



CITY BAR
JUSTICE
CENTER

REPORT

Immigration Legal Assistance at the City Bar Justice Center

AUGUST 2008

City Bar Justice Center
42 W. 44th St.
New York, NY 10036

Contact

Executive Director
Lynn Kelly
212.382.6678
lkelly@nycbar.org

Managing Attorney
Alice Morey
212.382.6682
amorey@nycbar.org

Director of
Communications
Eric Friedman
212.382.6754
efriedman@nycbar.org

This report reflects the legal assistance provided to New Yorkers by the City Bar Justice Center's immigration projects from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, with generous support from the New York City Council under the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative.

Who We Are

The City Bar Justice Center is the direct services 501(c)(3) affiliate of the New York City Bar, one of the largest local voluntary bar associations in the country. The City Bar Justice Center uses staff and pro bono attorneys to assist 25,000 clients each year and operates the largest general free civil legal hotline in New York City. The Justice Center's close relationship with the private bar, and long experience responding to emerging legal needs, gives us a unique ability to leverage civil legal services. We estimate for every \$1 spent, the Justice Center is able to deliver \$9 in free civil legal services.

Immigration Legal Assistance at the Justice Center

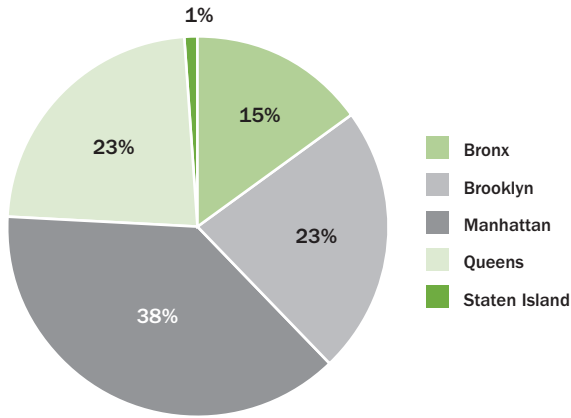
The Justice Center has three highly effective immigration projects. The Immigrant Outreach Project handles naturalization and lawful permanent residency case filings, and conducts community education. The Immigrant Women and Children Project represents immigrant victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and other designated crimes who are seeking to legalize their immigration status. The Refugee Assistance Project provides legal representation to asylum seekers. We handle cases from all five boroughs of New York City and our services are free.

Leveraging the Resources of the Private Bar

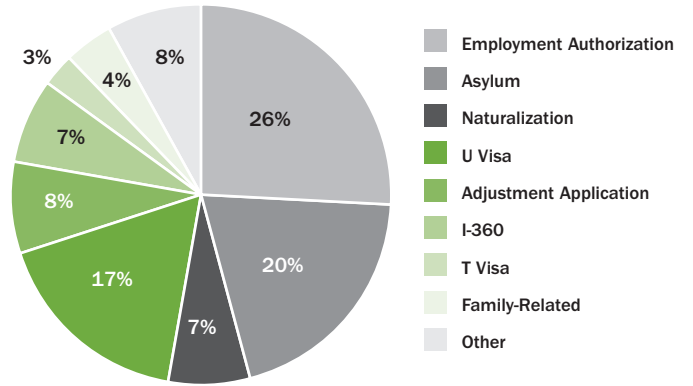
All of the Justice Center's projects are designed to meet the desperate shortage of skilled immigration lawyers. Calling upon the resources of the private bar, the Justice Center recruits volunteer attorneys from the top immigration firms in New York City as well as from many of the finest large law firms. During this grant period, the Justice Center has provided over \$2 million in pro bono services.

Immigration Cases Report

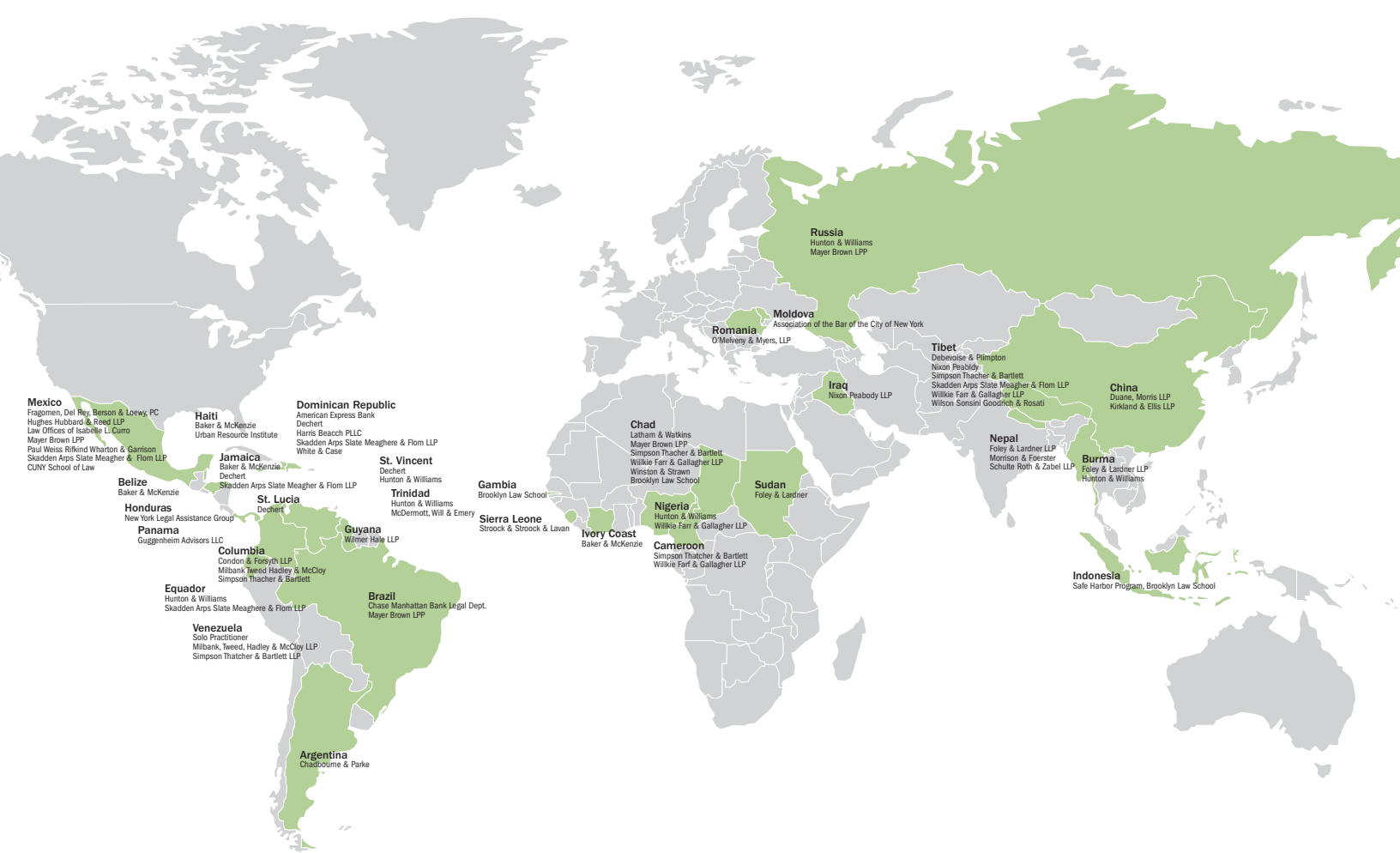
NYC Case Breakdown by Borough



Breakdown by Type of Case



New Yorkers from around the Globe Helped by the City Bar Justice Center and Pro Bono Volunteers



Immigration: The Human Face of Globalization

Between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, the Justice Center staff and pro bono volunteers have assisted nearly 900 clients from 58 countries. Our attorneys handle everything from initial applications and work authorizations to naturalization for citizenship. We also help to reunite families that have been separated by turmoil and violence in their home countries or who came for better economic opportunity.

In addition to the day-to-day immigration work, the Justice Center handles complex legal cases for immigrants seeking asylum and special visas available to victims of domestic violence, trafficking and other specified crimes—cases which often involve partnering with law enforcement. The human stories behind these cases underscore the importance of having skilled legal counsel.

Here are a few examples of cases handled:

Ms. C., an immigrant from Brazil, was a victim of repeated domestic violence at the hands of her husband. A few years ago, after her husband viciously assaulted her and threatened to kill her and their three children, Ms. C. fled, taking the children with her. With Ms. C. aiding the prosecution, her husband was arrested, convicted and subsequently deported to Brazil. The Justice Center then assisted Ms. C. in her application for an Interim U visa, which was granted along with employment authorization, and has recently filed applications for U visas on behalf of Ms. C. and her two daughters.

The Justice Center is representing Mr. R., a gay man from Latin America, in his application for asylum. Mr. R. was well known for his work for local cultural groups. However, his volunteer work on behalf of social service organizations, including the LGBT community, earned him death threats from armed rebel groups. He fled to the U.S. in 2007 and sought help from the Justice Center.

The Justice Center is also representing Mr. T., an asylum seeker from China, who was arrested, imprisoned and tortured by the Chinese police for flying the Tibetan flag and posting pro-Tibetan flyers in his hometown in Tibet. After his release from jail, Mr. T. continued to be harassed by the Chinese police and eventually fled to India. With no legal status in India and no hope for a future for his children, Mr. T. made his way to the United States, where he sought the assistance of the Justice Center in applying for asylum.

For every dollar in funding, the City Bar Justice Center provides \$9 in legal assistance.



Working with Community Partners to Leverage Resources

The City Bar Justice Center's immigration outreach work is done in partnership with the New York City Council, the Children's Aid Society, the South Queens Boys & Girls Club, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Brooklyn Law School and other organizations. Events include informational forums and naturalization clinics where volunteer lawyers provide free assistance to immigrants applying for citizenship. Some events are specifically tailored to families with children under 18, to educate them on the risks for youth who fail to naturalize and then run afoul of the criminal justice system as older adolescents and young adults.

City Bar Justice Center Community Outreach Calendar

September 29, 2007

Naturalization Clinic: South Queens Boys & Girls Club

November 7, 2007

General Immigration Clinic: NYC Bar

December 19, 2007

General Immigration Clinic: East Harlem

January 12, 2008

Naturalization Clinic: South Queens Boys & Girls Club

February 10, 2008

Community Education: Children's Aid Society, Washington Heights

February 23, 2008

Naturalization Clinic: South Queens Boys & Girls Club

March 18, 2008

Community Education: Children's Aid Society, Mt. Sinai Hospital

March 30, 2008

Naturalization Clinic: South Queens Boys & Girls Club

March 31, 2008

Community Education: Children's Aid Society

April 10, 2008

Know Your Rights Immigration Forum: Children's Aid Society and East Harlem Head Start

April 19, 2008

Naturalization Clinic: AILA National Citizenship Day at Brooklyn Law School

April 22, 2008

Radio Program in NYC on federal immigration program involving ankle bracelets

April 24, 2008

General Immigration Clinic: Children's Aid Society, Washington Heights

May 1, 2008

Community Education: Children's Aid Society, Harlem

May 3, 2008

Naturalization Clinic: South Queens Boys and Girls Club

May 21, 2008

General Immigration Clinic: East Harlem Head Start

June 7, 2008

Naturalization Clinic: South Queens Boys and Girls Club

June 14, 2008

Community Education: Children's Aid Society Immigration 101 Presentation, Rhinelander Center on the Upper East Side

June 18, 2008

Community Education: Children's Aid Society, Bronx

June 19, 2008

Community Education: East Harlem Head Start

Thank You!

Thanks to the New York City Council and Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Members Joseph Addabbo, Jessica Lappin, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Erik Martin Dilan, Kendall Stewart, and Brooklyn Delegation members David Yassky, Diana Reyna, Letitia James, Albert Vann, Sara M. Gonzales, Bill de Blasio, Mathieu Eugene, Darlene Mealy, Charles Barron, Vincent J. Gentile, Simcha Felder, Lewis A. Fidler, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. and Michael C. Nelson for supporting the Justice Center's immigration work.