

Location: IL

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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 directly to a hospital and A. 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.

Expected Tasks

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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.

NIJC Contact

Jackie Mares, jmares@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0154984

87. 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.

Deadline: Application filed by 11/16/2023

Venue: USCIS

Location: IL

Language(s): Spanish

Country of Origin: Mexico

Client's Story

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 remained 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.

Expected Tasks

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context**NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, jmares@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0151395

88. 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.

Deadline: Application filed by 11/25/2023

Venue: USCIS

Location: IL

Language(s): French, English

Country of Origin: Togo

Client's Story

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.

Expected Tasks

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

Important Client Context

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

NIJC Contact

Jackie Mares, jmares@heartlandalliance.org
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161140, 23-0163518