

VLP MONTHLY

A MONTHLY BRIEFING FROM THE PRO BONO TEAM AT THE ECBA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

JULY 2023 EDITION



HELP NEEDED FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

As we continue to see more asylum seekers arrive in the Western New York area, VLP needs your help. Most asylum seekers are unable to afford a private attorney, and asylum seekers are not immediately legally eligible to work. Not for Profit legal service providers are overwhelmed with new clients and unable to help everyone. Volunteer attorneys are needed to assist these individuals in their search for safety and a new home.

Individuals not represented by an attorney in Immigration Court have over an 80% denial rate on asylum claims nationally. By representing an asylum seeker, you can make sure they have a fair chance at success. Your efforts can make a difference for an individual or family that can impact generations.

If you have never done this type of work before, we can train and mentor you.

If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Mark Miskovski at MMiskovski@ECBAVLP.com.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FEATURED FREE ON DEMAND CLE OF THE MONTH:

Handling a Defensive Asylum Case in Immigration Court

Credits: 2.5 Professional Practice

To Access:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zLp2fdcoKQN4sqVtqyjjcst9788TNa07U-zi4tfRCL4YB5r9_sirtQU73dvWnEd.T4ENoEI8dtNTn2X5

Passcode: 0mozhK!.

For a complete list of On Demand trainings, please visit

<https://ecbavlp.com/volunteer/why-pro-bono/>



FULL REP PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

Current full representation cases in need of volunteer attorneys include:

- Divorce plaintiff case
- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy case
- Preparation of wills and other end of life documents for a married couple





LIMITED SCOPE PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

Every week VLP has limited scope opportunities to volunteer:

[Eviction Defense Program- Attorney of the Morning](#)

Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm

No experience necessary

To sign-up: <https://ecbavlp.com/volunteersignup/>

Password: HOUSING2021

[Family Court Help Desk](#)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12pm-2pm

For experienced Family Court Practitioners

To sign up: Email Kris Siget at KSigeti@ECBAVLP.com

[Federal Court Pro Se Assistance Program](#)

Wednesday and Friday 12pm-2pm

For experienced Federal Court Practitioners

To sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AA8AE2FA4FD0-psap2>

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

The positives of volunteering through VLP are numerous. Here are just some of the benefits:

- VLP malpractice insurance primary on referred cases
- Pro Bono CLE credit provided for volunteer hours
- Free trainings and mentorships
- Helping those who need it most in our community
- Networking and recognition
- Opportunities exist for experienced and newly admitted attorneys



VLP HIRES NEW IMMIGRATION PRO BONO MENTOR

VLP is happy to announce the hiring of Attorney Channa Gordon as our new immigration pro bono mentor.

Attorney Gordon previously worked for VLP on the Afghan Asylum Project as a mentor attorney, helping volunteers file asylum claims for Afghan individuals and families who had to flee Afghanistan after the Taliban regained power.

Attorney Gordon has over a decade of legal experience. She has acquired this experience at her own law offices (Law Office of Channa M. Gordon), working in immigration law for other not for profits, and working for the NYS Department of Social Services.

In her new role at VLP, Attorney Gordon will be working exclusively with volunteer attorneys who need assistance in their pro bono immigration cases. If you are interested in taking on a pro bono immigration case, but do not have experience in this field, Attorney Gordon will work closely with you every step of the way in any type of immigration case.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANYTHING COVERED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT