
Immigration Advocacy Project Year-End Report 2023



Executive Summary

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada has always been on the forefront of combating inequality, injustice, and providing a voice and strength to the most vulnerable members of the community. To compound matters, individuals who lack some type of legal status in the United States face the additional burden of navigating the complex legal system or the ability to leave abusive environments because they lack the necessary documents and resources to allow them to move forward and reclaim their independence. Realizing the ever-growing need in the community, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada expanded the Immigration Advocacy Project with the primary goal of serving and assisting even more victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, child abuse, and violent crime.

The Immigration Advocacy Project's client base has expanded, reflecting its commitment to serving diverse needs; whether it be a DACA renewal or a complex defensive asylum claim, all of the attorneys approach every case with a zealous and holistic approach, empowering the clients we serve. With this positive trajectory, there is an optimistic outlook for the future as we continue to adapt and address evolving changes in immigration.

Representation

2023 Immigration	
Consultations 2023	1,219
New cases accepted 2023	410
Total cases worked on by attorneys (includes previous years cases)	1,273
Total annual clients served	2,501

2023 Pro Bono Immigration Work	
New cases placed 2023	39
Total cases worked on by attorneys (includes previous years cases)	133
Number of clients served in Ask-A-Lawyer	40
Total annual clients served	133

File types	Count of FileType
Adjustment of Status	146
Afghan Asylum	25
Asylum	187
DACA	51
DACA Renewals	57
Employment Authorization	58
FL SIJ Custody	12
FL SIJ Guardianship	15
Immigration Issues	896
LPR	116
Naturalization/Citizenship	205
Removal of Condition	20
Special Immigrant Juvenile Visa	84
T Visa	9
Temporary Protective Status	40
U VISA	461
VAWA	119
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Grand Total	2501

Accomplishments

Afghanistan Project

The Immigration Advocacy Project has had over 85% of the Afghan Asylum cases adjudicated with a 100% approval rate as of the publishing of this report. Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada was a driving force in assisting Afghan families who fled their home country when the Taliban took over the entire region in 2021. Many of our Afghan clients had worked closely with the United States government and faced imminent danger when the violent Taliban regime took over the country.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada was able to assist 148 refugees from Afghanistan. Most cases were taken in house but Legal Aid Center placed approximately 24 cases with pro bono attorneys while providing mentorship, guidance, and support throughout the process. The majority of these clients were approved for other benefits such as TPS and work authorization; many have started on their path to citizenship.

The client who was the first to be called for an interview and the first of our clients to be approved, is joining the U.S. Army as soon as he gets his green card. U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto is helping to expedite his case so he can enlist.

Success Stories

**Jane*

“Jane” came to Legal Aid Center for assistance in 2016. Jane was severely battered when she attempted to leave her boyfriend. Jane’s boyfriend had smashed a window to force his way into Jane’s apartment, where he then proceeded to beat and choke her. Jane managed to call the police and ran out of the apartment to meet the police. The police report reflects that police found Jane drenched in blood; Jane’s boyfriend had cut himself when he broke the window, and he bled all over Jane while he was choking her.

Jane did not have immigration status here in the United States but, as a victim of domestic violence, she was eligible for a U-visa. A U-visa is an immigration status that provides lawful immigration status and a path to citizenship for victims of certain crimes. However, only 10,000 U-visas are issued every year. Due to the volume of U-visa applications, it takes over five years for an eligible applicant to receive approval for a U-visa. Our immigration attorney represented Jane on her U-visa application: drafted the necessary forms; worked with Jane to prepare a personal statement; and filed her application. In the ensuing years, Legal Aid Center continued to keep contact with Jane and monitored her case. When Jane became eligible for work authorization while the U-visa was still pending, our attorney helped Jane apply for and receive her work permit.

In May of 2023, almost exactly seven years after we filed the U-visa application, Jane was approved for U-visa status. Our representation of Jane is not finished. Jane’s son was included on her U-visa application as a derivative. Jane’s son resides in Mexico, and he is now eligible to immigrate to the United States. He needs to complete the immigration process with the U.S. Consulate in Mexico, and our attorney is working with Jane and her son to complete his consular processing. Jane has not seen her son for years, and she cannot wait to see him again.

**Names changed to protect client’s confidentiality.*