

November 24, 2023

## **NIJC Pro Bono Case List: 69 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 in the drop-down options below the 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.

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[Priority Matters – SIJS](#)

[Defensive Asylum Matters](#)

[Affirmative Asylum Matters](#)

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## Priority Matters

### Priority – Defensive Asylum

1. W. is a transgender woman from Mexico. She speaks Spanish and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Her merits hearing is on May 20, 2024.

**Relief Seeking:** Asylum - Defensive      **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 05/20/24

**Asylum Categories:** LGBTQ+

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IN

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

#### Client's Story

W. recently came out as transgender. As a child, she was mistreated because people saw her as an effeminate gay boy. She was physically and verbally harmed in school. W. became increasingly afraid of living in Mexico after LGBTQ friends were murdered. She fears that now, as a transgender woman, she would be targeted.

#### 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

W. missed her one year filing deadline, as she entered in September 2018 and applied for asylum in November 2020. W.'s pro bono attorneys can argue that W.'s coming out as transgender is a changed circumstance that excuses her one year filing deadline. W.'s merits hearing is on May 20, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials will be due 15 days prior to V.'s merits hearing, which is set for May 20, 2024.

#### NIJC Contact

Moises Lopez Soltero, [mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org)

NIJC Case Number(s): 20-0144743

### Priority – SIJS

2. H. is a 17-year-old boy from India. He lives with a family friend, who speaks English, in a Southwest suburb of Chicago (Cook County).

**Relief Seeking:** Predicate Order - SIJS      **Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 05/01/24

**Asylum Categories:** n/a

**Venue:** Family Court

**Language(s):** Punjabi, English

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** India

#### Client's Story

H. lived with his mother, father, and younger brother in India. H's father would beat him, his brother, and his mother. H.'s father would not let him have an education and forced him to work. To escape his father's abuse, H. fled to the United States in June 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 guardianship on behalf of H's family friend, and obtain an order finding that H's reunification with his father is not viable due to his abuse and that it is not in H's best interest to return to India. This order must be obtained before H.'s 18th birthday in May of 2024.

**NIJC Contact**

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0164641

3. H. is a 17-year-old girl from Guatemala. She lives with her sister, who speaks Spanish in a western suburb of Chicago (Kane County).  
**Relief Seeking:** Predicate Order - SIJS **Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 06/01/24  
**Asylum Categories:** n/a  
**Venue:** Family Court **Language(s):** Spanish  
**Location:** IL **Country of Origin:** Guatemala

**Client's Story**

H.'s parents separated when H. was about 11 years old, and she has not seen her father since then. H.'s father does not provide her with any kind of emotional or financial support. She has not spoken to him since leaving Guatemala.

**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 H.'s sister. They will need an order finding that H.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment and that it is not in H.'s best interest to return to Guatemala. The predicate order must be obtained before H. turns 18 in June of 2024.

**NIJC Contact**

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163946

4. M. and F. are brothers, 17 and 11, from Venezuela. They live with their mother, who speaks Spanish, in a southwestern suburb of Chicago (Will County).  
**Relief Seeking:** Predicate Order - SIJS **Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 07/19/24  
**Asylum Categories:** n/a  
**Venue:** Family Court **Language(s):** Spanish  
**Location:** IL **Country of Origin:** Venezuela

**Client's Story**

M. and F. have the same mother, but different fathers. M. has not seen his father since he was seven years old. His father was physically abusive to his mother, and he has never emotionally or financially supported M. M. has not had communication with his father since he was seven years old, besides a few text messages. M. came to the US to live with his mother in Illinois in July 2023. F. hasn't seen his father since he was five years old, but his father stopped providing financial support since he was three years old. F. came to the U.S. in October 2022 to reunite with his mother.

**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 two separate petitions for sole allocation of parental responsibilities on behalf of the mother and obtain orders finding that M. and F.'s reunification with their respective fathers is not viable due to their abandonment, and that it is not in M. or F.'s best interest to return to Venezuela. M.'s predicate order must be obtained before he turns 18 in July of 2024.

### NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0164690, 23-0165308

5. Y. is a 17-year-old boy from Mexico. He lives with his brother, who speaks Tzeltal and Spanish, in a suburb of Chicago (DuPage County).  
**Relief Seeking:** Predicate Order - SIJS **Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 11/14/24  
**Asylum Categories:** n/a  
**Venue:** Family Court **Language(s):** Spanish  
**Location:** IL **Country of Origin:** Mexico

### Client's Story

Y. lived with his mother, father, and two other siblings. During that time, his mother was pregnant with his third sibling. There were complications with the birth, and his mother became ill and passed away around 13 years ago. Y. moved to Illinois with his brother in July 2023 because his father was unable to take care of his children due to his illness.

### 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 guardianship case on behalf of Y.'s older brother and obtain an order finding that Y's reunification with his mother is not viable due to her death (which constitutes abandonment under Illinois law) and that it is not in Y.'s best interest to return to Mexico.

The predicate order must be obtained before S. turns 21 in November of 2024.

### NIJC Contact

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0165872

## Asylum – Defensive

6. N. is a man from Colombia. His merits hearing is scheduled for February 20, 2025. N. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago.  
**Relief Seeking:** Asylum - Defensive **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 02/20/25  
**Asylum Categories:** Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs  
**Venue:** Immigration Court **Language(s):** Spanish  
**Location:** IL **Country of Origin:** Colombia

### Client's Story

N. was a well-respected engineer in his community. H., a candidate in an upcoming election, asked N. to support his campaign by encouraging young people to vote for him. When H. lost the election, he claimed that it had been rigged and began disseminating misinformation about the winning candidate, W., in an attempt to discredit the election. Associates of W. believed that N. knew H.'s whereabouts and tried to intimidate N. into leading them to him. N. was harmed, robbed, threatened, and persecuted. When N. could not provide information, W.'s associates threatened to harm his family. N. fled Colombia and entered the United States in October 2022.

### 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

NIJC timely filed N.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to his case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

### NIJC Contact

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163298

7. R. is a man from Togo. His upcoming merits hearing is on January 13, 2026. He speaks French and lives in Chicago.

**Relief Seeking:** Asylum - Defensive      **Deadline:** Merits hearing on 01/13/26

**Asylum Categories:** Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

**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, R. participated in protests during which police teargassed protesters. The police 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 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, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

### Important Client Context

R. entered the United States in November 2021, was placed in removal proceedings, and timely filed for asylum. All affidavits and supporting materials for R.'s case will be due 15 days prior to his individual merits hearing, which is scheduled for January 13, 2026.

### NIJC Contact

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

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

**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

9. 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 1/5/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IN

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

10. 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 1/8/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

### **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

11. 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 1/17/2024

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

### **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

12. G. is a transgender man from Nicaragua. His next Master Calendar Hearing is scheduled for January 22, 2024. G. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, IL.

**Asylum Categories:** LGBTQ+

**Deadline:** Master calendar hearing on 1/22/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

13. K. is a gay cisgender man from Cuba in removal proceedings. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. K.'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 1/23/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Cuba

**Client's Story**

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



### **Important Client Context**

K. 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 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): 23-0161988

14. 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 2/14/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

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

### **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

15. J. is a gay cisgender man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. His defensive asylum application is pending with the immigration court. J. is scheduled for a master calendar hearing on February 15, 2024.

**Asylum Categories:** LGBTQ+

**Deadline:** Master calendar hearing on 2/15/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Colombia

### **Client's Story**

As a child, J.'s peers frequently called him anti-LGBTQ slurs because they perceived him as feminine. In 2018, men attacked and sexually abused J. while calling him slurs. J. contracted HIV from the assault. Later that year, another group of men beat J. while calling him anti-LGBTQ slurs and threatening to kill his family if he went to the police. J.

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. J. believes the Colombian police are corrupt and anti-LGBTQ and would not protect him from future harm. J. fled to the United State after meeting his partner online who told J. about the possibility of living freely as a gay person in 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**

J. filed his asylum application pro se on March 13, 2023. J. is currently set for a master calendar hearing on February 15, 2024 with a visiting judge, which is likely to be rescheduled. All affidavits and supporting documents for J.'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](mailto:mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org)  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161824

16. P. is a man from Angola. His wife Q., and children, R., S., T., U., and V. are all derivatives on his application for asylum. P., Q., S., U., and V.'s Master Calendar Hearing is scheduled for March 14, 2024. T. has no hearings currently scheduled. P. and his family speak Portuguese and live on the Southside of Chicago.

**Asylum Categories:** Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

**Deadline:** Master calendar hearing on 2/25/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Language(s):** Portuguese

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Angola

#### **Client's Story**

P. was a teacher. As a government worker, he was expected to support the government in power, "the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola" (the MPLA). P. refused to participate in pro government marches and offer his support to the MPLA. P.'s wife, Q., occasionally showed support for the government's opposition and participated in anti-government marches. During one of these marches, security guards saw Q. and identified her as part of the opposition party. Soon after, P. and his family began to receive threatening phone calls in which they were accused of being traitors. P. believes that the MPLA was targeting them as anti-government. Over the next few months, P. was kidnapped, beaten, threatened with death, and persecuted. His wife and children were also victims of attempted harm including threats and attempted kidnapping. The family reported multiple instances of harm to the police, but they never received any protection. In September 2022, men on motorcycles followed and shot at P. and the children. Soon after, they obtained tourist visas to Brazil and fled Angola. From Brazil, they made their way north and entered the United States in February 2023.

#### **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**

NIJC timely filed P.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. 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): 23-0163395

17. 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 2/27/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** French

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

**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

18. K. is a gay cisgender man from Colombia. He speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois. K. is scheduled for a master calendar hearing on March 20, 2024.

**Asylum Categories:** LGBTQ+

**Deadline:** Master calendar hearing on 3/20/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Colombia

**Client's Story**

Throughout K.'s childhood, he was frequently perceived as LGBTQ. He was sexually assaulted on numerous occasions. He was called anti-LGBTQ slurs and ostracized at school. Around 2022, members of a local gang saw K. with his boyfriend and shouted anti-LGBTQ slurs at them. From then on, gang members harassed K. his boyfriend nearly every time they left house by shouting slurs and threats and by throwing stones and bottles at them. Later that year, gang members sent death threats to K. and his family. When the death threats began, K., 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, K. and his family members left Colombia.

**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**

NIJC timely filed K.'s asylum application with the Chicago Immigration Court on July 10, 2023. K. is currently set for a master calendar hearing on March 20, 2024. 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.

**NIJC Contact**

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

19. 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 4/17/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

20. 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 4/22/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** English

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

### **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

21. 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 4/30/2024

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

### **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

22. M. is a woman from Mexico. M's first Master Calendar Hearing is on September 9, 2026. Her asylum application must be filed by September 1, 2024. M. lives in the Indianapolis area and speaks Spanish.

**Asylum Categories:**

**Deadline:** Application filed by 9/1/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IN

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

**Client's Story**

M.'s daughter was killed by cartel members. Local government promised to investigate the incident and M. went to the city hall several times a week to check on the status of the investigation. M. began receiving phone calls from cartel members threatening to kill her if she did not stop going to the city hall to inquire. M.'s son also started receiving threats that M. would be killed if she did not stop inquiring about the investigation. M. was forced to close her small business after armed men drove past her shop with guns to threaten her. M. fled Mexico in September 2023.

**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**

M.'s initial asylum application with the Immigration Court must be filed before September 1, 2024. All affidavits and supporting materials to M.'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): 23-0165552

23. 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 9/4/2024

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** French, English

**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, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing

applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

**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

24. 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 9/10/2024

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

**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

25. 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 9/18/2024

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

**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

26. E. is a HIV positive gay cisgender man from Venezuela. He speaks Spanish, and he lives in Chicago, Illinois. His first master calendar hearing is January 6, 2025.

**Asylum Categories:** LGBTQ+

**Deadline:** Master calendar hearing on 1/6/2025

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Venezuela

**Client's Story**

E. has hidden his sexual orientation from a young age out of fear of homophobic violence. He was fired from his government job after he refused to participate in marches supporting President Maduro. He ultimately fled Venezuela after he was he was denied medical treatment in August 2022 because of his HIV status. E. felt he had no recourse because if he sought legal action, more people would know his HIV status, which he feared would lead to losing his job and facing and further discrimination and violence.

**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**

E.'s asylum application was timely filed on August 11, 2023. All affidavits and supporting materials for E. 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): 23-0161398

27. 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 2/24/2025

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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



memos

**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

28. 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 5/7/2025

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

**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

29. 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 6/16/2025

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

### **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

30. E. is a young man from Guatemala. He has a Master Calendar hearing is on August 6, 2025, but because he was a designated unaccompanied child, the asylum office has jurisdiction over his pending asylum claim. E. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

**Asylum Categories:** Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

**Deadline:** Master calendar hearing on 8/6/2025

**Venue:** Immigration Court, 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 or early 2021. E. fled Guatemala soon afterwards. Immigration officers apprehended E. and placed him in ORR custody.

### **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**

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 August 6, 2025. 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

31. W. is a man from Colombia. His wife, X., and daughters, Y. and Z., are derivatives on his application and are also independently eligible for asylum. W., X., Y., and Z.'s master calendar hearing is on April 29, 2026. W. and his family speak Spanish and live in a northwest suburb of Chicago.

**Asylum Categories:** Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

**Deadline:** Master calendar hearing on 4/29/2026

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Colombia

### **Client's Story**

W. and X. protested at public demonstrations and participated in political meetings to organize support for leftist candidates in Colombia. In spring of 2023, they experienced threats from a paramilitary group opposed to their activities. They were targeted because they had relationships with liberal politicians through their construction company. The

paramilitary group attempted to extort them for money, but they refused to provide it. Although the family reported their experience to the police, the police refused to provide them with any protection. Fearing for their safety, they 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**

NIJC timely filed asylum applications for W., X., Y., and Z. Their Master Calendar hearing is scheduled for April 29, 2026. 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): 23-0164381

32. 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

**Location:** IN

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

33. 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  
**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Hindi  
**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, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

**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

34. 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  
**Location:** IN

**Language(s):** Spanish  
**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, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

**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

35. K. is a man from Ecuador. His wife, L., and daughter, M., are derivatives on his asylum application and L. is also independently eligible for asylum. K. and his family speak Spanish and live in Chicago, Illinois.

**Asylum Categories:**

**Deadline:** N/A

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Kichwa, Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Ecuador

**Client's Story**

K. and his wife, L., operated a fruit stand in Ecuador. K. and L. were approached by gang members who threatened their lives if they did not give them the money they demanded. K. was physically beaten and robbed by the gang members while trying to protect his wife, L. K. and L. paid the gang members for a month up until they ran out of money. K. and L. fled Ecuador with their daughter, M., and arrived in the United States in around June 2023. Pro bono counsel must file K., L. and M.'s I-589s with the Chicago Immigration Court prior to June 27, 2024. K., L. and M. are currently in removal proceedings before the Chicago Immigration Court; there are no future hearings scheduled in their cases. All affidavits and supporting materials for K., L. and M.'s case will be due 15 days prior to their individual merits hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

**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**

**NIJC Contact**

Lili Henkel, lhenkel@heartlandalliance.org

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0164144

36. 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

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

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

**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

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

### **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

39. 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

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

### **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

40. 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

**Location:** IN

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

### **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

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

### **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

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

### **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

43. B. is a woman from Guatemala. Her daughters, C. and D., are derivatives on her application and are also independently eligible for asylum. B. and her family speak Mam and live in Chicago.

**Asylum Categories:**

**Deadline:** N/A

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Mam, Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Guatemala

**Client's Story**

B. is an indigenous woman from a rural area of Guatemala. Police refused to act when her father was killed a year ago and her uncle was assaulted. In order to build her house, B. had to borrow money from a local lender who later threatened to harm her if she did not pay him back on time. She has been unable to pay the interest on her loan, but many in her community still think she is wealthy because her partner works in the United States. Young girls have been kidnapped and raped in B.'s village, and she feared this could happen to her or her daughters.

**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**

B. lives with her partner in Chicago, but NIJC does not represent him as a client. NIJC timely filed the asylum applications for B., C., and D. They are awaiting the rescheduling of their Master Calendar hearing. 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): 23-0164176

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

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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. 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

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

46. 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

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

47. R. is a woman from Honduras. Her son F. and daughter L. are derivatives on her asylum application. R. and her children speak Spanish and live in southern Indiana.

**Asylum Categories:**

**Deadline:** N/A

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IN

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Honduras

**Client's Story**

R. met her ex-partner, S., and he moved in with R. and her two children. S. was very controlling. He physically abused R. daily and tried to hit her children. Several months into their relationship, R. learned that her S. was a member of the MS-13 gang. Knowing that there is nowhere in Honduras that R. and her children could be safe from S., R. fled to Mexico with L. S. threatened to kill R., her mother, and her children if she did not return to Honduras. He told R. that he would find her in Mexico. R. returned to Honduras for F. and together she and her children fled for 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**

NIJC timely filed R.'s application for asylum with the immigration court. All affidavits and supporting materials to R., F., and L.'s 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): 20-0140788

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

#### **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

49. 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

**Location:** IN

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

memos

**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

50. 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

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

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

### **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

52. R is a woman from Cameroon. She speaks Cameroonian Pidgin English and lives in a northeast suburb of Chicago.

**Asylum Categories:** Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

**Deadline:** N/A

**Venue:** Immigration Court, USCIS

**Language(s):** Other

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Cameroon

### **Client's Story**

R is a single mother who sold food to support her family in an Anglophone region of Cameroon. In early 2022, she was arrested by the Cameroonian military and accused of selling food to separatists. Policed officers tortured R. during interrogation and raped her multiple times while she was in prison. After R. was released from prison, the military began looking for her again. She was declared wanted for conspiring with separatist fighters. After the military came looking for her, R.'s family, including her children, went into hiding. She does not currently know their whereabouts. R. fled to Brazil. From there, she travelled to the United States and entered in late 2022.

### **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 has an NTA, but it has not yet been filed with the immigration court. Until this occurs, USCIS maintains jurisdiction over her case. R. timely filed a pro se asylum application with USCIS. All affidavits and supporting materials to her 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): 23-0164997

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

**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

54. 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  
**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish  
**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 toward 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, Litigating in immigration court, Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Preparing client testimony, Working with vulnerable clients, Writing legal memos

**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

55. A. is a man from Ecuador. His wife, B., and daughter, C., are derivatives on his application and are also independently eligible for asylum. A. and his family speak Kichwa and live in Chicago.

**Asylum Categories:** Political Opinion, Religious Beliefs

**Deadline:** N/A

**Venue:** Immigration Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Kichwa, Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Ecuador

**Client's Story**

A. and his family are from a historically disenfranchised indigenous group in Ecuador. A. and B. participated in indigenous-led protests against the Ecuadorian government in 2022 and were injured by tear gas when the government attacked the protestors. After the protests, government actors followed and intimidated A. and B. A few months later, masked men robbed them, stealing many of the animals from their farm. The masked men may have been associated with a high-security prison for gang members that the government recently placed in the family's community. When the A. tried to report the robbery to the police, the police refused to act. The family fled to the United States and were again robbed during their journey.

**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**

NIJC timely filed the asylum applications for A., B., and C. They are awaiting the rescheduling of their Master Calendar hearing. 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): 23-0164443

56. 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

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

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

**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

## Asylum – Affirmative

57. L. is a cisgender gay man from Pakistan. He speaks English and lives in Chicago, Illinois. L.'s affirmative asylum application was filed on October 12, 2023.

**Asylum Categories:** LGBTQ+

**Deadline:** N/A

**Venue:** USCIS

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** English

**Country of Origin:** Pakistan

**Client's Story**

From a young age, L. was bullied and physically attacked by his peers for being gay. He entered the United States in December 2020 with his family, but shortly after, he was outed to several members of his family, who were not accepting and told him that they

would force him to marry a woman in Pakistan. In 2023, they kicked him out of the house, and he decided to seek asylum, since he has been relying on his father's student visa for status. L. fears forced marriage and further attacks if he were to return to Pakistan as an out gay man.

**Expected Tasks**

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

**Important Client Context**

L. qualifies for an exception to the one-year filing deadline because he has F-2 status. NIJC staff filed his I-589 in October 2023. Affidavits and other supporting documents will be due approximately 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 12 weeks of case acceptance.

**NIJC Contact**

Moises Lopez Soltero, mlopezsoltero@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 22-0160587

**SIJS – Predicate Order**

58. 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).

**Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 4/1/2024

**Venue:** Family Court

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**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 Colombia in October 2022, after receiving threats from guerrillas. S. was left behind with an aunt who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, and because of that, S. and her aunt received threats. S. fled shortly afterwards and joined her mother in the United States in 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

59. A. is a 15-year-old girl from Honduras. She lives with her mother, who speaks Spanish, in a Northwest suburb of Chicago (Cook County).

**Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 4/1/2024

**Venue:** Family Court

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Honduras

### **Client's Story**

When A.'s mother and biological father were in a relationship, he would hit her while pregnant with her, and when A. was born, her father attempted to kidnap her from the hospital. Due to abuse and his involvement with gangs in Honduras, they separated. A.'s father has never been a part of A.'s life and has not provided emotional or 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 seeking to establish paternity, grant sole allocation of parental responsibilities to A.'s mother and obtain an order finding that A.'s reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment and neglect and that it is not in A.'s best interest to return to Honduras.

### **NIJC Contact**

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, [bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org)  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0163966

60. G. is a 14-year-old girl from Mexico. She lives with her mother, who speaks Spanish, in Chicago (Cook County).

**Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 5/1/2024

**Venue:** Family Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Colombia

### **Client's Story**

G. lived with her mother, father, and her brothers in Mexico. G. had a good relationship with her father and lived with him. In May of 2022, G.'s father passed away. Within two-weeks, G. was the victim of two attempted kidnappings. G.'s mother decided that it was not safe for the family to remain in Mexico. In November of 2022, G., her mother, and her older brothers came to the United States.

### **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 G.'s mother, and obtain an order finding that G.'s reunification with her father is not viable due his death, (which constitutes abandonment under Illinois law), and that it is not in G.'s best interest to return to Mexico.

### **NIJC Contact**

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, [bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org)  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0164571

61. I. is a 14-year-old boy from Mexico. He lives with his mother, who speaks Spanish, in a southwest suburb of Chicago (Will County).

**Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 7/1/2024

**Venue:** Family Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

### **Client's Story**

I.'s father's name was never on I.'s birth certificate because his parents separated shortly before his birth. I. has never met his father, and they have never had contact. He has never provided I. with emotional or financial support. I. lived with his grandfather and

uncle in Mexico and came to the United States in July of 2023 to reunite with his mother.

**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 I.'s mother that establishes paternity and finding that I.'s reunification with his father is not viable due to his abandonment and that it is not in I.'s best interest to return to Mexico.

**NIJC Contact**

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0165079

62. B., S. & L. are siblings aged 10, 6, & 3 from Honduras. They live with their mother, who speaks Spanish, in Northeast Illinois (Will County).

**Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 7/1/2024

**Venue:** Family Court

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Country of Origin:** Honduras

**Client's Story**

B., S., and L. have the same mother but two different fathers. B.'s father left when B. was about three years old. After their separation, B. would see her father about once a month, but he did not provide any financial support for many years. The last time B. spoke to her father was in 2021. S. and L.'s father was arrested for kidnapping in Honduras and was recently convicted and sentenced to 11 years in prison. S. and L. fled with their mother to the U.S. in 2021, and B. has since joined them 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 two separate petitions for sole allocation of parental responsibilities: one for B., and one for S. and L., and obtain orders finding that their reunification with their respective fathers is not viable due to their abandonment and that it is not in their best interest to return to Honduras.

**NIJC Contact**

Berenice Sanchez Ruiz, bsanchezruiz@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161060, 23-0165052

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

**Deadline:** Obtain Predicate Order by 7/1/2024

**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**

64. A. is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive A.'s application prior to January 28, 2024. A. speaks Spanish and lives in Chicago.

**Deadline:** Application filed by 1/26/2024

**Venue:** USCIS

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

### **Client's Story**

A. has suffered physical, emotional, verbal, and sexual abuse by her husband. In one incident, A.'s husband pushed her against the bed and removed her clothing without consent. A.'s husband proceeded to rape and threaten her. A. transported herself to the hospital to receive treatment. A. filed a police report against her husband. A. received counseling to heal from the abuse she suffered. A. is no longer living with her abusive husband. A. will require a waiver of inadmissibility. .

### **Expected Tasks**

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

### **Important Client Context**

### **NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, jmares@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 21-0147613

65. R. is a man from Guatemala who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive R.'s application prior to February 16, 2024. R. speaks Spanish and lives in Melrose Park.

**Deadline:** Application filed by 2/15/2024

**Venue:** USCIS

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Guatemala

### **Client's Story**

R. faced many years of physical and emotional abuse by his ex-partner. R.'s ex-partner was possessive, aggressive, and threatened him. R.'s ex-partner often withheld R. from seeing his son. In one incident, she grabbed a knife and chased R. with it. R. reported the abuse to the police and obtained an order of protection. R. continues to receive counseling for the violence he experienced. R. has two U.S. citizen children and one child in Guatemala. Along with his U Visa application, R. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for having entered the United States without inspection.

### **Expected Tasks**

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

### **Important Client Context**

### **NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, jmares@heartlandalliance.org  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0165024

66. J. is man from Mexico who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive J.'s application prior to February 20, 2024. J. speaks Spanish and lives in Cicero.

**Deadline:** Application filed by 2/20/2024

**Venue:** USCIS

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

**Client's Story**

J. was the victim of armed robbery with a handgun in Cicero. J. was commuting home at night when he was robbed at gunpoint. The offender hit J. in the face with the gun. J. reported the crime to police and then went to the hospital to receive stitches. J. still has lingering anxiety from the incident and ended up quitting his job. J. has been receiving therapy for a few months. J. will require a waiver of inadmissibility.

**Expected Tasks**

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

**Important Client Context**

**NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, [jmares@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:jmares@heartlandalliance.org)

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0165402

67. E. is a man from Ecuador who is eligible to file a U Visa application. USCIS must receive E.'s application prior to March 6, 2024. E. speaks English and Spanish but prefers to communicate in English. E. lives in Chicago.

**Deadline:** Application filed by 3/6/2024

**Venue:** USCIS

**Language(s):** English, Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Ecuador

**Client's Story**

E. was a victim of Aggravated Battery in Chicago. E. was leaving a bar when he was violently slapped, knocking him to the ground. E. hit his head on a steel beam. E. was taken to the ER where he was treated for head lacerations. E. was cooperative with responding police officers and follow up detective. The offender was arrested and charged accordingly. Since the incident, E. has been experiencing acute stress disorder and PTSD. E. has been receiving mental health services.

**Expected Tasks**

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

**Important Client Context**

**NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, [jmares@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:jmares@heartlandalliance.org)

NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0164327

68. E. is a woman from Mexico who is eligible to file a U visa application. USCIS must receive E's application prior to March 22, 2024. E. speaks Spanish and lives in Westmont.

**Deadline:** Application filed by 3/22/2024

**Venue:** USCIS

**Language(s):** Spanish

**Location:** IL

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

**Client's Story**

E. suffered abuse from her ex-partner and father of one of her daughters. In one incident, her ex-partner punched E. in the throat and strangled her. E. reported this to the police and filed an emergency order of protection. E.'s ex-boyfriend was arrested, charged, pled guilty, and convicted of the crime he committed. E. has three U.S. citizen children and desires safety for her family. E. will need a waiver of inadmissibility.

**Expected Tasks**

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

**Important Client Context****NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, [jmares@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:jmares@heartlandalliance.org)  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0164041

**VAWA**

69. A. is a woman from Nigeria who is eligible to file a VAWA self-petition application. A. speaks English and lives in Joliet. There is no set deadline since A. is still legally married to her husband.

**Deadline:** N/A

**Venue:** USCIS

**Location:** IL

**Language(s):** English

**Country of Origin:** Nigeria

**Client's Story**

A. has been the victim of emotional, psychological, and physical abuse by her husband. On one occasion, A.'s husband severely physically abused A. and left her unable to walk. A. never called the police because she was scared due to her lack of immigration status. A.'s husband was controlling and took A.'s phone to delete the evidence of abuse she experienced. A. has sought counseling to heal from the abuse she suffered. A. is separated from abusive husband. Along with her VAWA application, A. will require a waiver of inadmissibility for fraud/misrepresentation.

**Expected Tasks**

Preparing affidavits, Preparing applications, Working with vulnerable clients

**Important Client Context****NIJC Contact**

Jackie Mares, [jmares@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:jmares@heartlandalliance.org)  
NIJC Case Number(s): 23-0161765