

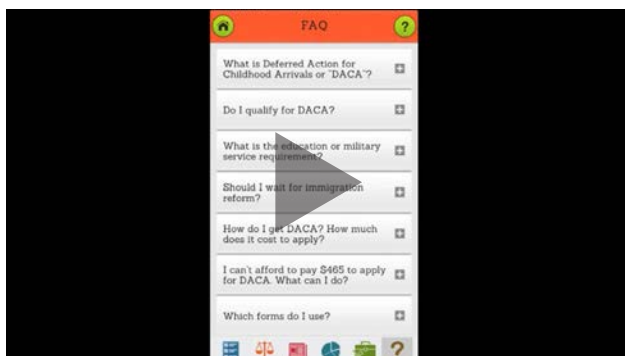
# AILA's Pro Bono Newsletter

Pro Bono Is a Part of Professionalism ■  
AILA Practice and Professionalism Center

Fall 2013  
American Immigration  
Lawyers Association  
[www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org)



## YOUR GUIDE TO 'POCKET DACA'



Watch a [tutorial](#) on Pocket DACA, the free mobile app that features a qualification screening tool, helps applicants find legal help, and much more!



[aila.org/probono](http://aila.org/probono)



Mentor  
Directory



Newsletter  
Archive



Stop Notario  
Fraud



Own the  
Dream



Pro Bono  
Heroes

YOUR PRO BONO RESOURCES:

## Thousands Benefit From Pocket DACA App!

by Patrick Taurel

On August 14, in anticipation of the first birthday of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, AILA and partners launched “[Pocket DACA](#),” an app for smartphones and tablets designed to help noncitizens understand the DACA process, assess whether they likely qualify, and find legal help. The app has succeeded beyond all expectations, garnering favorable press in [national](#) and [regional](#) media and, most importantly, reaching an audience of nearly 20,000 users within just one month of the launch date!

The free app, available for download from the [Apple iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#) stores, offers a self-screening tool for DACA applicants to understand their eligibility and

a searchable directory of listings for immigration legal services providers, including AILA attorneys in all 50 states. The app also includes links to news about the deferred action process and frequently asked questions.

The app was created by [AILA](#), the [American Immigration Council](#), the [Immigration Advocates Network](#), and the [Own the DREAM campaign](#). Technology partners for the app include [Mobisoft Infotech](#) and [Pro Bono Net](#).

“This app is yet another way that AILA’s national organization and members are reaching out to the young undocumented population who may be eligible for this potentially life-changing opportunity, while offering protection from scammers who may try to take advantage of a vulnerable population,” said

Get Pocket  
DACA  
for your  
[iPhone](#) or  
[Android](#)!



Laura Lichter, AILA’s Immediate Past President who was involved in developing a related online screening tool.

Feedback from the community has been glowing. Android user Nataly L. commented that the app provides “great info” and “shows you what you need to know and where you can go for more help.” Another user, Oscar R., echoes Nataly’s praise, saying Pocket

CONTINUED on pg.6 >>

► **ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:** Fighting for DV-Based Asylum Clients **2** Record Numbers at AC Pro Bono Clinic **3** California’s AB-1159 **4** Pro Bono Heroes **7**

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 13101830. (Posted 10/18/13)



# Katie Ruhl: Fighting for DV-Based Asylum Clients

Eloy, Arizona. By 2011, that number was up to 600. The local detained courts had yet to grant a single domestic violence (DV) based asylum claim.

Over the course of her four years at the Florence Project, Katie relentlessly prioritized DV-based asylum cases and advocated for a change. Even after DHS acknowledged in its briefs in two separate cases the viability of DV-based asylum claims, Arizona's DHS trial attorneys still refused to change their position on DV-based asylum claims. Katie enlisted the support of the Center

for Gender and Refugee Studies at UC Hastings to complain to the House Sub-Committee on Immigration and pressure DHS Headquarters to hold their Arizona office accountable. Katie mentored pro bono attorneys at Phoenix law firms through the nebulous legal authority for DV-based asylum and she herself represented at least 10 women before the Immigration Court and wrote countless briefs to the BIA on the issue.

In 2011, Katie left the Florence Project to go into private practice, but she brought three of her DV-based asylum

cases with her. In early 2012, Katie finally saw the fruits of her efforts when one of her mentees won the first DV-based asylum grant out of Eloy, and then five of her own DV-based asylum cases concluded with wins in the months that followed. Katie's unwillingness to let this issue go, even after years of devastating defeats, is the reason why a DV-based asylum client on the Arizona detained docket now has a fighting chance.

*Tally Kingsnorth is Pro Bono Program Director at The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Florence, AZ.*

by Tally Kingsnorth

**W**hen Katharine (Katie) Ruhl joined the Florence Project in September 2007, there were well over 300 women detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Florence and

## Three Cheers for Margaret Stock, AILA Hero and 2013 MacArthur Fellow

**T**he AILA community, U.S. Military and countless clients have long recognized and extolled the virtues, expertise and overall "rock star-esque" qualities personified by Lt. Col (ret) Margaret Stock. Now the rest of the world has taken notice, as Margaret was recently named as one of the elite recipients of the MacArthur Foundation's "Genius" grants, awarding her a no-strings attached stipend totaling \$625,000, which will allow her to continue pursuing her work in new and exciting ways.



### **WATCH AILA's Interview of the Month with 2013 MacArthur Fellow Margaret Stock.**

There are three criteria for selection of Fellows: exceptional creativity, promise for important future

advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work. Due in large part to her role in the development of landmark programs such as the [Military Accessions Vital to National Interest program](#), the [Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative](#), and of course AILA's very own [Military Assistance Program](#), Margaret's considerable contributions to national security and immigration law and practice are undeniably exemplary.

We applaud and appreciate Margaret for her success, and are glad to join the MacArthur Foundation in declaring her a true 'genius'!

# Record Attendance, Volunteerism at 2013 AC Pro Bono Clinic

**More Than 40 AILA Attorneys Took Time Out To Assist More Than 240 Aspiring New Citizens**

*by David Palmer*

This year's AILA Annual Conference Pro Bono Clinic hosted one of San Francisco's largest naturalization workshops—helping hundreds of Bay Area residents take concrete steps towards U.S. Citizenship. For the third year in a row, AILA annual conference attendees from around the country participated in AILA's Pro Bono Clinic to give back to the community temporarily “adopted” by the Annual Conference. We are delighted to report that the 2013 Pro Bono Clinic in San Francisco produced a record turnout in terms of both attorney volunteers and attendees.

To help reach some of the estimated 100,000 plus naturalization-eligible residents in San Francisco, AILA's Pro Bono Clinic teamed up with the city's newly formed [Pathway to Citizenship Initiative](#), a group of local immigration-focused nonprofits, and provided assistance with naturalization education, eligibility screening, naturalization applications, and fee waivers. More than 40 AILA attorneys took time out of their busy conference schedules to volunteer. Bringing their expertise to bear, clinic volunteers made direct positive contributions to more than 240 aspiring new citizens—helping to remove cost, access, language, and knowledge barriers to the naturalization process.

All Saturday morning and into the afternoon, AILA attorneys met with clinic attendees to carefully consider each individual's naturalization eligibility,



**AILA volunteers hard at work in San Francisco.**

advised on complex naturalization issues, and reviewed naturalization applications and supporting evidence. The Pro Bono Clinic was equipped to provide naturalization assistance in Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Russian. This multilingual capacity proved vital as an estimated 85% of attendees required some level of foreign language support. And, with an eye to increase the success rate of each naturalization applicant, diligent clinic volunteers helped clinic attendees with application packaging and made copies for their records. We are happy to confirm that many of our attendees left the clinic with their applications ready to mail, or very close to it.

Planning and hosting the 2013 Pro Bono Clinic was truly a community effort. UC Hastings College of the Law, a long-time friend to AILA's Northern California chapter, graciously donated the use of its facilities to accommodate the clinic's hundreds of attendees and volunteers. AILA also worked closely with members of San Francisco's Pathway to Citizenship Initiative who assisted with community

and press outreach, logistical support, foreign language support, and knowledgeable volunteers. This Initiative is made up of seven nonprofits, each with long-standing history in serving local immigrant populations. This newly formed group recently came together under the sponsorship of the City of San Francisco to implement an ambitious three-year program to dramatically increase local levels of naturalization through extensive community outreach and by holding frequent, free naturalization workshops. Fortunately, in providing the opportunity, venue, and legal expertise of dozens of AILA attorneys, the 2013 Pro Bono Clinic doubled as the ideal occasion to launch SF Pathway to Citizenship's very first community outreach efforts.

In looking back at AILA's 2013 Annual Conference, it is nearly certain that Pro Bono Clinic volunteers found their participation in the clinic to be one of their most rewarding experiences of the conference. Why? Because the Pro Bono Clinic provided attorney volunteers with two very positive experiences—giving freely of themselves to those who need and appreciate their expertise, and building genuine camaraderie with intelligent and compassionate AILA members from across the globe. AILA, and its Pro Bono team, is very proud of the accomplishments of this year's clinic and is especially pleased with the strong and positive connections it forged between AILA and Bay Area immigration nonprofits. We hope that you will consider joining us for next year's Pro Bono Clinic in Boston!

*David Palmer was the 2012-2013 Co-Chair of the AILA Northern California Chapter Pro Bono Committee.*

# AB-1159 and the Impact of State Regulations on Federal Law

by Cynthia Lucas

On Sept. 12, the California State Legislature passed a consumer protection bill for immigration services known as [Assembly Bill 1159](#) (AB-1159). AB-1159, titled the Immigration Reform Act, was introduced as a “consumer protection measure” aimed at reducing or eliminating fraud in immigration services. However, to the extent that the initially proposed language focused on additional regulations and less on enforcement of existing regulations already intended to address such fraud, AILA opposed this bill, concerned that it would have a harmful effect on consumers who are in most need of qualified legal services—the very population this law purportedly intended to protect.

Throughout the legislative process, AILA kept the line of communication open with the drafters of this new legislation to convey our concerns that the focus and method of this bill would not achieve its intended purpose, and instead might have the ill-effect of generating more fraud. There was concern about some of the originally included onerous provisions:

Learn more about California's [AB-1159](#), including the latest version, history, and analysis.

- attorneys having to post a large monetary bond to practice immigration law in connection with “immigration reform act services”
- providing required notices to consumers about how to make formal complaints to the State Bar
- translating all such notices and related retainers in a client’s “native” language
- the State Bar collecting additional fees from attorneys to administer the new regulations.

Adoption of these requirements would not only make the practice of immigration law cost prohibitive to many attorneys, making good attorneys less accessible to clients who would not be able to afford higher costs in legal fees, but it might also dissuade attorneys from engaging in pro bono work as any technical violations of those provisions would have resulted in a daily fine of \$1000.

AILA National, together with the AILA California chapters, fought

**“AILA kept the lines of communication open with the drafters of this new legislation to convey our concerns that the focus and method of this bill would not achieve its intended purpose, and instead might have the ill-effect of generating more fraud.”**

hard to ensure that the integrity of our practice area and important access to quality immigration representation in California were not undermined by overly burdensome legislation. Specifically, the [www.StopNotarioFraud.org](#) consumer website and [AILA's Public Service Announcements](#) were provided as an example of community outreach containing essential information and resources on how to avoid being defrauded and obtain competent representation, so that immigrants are not driven to unauthorized practitioners, notarios and immigration consultants.

Advocacy to oppose AB-1159 in its previous form continued until the very last week of the State Legislative session

when the authors of the bill ultimately conceded to significantly change the language and address concerns.

The path to making AB-1159 more tolerable so that it would not interfere with legitimate daily practice of immigration law by honest attorneys was far from easy. The advocacy commitment of all of those involved from leadership to membership both nationally and locally was truly commendable. The potential for negative precedent in other states has hopefully been deterred, but it is an important reminder for members to stay abreast of local and state laws potentially impacting the practice of immigration law.

Perhaps more importantly, it should serve as an impetus to maintain a high quality of legal services in private and nonprofit practice and to engage in pro bono work that will help empower the communities we serve and prevent them from becoming prey to consumer fraud.

*Cynthia Lucas is a member of the AILA National Pro Bono Services Committee and Chair of the AILA Southern California Chapter.*

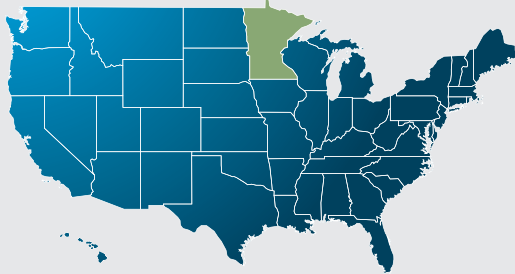


Learn more about AILA's [Stop Notario Fraud](#) program, including [frequently asked questions](#) and [where to find help](#).

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 13101830. (Posted 10/18/13)



## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS: WISCONSIN



The Wisconsin AILA Chapter has been busy in 2013 with its various pro bono initiatives. Following the mass shooting at the Sikh Temple in suburban Milwaukee in August 2012, AILA volunteer attorneys have given generously of their time to assist victims and their family members in maintaining or obtaining lawful status. AILA attorneys have screened victims for possible U and R visa status and handled those cases. AILA attorneys also have sought extensions of B-2 authorized stay for family members, including spouses and children of the victims, who came to the United States after the shooting. These AILA volunteers have coordinated closely with the United States Attorney's Office, which specifically recognized the extensive pro bono contributions of the Wisconsin AILA Chapter.

The Chapter has also been active with DACA. In addition to public outreach by the Chapter's volunteers, one Chapter member has helped a large church in a town near Milwaukee with a large immigrant population establish [James Place](#), a nonprofit legal clinic that screens DACA and other types of immigration cases.

In addition to these special pro bono initiatives, the Wisconsin Chapter continues to work in partnership with Catholic Charities, which refers individuals needing pro bono representation for VAWA, U visa and asylum cases. Second, in conjunction with the Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Chapter has staffed the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic, a weekly walk-in clinic that provides information and screening on a variety of legal areas, to assist with immigration issues. Several of the AILA attorneys who volunteer at the weekly clinic also accept pro bono cases that have been screened through the clinic.

—**Anita Sorensen**, *Pro Bono Liaison, Wisconsin Chapter*

## TWO-PART SERIES

# Will Your Pro Bono Clinic Pass Muster?

## Part 1 of 2

by *Roland Robert Lenard*

**O**ver the course of the next two issues, the Pro Bono Newsletter will present practical advice for designing an effective pro bono legal immigration clinic that not only satisfies clients and volunteers but also the rules of professional responsibility in the state where the clinic will take place.

Any plan to host a clinic in your state should commence with a review of the state professional responsibility rules. In addition, you should consult with your state ethics board, as it has to approve almost every facet of your clinic.

### Competence of Volunteers

Every state has its own variation of ABA Model Rule 1.1, which requires reasonable competence of lawyers, even if they are volunteering at pro bono events. Are the attorneys you plan to sign-up, or who will volunteer, competent to give advice at your clinic?

Here is one way to find out: Prepare a standard form, with a checklist of areas of practice and relevant experience. Require each pro bono attorney to complete the form and make sure to review the completed forms. By using this simple form, you can match a specific client of your clinic to an attorney who is able to give competent advice in the area of law related to the client's legal issue. If none is available, you may not be allowed by your state to serve that particular client at the clinic.

Next, make sure the clinic has sufficient legal resources available to the pro bono attorney. Even experienced immigration practitioners often check USCIS forms and instructions and treatises such as Kurzban's. Likewise, state law practitioners may need relevant state code sections, particularly those addressing state immigration measures.

### Unauthorized Practice of Law

Many but not all states have adopted some form of ABA Model Rule 5.5(d)(2): Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL);

Multijurisdictional Practice of Law (MJP). The rule allows attorneys licensed in State A to have an office in State B, if (1) they are duly licensed in any state, and (2) they limit their practice in State B to federal law only.

If your state has not adopted the rule, you may not be able to have immigration attorneys licensed out-of-state participate at your pro bono clinic. What's worse, even those states that have adopted this rule may not permit pro bono participation at your clinic. As a result, your state should be consulted and, if possible, render a formal opinion before you begin your clinic.

If your state has adopted the rule, and a lawyer licensed in State A can participate in a pro bono immigration clinic in State B, how will that clinic address the needs of a client with state law issues that impact federal immigration law (e.g. State B criminal convictions)? Or what if the client's issue concerns a State B immigration law statute that has no federal counterpart?

CONTINUED on pg.6 >>

#### POCKET DACA from pg.1 >>

DACA “has great information, features, and updates that keep us all informed.” This is why organizations focused on serving immigrant youth, like [United We Dream](#), are promoting the app and using it to leverage their DACA outreach efforts.

AILA members interested in adding their names to the app’s referral list will have the opportunity to do so quarterly and should contact [ppc@aila.org](mailto:ppc@aila.org) for more information about opting in and to learn when the next opportunity will be. The app was recently updated in September 2013 and now lists over 400 AILA member attorneys! A Spanish version of Pocket DACA will be available later this year.

*Patrick Taurel is a DACA Legal Services Fellow with the American Immigration Council and an immigration attorney.*

#### PRO BONO CLINIC from pg.5 >>

Your state may permit federal immigration attorneys not licensed in-state to participate if each clinic client is apprised and gives written consent. Consult with your state to determine whether it is sufficient to add the following language to your clinic’s limited representation agreement, which sets forth the clinic’s parameters, scope, and duties of both the clinic and the pro bono attorney: “No advice on state law issues will be sought by the client, nor be given by the pro bono attorney, and the client must seek state law advice elsewhere.”

If applicable, the limited representation agreement should

**The second of this series will address Dual Representation. Watch for the next Pro Bono Newsletter this winter!**

also include language apprising the client that the pro bono attorney assigned to the case at the clinic is not licensed in the clinic state. In the alternative, out-of-state attorneys can be overseen by state-barred attorneys who can answer questions specific to that jurisdiction.

Some permutation of the foregoing may save your clinic, allowing you to have out-of-state immigration practitioners on board. If not, you

may have to limit your clinic to state-licensed attorneys competent in both federal (and state) immigration law.

The foregoing steps are designed to insulate you, your chapter, your clinic, and your pro bono lawyers from unnecessary ethical disputes. Your state can opine on the foregoing and may recommend a different approach. If so, take their advice.

*Bob Lenard is a Member of the AILA National Pro Bono Services Committee and Chair of the AILA Mid-South Chapter Pro Bono Committee.*

## Thank You!

The AILA New Members Division & AILA Pro Bono Programs would like to extend our gratitude to the following firms for sponsoring the NMD/Pro Bono Hospitality Suite at the 2013 Annual Conference in San Francisco. These firms embody the spirit of pro bono, and without their contributions, we would not have been able to honor those AILA members who continually provide pro bono services to low-income immigrants in their communities. This has become a well-loved event at the annual conference and we were thrilled to be able to host it as in years past. We appreciate all you do!

**McCOWN & EVANS LLP**  
IMMIGRATION LAW

**MAIONA WARD**  
IMMIGRATION LAW



**STONE GRZEGOREK & GONZALEZ LLP**

**VAN DER HOUT, BRIGAGLIANO & NIGHTINGALE, LLP**  
— IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW —

**PEARL**  
LAW GROUP

[immigrationlaw.com](http://immigrationlaw.com)  
Global Reach + Personal Touch

**WSM** weaver  
schlenger  
mazel LLP

business immigration law

# Pro Bono Heroes Recognition Program

by Phyllis Forman

**R**ecently, the AILA National Pro Bono Services Committee initiated an exciting new program to promote and recognize the outstanding pro bono contributions made to immigrants and their communities. The Pro Bono Heroes recognition program honors individuals and organizations that engage in and promote pro bono service as a professional value. Under the leadership of Christie Popp, vice-chair of the AILA National Pro Bono Services Committee, a four-member sub-committee designed and implemented the program, which launched in the second quarter of 2013.

AILA's goal of recognizing significant efforts in order to inspire others to engage in pro bono work guided the sub-committee in developing a structure for the program. Still, several conceptual and organizational questions arose.

## Firstly, what criteria should determine outstanding contributions to pro bono work?

Direct client representation, especially in complex cases, seemed obvious. But what about the individuals and organizations involved in the promotion of pro bono service who are not technically engaged in pro bono work? The sub-committee decided that they also needed to spotlight individuals and organizations that regularly promote pro bono service, such as non-profit organizations that place cases with pro bono attorneys, supervisors of law school clinics, and law firms who strongly support their attorneys doing pro bono work.

Keeping in mind the goals of recognizing current service and furthering future pro bono values, the committee created four categories of Heroes. One group singles out an individual AILA member who demonstrates significant commitment to pro bono immigration representation or related service. The second category is similar to the first but non-AILA members also qualify. Category three focuses on organizations or institutions such as a non-profit, immigration court, law school clinic or law firm that engages in or promotes pro bono work through training, mentoring, assigning/supervision of cases and the like. The final category recognizes an individual who promotes pro bono as a professional value but does not necessarily provide direct representation, such as the pro bono coordinator at a law firm, or a non-profit attorney who continually goes above and beyond the scope of his/her paid duties, either through direct representation or placement of cases with pro bono attorneys.

With the categories settled, the sub-committee focused on ensuring a geographically diverse pool of nominees. The sub-committee created four regions based on the number of members in each AILA chapter. The next matter to settle was the frequency of the awards and the number of honorees for each period. The total annual number of honored Heroes needed to be small enough to be meaningful. However, the number had to be large enough annually to stimulate interest in nominating deserving candidates. With these considerations in mind we decided to honor four pro bono heroes on a quarterly basis (one nominee from each of the four regions), for a total of 16 annually.

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 13101830. (Posted 10/18/13)



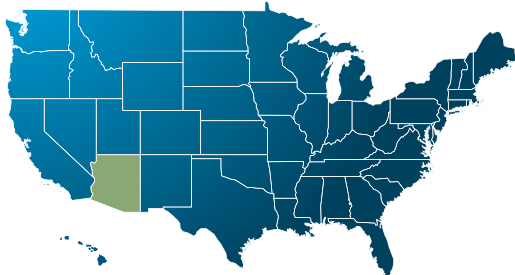
**This autumn an organization or firm promoting the professional values of pro bono immigration legal work will be recognized. [Nominate your AILA Pro Bono Hero for Fall 2013!](#)**

With the parameters decided and the nomination form created, the program was ready for launch. Reaching out to each chapter's pro bono liaisons and soliciting nominations via InfoNet and the "AILA 8" have proved effective ways to alert members to vote for their Hero. The sub-committee carefully reviews all submissions. The ultimate selection is difficult but the committee always keeps in mind the goal of promoting pro bono service as a central professional value in honoring the most "heroic" of the nominees.

AILA recognized its [first ever Pro Bono Heroes](#) in July 2013. The committee [announced the second group](#) in late September and nominations for the fall heroes will open shortly thereafter—so start thinking of your organizational nominee now! Visit [www.aila.org/probonoheroes](http://www.aila.org/probonoheroes) to read more.

*Phyllis Forman is a member of AILA's National Pro Bono Services Committee.*

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS: ARIZONA

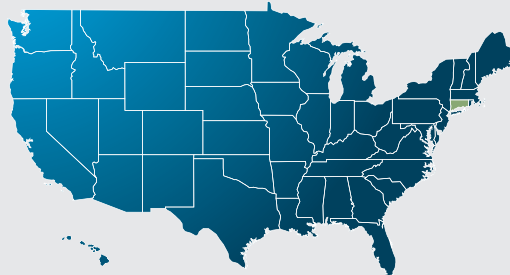


On June 15, 2012, President Barack Obama announced a new policy aimed at removing the threat of removal for young people who are low enforcement priorities. This policy ultimately became known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Since August 2012, the Arizona chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AZ-AILA) has continued its commitment to assist DREAMers who cannot afford legal services to apply for DACA. In partnership with the We are America/Somos America Coalition, the Arizona State Bar, the Arizona Dream Act Coalition, and community churches, AZ-AILA created The [No Dream Deferred Campaign](#) to assist individuals applying for DACA.

AZ-AILA attorneys continue to work together with community-based organizations to provide updated information and assist with DACA clinics across the state. Their assistance in providing the nuts-and-bolts about DACA both in and out of removal proceedings is oftentimes the only legal advice many applicants have before they apply. Each month, since the initial mega-clinic on August, 25, 2012, AZ-AILA attorneys have continued to assist and support our youth in Arizona. AZ-AILA continues to assist applicants begin the application process or respond to Requests for Evidence (RFEs). The most recent DACA workshop was in Flagstaff, Arizona (Northern Arizona) on September 28, 2013. Recently, the majority of applicants are minor children who recently turned 15 years of age and are ready to get their first jobs. It feels great knowing we continue to do our part in making a difference in another's life.

—**Marysol Angulo**, Pro Bono Liaison, Arizona Chapter

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS: CONNECTICUT



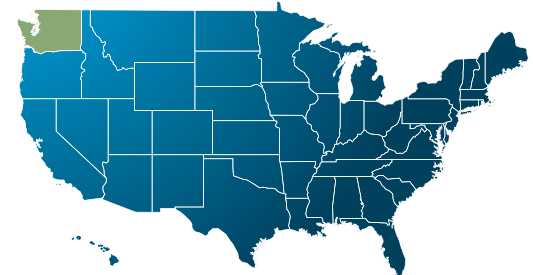
The Connecticut Chapter's participation in several DACA clinics was so well received that one grassroots group asked the Chapter to participate this spring in "Immigration Fairs" in the cities of Meriden, New Britain and New London, Connecticut. A group of pro bono attorneys from the Connecticut Chapter traveled to each fair and provided brief pro bono consultations for the fair attendees. While most questions were immigration-related, others ranged from family law (divorcing a spouse left in Mexico) to social security. The main area of interest was "La Reforma." Volunteer attorneys provided information about the status of legislation, warnings about notarios and scams, and a handout about getting ready for immigration reform. In return, the volunteers were welcomed with a lively atmosphere and good food!

In celebration of Labor Day weekend and, thanks to DACA, the new members of the workforce, one Chapter member put together a program on labor rights. The program, which was sponsored in part by the Mexican consulate, included a presentation on the rights of workers to be paid regardless of immigration status.

The Connecticut Chapter plans to focus on the state's new law related to unauthorized practice, including by both educating affected populations and advocating for enforcement. Specifically, the unauthorized practice of law is now a felony under the new law and the law also criminalizes notarios who fail to disclose that they are not attorneys.

—**Joanne Lewis**, Pro Bono Liaison, Connecticut Chapter

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS: WASHINGTON



On August 23, the Washington Chapter volunteers and the OneAmerica program coordinator had their first planning meeting for Washington's 2013 Fall Citizenship Day.

Hosted by the Chapter and [OneAmerica](#), Citizenship Day is a one-day free legal clinic open to permanent residents who would like to become U.S. citizens. Citizenship Day makes it possible for otherwise eligible individuals who cannot afford to hire an attorney to complete their applications. Last year, over 375 volunteers provided generous support to Citizenship Day held in April and October and 622 individuals received professional assistance in nine cities across the state.

This year's Fall Citizenship Day will take place from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on October 26, 2013 at four different locations throughout the State of Washington. The hosting cities include Olympia, Pasco, Des Moines and Wenatchee. Olympia is a new location this year, opened in order to provide better service to counties in southwest Washington and the Olympic peninsula. These four clinics are expected to serve over 200 individual clients. Each client will receive quality legal services and inspiration from our devoted volunteers on his or her way to becoming a U.S. citizen and fulfilling the American dream.

Volunteers are indispensable in making the Fall Citizenship Day a success. Chapter members are encouraged to [sign up](#).

—**Qingqing Miao**, Pro Bono Liaison, Washington Chapter

It's not too late to take the AILA Member Pro Bono Pledge! [Pledge now](#) and report your hours at the end of the year.

*Take the Pro Bono Pledge!*

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 13101830. (Posted 10/18/13)





# VOICES OF PRO BONO

**WHY DO YOU PRO BONO?** Share your story with us! E-mail us at [probono@aila.org](mailto:probono@aila.org).



"You get information/knowledge to expand the ability to practice. As a newer attorney you meet more people who are also immigration attorneys in your area. You learn more, do more, and **increase the visibility of immigration attorneys in the community (through pro bono work)**. -AG

I think it's a **very rewarding experience**. You feel very good. You feel good for yourself, and you see joy in the eyes of people that you've helped, and that's great. -IV

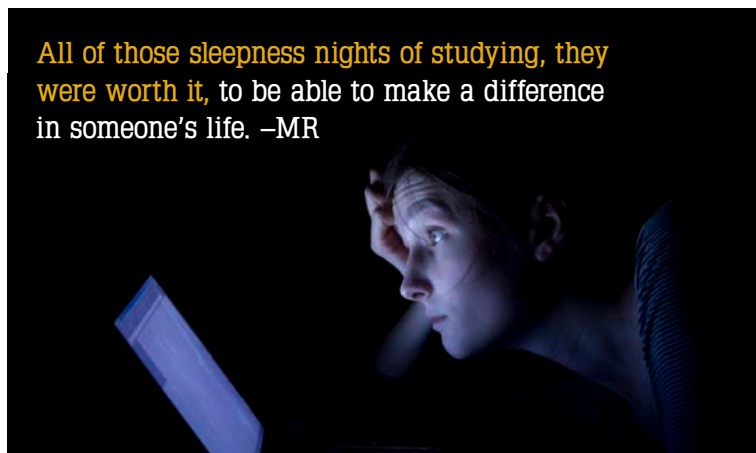
Many people go to notarios in our community and are misled, which leads them to deportation and removal proceedings. **In order to protect our community and the families in our community, we need to do pro bono work.** - AG



**For the contentment and happiness of clients** when they are successful with their cases and can move forward with their lives. - AL



**All of those sleepless nights of studying, they were worth it,** to be able to make a difference in someone's life. -MR



"It's such an amazingly rewarding experience to be able to help someone with your skills and your ability and your training—and not doing it for the money—just to be doing it for the sheer joy of helping another person. **And getting paid in hugs and smiles is pretty cool!**" -MR



MISS AN ISSUE? No Sweat. Check out AILA's **archive**.



**FOLLOW AILA FOR THE LATEST ON IMMIGRATION!**  
**YOUTUBE, TWITTER, FACEBOOK, and LINKEDIN**

