



SUMMER UPDATE | 2017

BACON IMMIGRATION LAW & POLICY PROGRAM

Greetings! We are proud to share with you highlights from this remarkable year. As historic events took place in the world of immigration law and policy in 2016-17, our program participated in multiple new efforts, as well as continuing our commitment to our ongoing legal services and outreach.

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Immigration Law Clinic (ILC)

During 2016-17, we provided in-depth, individualized consultations for 15 people, 10 of whom we subsequently either placed with an attorney or accepted as Clinic clients.

We had two asylum victories this year for Honduran single mothers and young children who fled brutal gang violence.

In the first, we had the pleasure of collaborating with the Kino Border Initiative and a remarkable group of volunteers in Green Valley. Volunteer extraordinaire **Linda Cohen** contacted our clinic last summer after helping the family request asylum at the border, and providing them with housing and support. Our clinic represented the family in Tucson immigration court. The family -- a single mother and four children ranging in age from 4 to 16 -- had suffered extensive trauma, both in Honduras and in Mexico. Despite the strong evidence of harm, the case presented challenges because of the complex caselaw regarding gang-based asylum claims. Law students **Miriam Enriquez** ('18), **Amanda Rutherford** ('18), and **Matthew Mittelstadt** ('17) worked throughout the fall on a brief and extensive supporting documents. In March, Amanda and Miriam conducted the full-day evidentiary hearing. Their hard work -- and the dedication of countless other volunteers and supporters -- paid off in June, when the judge granted asylum and the government waived appeal.



Miriam and Amanda with our clients.



A happy crowd of advocates, supporters and the family just after they won asylum at the Tucson Immigration Court.

In the second case, **Vikram Jaswal** ('17), **Amanda Rutherford** (again!) and **Jairo Holguin** ('18) represented a young woman from Honduras who suffered severe domestic violence at the hands of her common-law husband, with whom she lived from the age of sixteen. When she could not obtain protection from the police and attempted to relocate within the country, she suffered further harm at the hands of a gang member who recognized her as new to the neighborhood. When we met her in Eloy Detention Center, she was just 19 years old, and had left her three-year-old daughter in the care of her mother.



After six months in Eloy, our client was released to her only relative in a remote part of Texas. Unable to locate another attorney to take her case, our clinic arranged for her to travel periodically to Tucson for case preparation. Thanks to the hospitality of Casa Mariposa, our client was able to meet with Jairo and Amanda several times in person and also worked on the case via phone calls, Skype and social media. The students wrote a powerful brief and obtained multiple expert declarations and evaluations on her behalf. On June 30, the judge granted asylum from the bench. Our client can now petition for her young daughter to join her.



A celebratory lunch with our client, interpreter intern Sofia Nuno (MLS), and Dr. Samantha Varner, a volunteer fellow at UMC who provided a medical evaluation for the case.

Outside the courtroom, **Rijun (Nancy) Guo** ('17) and **Yi Fan** ('17) filed a visa application, currently pending, for a Mexican woman who was kidnapped in Tucson by human smugglers, as well as applications for two of her children. **Ryan Foley** ('18) and **Matthew Mittelstadt** ('17) honed their legal skills working on visa cases of Mexican women who were the victims of crimes in the U.S.

Lauren Beall ('18) and **Camilo Rodriguez** ('18) filed an application for a human trafficking victim's visa on behalf of a Mexican woman, her husband, and their 20-year-old son. The woman was psychologically abused by relatives who forced her, sometimes physically and sometimes through coercion, to perform domestic labor nonstop for almost two years when she first arrived in the U.S.

Deni Dzhantaev ('17) and **Akanni Oyegbola** (MLS) collaborated with Southern Arizona Legal Aid on separate crime victims' visa applications for a Mexican woman and her adult son, who had been robbed at gunpoint and cooperated with the police at the crime scene despite their undocumented status.

This past spring, the clinic received the wonderful news that our long-time client, "Raquel," received a T visa. We initially met Raquel in the fall of 2016, when **Matthew Johnson** ('16) and **Maria Hererra Mellado** ('16) worked with her in the Eloy Detention Center. At the outset, things did not look hopeful. She had misdemeanor convictions on her record and was on a fast track toward deportation. But, when the students delved into her story, we learned that the convictions were related to her experience as a victim of human trafficking, and the students prepared a strong application for a "T" visa. The visa would not have been possible, however, without multi-faceted and creative advocacy in multiple venues, including a motion for post-conviction relief that Matt Johnson drafted and filed in criminal court (to get her misdemeanor sentence vacated). After a decade of brutal exploitation and extreme violence, starting when she was abandoned by her family at the age of 14, Raquel's life now is on a totally different path. She works in her aunt's restaurant, raises her two young U.S. citizen sons, and recently contacted us to share the exciting news that she had bought her own car -- a true measure of her newfound independence!



Workers' Rights Clinic (WRC)

Over the course of the academic year, the Workers' Rights Clinic provided 21 separate outreach presentations throughout Tucson, reaching over 500 low-wage immigrant workers in a variety of forums, including at the Mexican Consulate, San Miguel High School and the YWCA. We also conducted 58 individualized consultations with low-wage immigrant workers about their rights on the job.

As a result of individual advocacy, the clinic recovered well over \$35,000 in unpaid wages, including for several workers in local restaurants, and one group of 15 janitors who worked for a cleaning company that contracted with major department stores and hotels in our city.

One individual victory was on behalf of Armida, a single mother who worked as a live-in residential manager at a trailer park, where she earned approximately half the minimum wage. Eventually, **Jacqueline Leahy** ('18) handled extensive negotiations with opposing counsel to arrive at a \$6,000 settlement award for our client.



Armida and her son posing for our "[Worker Stories](#)" blog, which we created in October 2016 to gather stories of the challenges facing workers before the passage of Proposition 206, which increased the minimum wage and established paid sick leave.

Farmworker Legal Assistance Mini-Clinic

In January, we had another successful trip to San Luis, Arizona, for several days of intensive outreach and learning. Our students helped farmworkers renew their green cards, provided information and counseling about their workplace rights, and met with a range of community organizations and government agencies in the region.



After a successful outreach event at the Cesar Chavez Community Center in San Luis, Arizona, law students Katherine Heinrichs, Ana Islas, Ryan Foley, Drew Warner, and Jairo Holguin, stood with the supervising faculty and our partners from the Mexican Consulate in Yuma and Community Legal Services.

Eloy Pro Bono Project

We continue our partnership with the [Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project](#) to increase pro bono representation for women in Eloy Detention Center with gender-based claims for relief from deportation. We were able to hire a full time fellow to staff this effort (see News section), and, in the 2016-17 academic year, we conducted 47 intakes and placed 18 of these cases with pro bono attorneys. An article co-authored by **Roxie Bacon** and **Nina Rabin** about the population we serve in Eloy was the cover story in Ms. Magazine for its Summer 2017 issue.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, you can read more [here](#) and email Laura Hendrickson at lhendric@email.arizona.edu.



Community Events

- In December 2016, the Bacon Program coordinated with numerous community stakeholders to develop a Resource Guide for Immigrant Families the City of Tucson, which the Mayor released in a press conference and posted to the city's [website](#).
- On February 8, 2017, the Bacon Program hosted a Town Hall on President Trump's Executive Orders, with over 300 people in attendance. The event included a panel of commentators, capped off by our own **Roxie Bacon**.



- In the spring of 2017, clinic staff volunteered several times at the Mexican consulate, providing private immigration consultations to over 25 people.
- On June 20, 2017, the Bacon Program hosted and co-sponsored with Keep Tucson Together a training on immigration law for attorneys and community volunteers. More than 40 people attended the session and obtained materials, resources, and guidance to enable them to assist detained and non-detained community members facing deportation.
- During the spring and summer, the Bacon Program hosted and co-sponsored with [Scholarships A-Z](#) several legal consultation workshops for immigrant students and their families.

News

This summer, we were very sad to say goodbye to Associate Director of the Workers' Rights Clinic **Shayna Kessler**, who has been an amazing resource to the community and inspiration to our students over the past four years. We wish her all the best in her new role as Senior Program Associate at the Vera Institute of Justice, based in New York City.

In happy news, we have three new fellows joining the Bacon Program.

- In March, **Laura Hendrickson** joined us as a fellow devoted to the pro bono project in Eloy Detention Center for women with gender-based claims for asylum. Laura is a 2013 graduate of the law school, and brings extensive experience representing immigrants in both the private and non-profit world.
- In May, **Felipe Guevara** replaced Shayna as the lead contact for the Workers' Rights Clinic. Felipe just graduated from the law school in May 2017, and is an alum of the Workers' Rights Clinic. This summer he has hit the ground running, continuing his terrific work as a law student, now in his role as the Bacon Fellow.



- In August, we will be joined by **Dorien Ediger-Seto**, who will begin a one-year fellowship focused on outreach and legal assistance to immigrant students and their families in Tucson. Dorien just graduated from CUNY, and before law school, worked at the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project.



- We are also very fortunate to have **Leah Jaffe** join our team as a volunteer supervising attorney for the Workers' Rights Clinic. Leah recently retired after a career devoted to labor rights as a government attorney with the National Labor Relations Board, where she most recently served as Deputy Regional Attorney in the Manhattan office. We are lucky she decided to make Tucson her new home!

Please join us in welcoming Laura, Felipe, Dorien, and Leah!

With Gratitude

MANY THANKS to our many incredible volunteers and supporters, including...

- **Jesse Evans-Schroeder, Mo Goldman, Erika Anne Kreider, and Patricia Mejia**, who supervised law student interviews of clients;
- **Yrendira Castillo, Mark Sykes, Leah Jaffe, Anna Ortiz** and the **Law Offices of Goldman and Goldman** and **Matthew H. Green**; who represented clients we referred to them for free or on a "low bono" basis;
- **Prof. Barbara Atwood, Dr. Lirio Gutierrez Rivera, Dr. Lisa Knauer, Dr. Cecilia Menjivar, Dr. Noshene Ranjbar, Dr. Samantha Varner, Dr. Ramesh Karra, Dr. Francisco Moreno, and Dr. Syd Arkowitz**, who served as experts for our asylum cases;
- **Sean Berens, Joen Copeland, Shefali Desai, Rebecca Eissenova, Nathan Fidel, Melanie Gleason, Heather Goodwin, Phil Higdon, Jeff Imig, Rebecca Setlow, John Shaw, Dan Strausbaugh, and Joel Summer** for their courageous advocacy and willingness to take on pro bono cases in Eloy;
- **Casa Mariposa, the Coalition Against Slavery and Trafficking, Community Legal Services, the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, the Kino Border Initiative, the Mexican Consulate, Southern Arizona Legal Aid, and the Southside Worker Center** for providing us with case assistance, collaboration, referrals, and expertise;
- **Viviana Galindo, Chris Gerber, Kimberly Guinac Duarte, Ana Hernandez-Zamudio, Lizeth Daniela Castellanos, Sofia Nuno, Ashley Scott, Andrew Valenzuela, and Lia Vazquez** for their excellent interpretation and translation services as volunteers and interns;
- **Roxie Bacon, Joe Molina, Syd Arkowitz, Toni Massaro, the Impact Fund, the Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environment and Social Justice, and the Vital Projects Fund** for their invaluable support of our work.

Please send us your news, job announcements, and any other items you think would be of interest, and we will gladly circulate in our next newsletter or other electronic distribution.

To support our work, please [click here](#) and specify that you would like your gift to be directed to the Bacon Program.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Bacon Immigration Law & Policy Program generates immigration policy research, expands opportunities for students to gain exposure to immigration issues, encourages interdisciplinary engagement with immigration issues, and provides services to immigrants in Southern Arizona. The Program serves as an umbrella for the law school's immigration-related offerings, including its Immigration Law and Workers' Rights Clinics, doctrinal courses, internships, and opportunities to undertake supervised research on immigration issues.



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