

Maxwell Street Legal Clinic Report to the Board of Directors, July 2016

Cases handled

- 276 immigration and citizenship cases handled since April board meeting
- Case types include U Visas for crime victims, T Visas for victims of human trafficking, VAWA self-petitions for victims of spousal abuse, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protected Status for those from countries experiencing war or natural disaster, and family petitions for reunification
- Includes our FIRST cases for:
 - Asylee family petitions
 - Haitian Family Reunification Program
 - Same-sex spousal petition

Outreach

- Kentucky Tonight with Bill Goodman Immigration Debate on KET (Sarah...awesome!)
- Know Your Rights Presentation at Boone County Detention Center in conjunction with Brandeis School of Law and National Immigrant Justice Center (Guion, Nathalie, Spencer)
- Temporary Protected Status Honduras Workshop (Guion, Marilyn, Nathalie, Sarah)
- SCOTUS Decision on U.S. v. Texas Presentation and FAQ (Guion, Sarah)
- Proposal submitted and accepted for the 18th Annual Ending Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Conference hosted by Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence Annual (Guion, Nathalie)
- Migrant Network Coalition Monthly Meetings (Guion, Marilyn, Miranda, Nathalie, Sarah)
- Mayor Gray's International Advisory Commission quarterly meetings and monthly subcommittee meetings (Guion and Marilyn)

Events attended

- Migrant Network Coalition Scholarship Event (Guion, Rich)
- Kentucky Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Summit Planning Committee (Guion)
- AILA Conference (Guion)
- CLINIC Conference (Nathalie)
- Refugee Mental Health Training (Nathalie, Sarah)
- World Refugee Day (Guion, Miranda, Nathalie)
- Green Dot Community Bystander Training (Nathalie, Sarah)
- Kentucky Refugee Ministries Documentary Premiere (Guion, Miranda)
- American Inn of Court monthly meetings (Guion)
- Subject Matter Expert for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants for KY (Guion)
- Kentucky Refugee Ministries Passport to Flavor (Miranda, Nathalie, Rich)

News

- SCOTUS tie decision in US v. Texas immigration case (DAPA/DACA+)
 - DOJ asking for rehearing before SCOTUS

Funding

- KY Bar Foundation awarded \$10,000 for innovative project we started implementing this month
- Submitted report for CLINIC Fellowship (Guion, Nathalie)
- Submitted grant for AILA Mid South grant (Guion, Rich)

Students/Volunteers

- Contributed roughly 668 hours of time since April Board meeting
 - 5 UK law students
 - 1 UK undergrad student
 - 1 ECU undergrad student
 - 3 attorney volunteers
 - 3 community volunteers

Sample of U Visa case which we are currently working on:

We are working with “Claudia” to obtain a U Visa as a victim of rape and assault who has been helpful in the investigation/prosecution of the crime.

This case was referred to us in January by the head of the Special Victims Unit at the Lexington Police Department. He offered that Chief Barnard would sign the elusive U Visa Law Enforcement Certification, which is often difficult, if not impossible, to obtain, before we even asked!

Claudia came to the United States as a teenager to escape years of sexual assault perpetrated by a family member. Three years ago, Claudia was raped and assaulted by a stranger at gunpoint in broad daylight while trying to enter her Lexington apartment. She had a rape kit done and cooperated with the investigation, but ultimately police were unable to identify or locate the perpetrator. In early 2016, 3 rape kits in Michigan had the same DNA as Claudia’s perpetrator. At that point Claudia’s case was reopened. Just two weeks ago, the perpetrator was located. He is now behind bars and charged with 4 counts of rape.

Claudia suffers from PTSD, severe anxiety, panic attacks due to her victimization. In the last 6 months, we have met with Claudia and her advocate multiple times to work on her case. A U Visa requires a great deal of evidence. We have gathered records from the police, her therapist, hospitals, and doctors. We worked with Claudia through the emotionally painful process of writing a personal narrative of her victimization and its current impact on her. Finally, we began the process of completing 25 pages of forms detailing every aspect of her life.

The case will soon be submitted to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. If approved, she will receive a work permit and authorization to live in the United States. Eventually, she could be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residency (“green card”) and then citizenship.