



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

ProBAR | South Texas Pro Bono  
Asylum Representation Project

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# ProBAR Bulletin

South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project

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Volume 6 Fall 2022

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In August, ProBAR was honored to welcome ABA President Deborah Enix-Ross and Commission on Immigration staff and volunteers for a week of pro bono work with our team. We thank President Enix-Ross and all members of the group for their service and contributions! Read more about the visit below.

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## A Message from the Director of Programs

Brenda Piñero  
**ProBAR Director of Programs**

The Rio Grande Valley (RGV) community, the region that ProBAR calls home, is richly influenced by its proximity to the border with Mexico. For generations, families have moved back and forth across the border for hours, days, weeks, or permanently, and the biculturalism of the region is inextricable from our local community. At the same time, the RGV has also been the point to which many people arrive annually in the United States in search of legal protections and opportunities to contribute to progress in our society.

## ProBAR Recognizes Former Director Kimi Jackson



In a moment of bittersweet transition, ProBAR and the American Bar Association recognize the steadfast leadership of former ProBAR Director Kimi Jackson who recently transitioned to a new opportunity.

Kimi joined ProBAR in July 2011, serving the organization first as a Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney, prior to moving into roles as Managing Attorney, and then Director. As Director, Kimi served for more than 8 years, leading ProBAR through a period of tremendous growth. Throughout her tenure, Kimi's pragmatic leadership was characterized by seeking to always act in the best interest of our clients and our staff.

ProBAR and the American Bar Association thank Kimi for her impressive service and wish her the best in her new endeavors!

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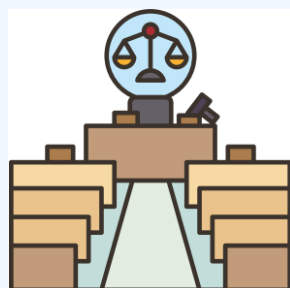


## Program Spotlight

# Channeling Advocacy, Creativity, and Compassion in Response to MPP's Reinstatement

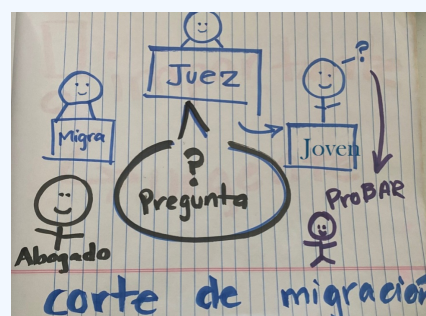
In early 2022, ProBAR responded to the reinstatement of the Migrant Protection Protocols by initiating an Immigration Court Helpdesk and forming an "MPP Team" to serve asylum seekers forced to remain in Mexico under the program. Since that time, our team has provided crucial legal education and case assistance services. This quarter's Program Spotlight highlights the work of the MPP Team, at the Brownsville tent court and beyond, and the impact they have made for the individuals served.

[Read more here.](#)



## Immigration Court Helpdesk Launches!

ProBAR is happy to



## Advocating for Children with Disabilities

While at times invisible to



announce the launch of our Immigration Court Helpdesk (ICH) program in Harlingen, Texas! True to ProBAR's holistic approach to empowering immigrants, this program offers resources to people facing removal proceedings without an attorney and who need legal information, guidance in representing themselves, or help filling out forms. Our team is proud to evolve our services to support members of our local community through the new Helpdesk program.

[Read more here.](#)

the public understanding of migrant populations, unaccompanied children with disabilities have long undertaken the challenging journey to the United States in search of safety and opportunity. ProBAR's Shelter Services Department recently created and participated in a training on best practices to serve children with disabilities, learning about different types of disabilities and strategies they can use to create inclusive spaces where children feel comfortable and respected.

[Read more here.](#)

## In Case You Missed It



### **Remain in Mexico' Remains: A View from the Tent Courts in Brownsville**

Reflecting on the June 30 Supreme Court decision in *Biden v. Texas*, ProBAR Senior Staff Attorney Pedro Spivakovsky-Gonzalez shares his experiences serving asylum-seekers subject to MPP at the Brownsville Tent Courts and the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision for people directly affected by the program.

Note: As of this newsletter,



### **ABA President Volunteers at ProBAR**

ProBAR was honored to welcome new ABA President Enix-Ross and Commission on Immigration staff and volunteers for a pro bono visit in August. The group provided pro bono assistance to asylum-seekers and visited several locations where ProBAR's team provides legal services.

Of her visit, Pres. Enix-Ross commented, "For me, volunteering at the border feels like the purest form of lawyering."

[Read more here.](#)

the termination of the program and its wind-down are now underway.

[Read more here.](#)

## ProBAR Seeks New Director!

The American Bar Association and ProBAR seek a passionate leader for our dedicated team.

The successful candidate will be committed to and adept at working with a diverse staff and client population and a dedicated advocate eager to serve on the frontlines of immigration.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity, click the button below.



[Apply Now](#)

## Get Involved!



**Pro Bono Spotlight:**  
*"Translation helps share*

### **Make a Difference with ProBAR!**

#### **Pro Bono Opportunities**

If you are an attorney interested in getting involved or learning more about our pro bono opportunities, fill out our [Pro Bono Interest Form](#). Any questions can be sent to [volunteer@abaprobar.org](mailto:volunteer@abaprobar.org).

#### **Remote Translation Program**

ProBAR's Remote Translation Program is

*values and benefits that people from other cultures could bring to ours."*

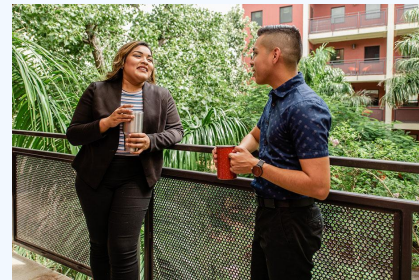
Remote Translation Program volunteer Bartolome provides translation support with ProBAR in hopes of opening doors for immigrants and helping them be recognized for the benefits and value they bring to the U.S.

[Read more here.](#)

also accepting volunteer applications! If you or someone you know possess a language ability in addition to English and want to make a difference by providing crucial translation support, please fill out our [Remote Translation Program Interest Form](#). Questions can be directed to [volunteer@abaprobar.org](mailto:volunteer@abaprobar.org).

## Interns Wanted!

ProBAR is now accepting applications for internship positions for the summer of 2023! [Apply today!](#)



## ProBAR: Work that Matters, a Team that Inspires



## Join our Team!

ProBAR seeks candidates to join our team committed to providing compassionate client-centered services and making a real difference in people's lives every single day.

**Advocates With Law Degrees** at ProBAR include roles serving adults in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody, unaccompanied children in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and roles for experienced attorneys to serve as leaders of ProBAR's Legal Department.

**Advocates Without Law Degrees** can also contribute their skills

in support of ProBAR's mission. We are hiring for positions that are an integral part of our team which ensures immigrants receive the high-quality, compassionate, people-centered legal services and representation they deserve.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

## Join us for Giving Day 2022



### Join Our Team!

ProBAR is currently hiring for a number of positions in our Legal, Release Support, and Outreach Departments. [View current openings](#) and apply!

### Support ProBAR

Show your support for ProBAR's work through a one-time or recurring gift. [Make a donation](#) today.

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ProBAR is a project of the American Bar Association.

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