



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
James E. Rogers
College of Law



FLORENCE
IMMIGRANT
& REFUGEE
RIGHTS PROJECT

ASYLUM-SEEKERS FLEEING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE NEED YOUR HELP!

The UA Bacon Immigration Law & Policy Program and the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project collaborate on an effort to ensure high quality representation for immigrant women detained in Arizona with strong claims for asylum based on gender-based violence. If these women can show that they were singled out for violence because of their gender, and also show that the government in their home country is unable or unwilling to protect them from this violence, they meet the refugee definition and should be granted asylum. Caselaw from the highest court in the immigration system has established the viability of asylum based on severe domestic violence. *Matter of A-R-C-G-*, 26 I.&N. Dec. 388 (BIA 2014).

Despite this helpful caselaw, through our work in the Eloy Detention Center, we have seen that it remains challenging for these women to win their cases, especially without representation. We have also seen that representation can make a tremendous difference in these women's chance of success. Both the Immigration Law Clinic and the Florence Project have succeeded in winning DV-based asylum claims, at both the trial and appeal court levels. The goal of this project is to increase and coordinate pro bono representation to women in the Eloy Detention Center with DV-based asylum claims.

To do this, we need your help! If you are looking for a pro bono opportunity that will develop a diverse set of legal skills, including brief-writing and oral advocacy, give you the opportunity to work closely with a survivor of gender-based violence, gain expertise in asylum law, and be a part of a social justice campaign, please consider joining this effort.

Participating attorneys will receive:

- One-on-one mentoring by our staff or participating experienced attorneys.
- Live trainings by the Florence Project, the Bacon Program, and/or the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies on gender-based asylum claims, bond hearings, and other related areas (CLE credit available).
- Access to sample briefs, declarations, and supporting documents from successful cases. Assistance with identifying expert witnesses, country reports, and other fact gathering.
- Interpretation assistance with student interns for non-Spanish speaking attorneys.

Participation requires the following commitments from you:

- To represent your client in bond and removal proceedings. If your client bonds out and you cannot continue to represent in the destination city, we will assist with identifying pro bono counsel in the detainee's new location.
- To keep us updated after each hearing and any other significant case developments.
- To share relevant documents, including briefs, declarations, evaluations, and court orders (redacted as necessary).
- To attend all trainings offered and respond to efforts by us to follow up.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Nina Rabin, (520) 621-9206 and rabin@email.arizona.edu, Laura Hendrickson, (520) 621-2411 or lhendric@email.arizona.edu, or Katie Ruhl at (520) 396-3695 or kruhl@firrp.org.

We hope to hear from you!