
ProBAR Bulletin

South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project

Volume 3 Winter 2021

A Message from the Director...

Dear Friends,

As the year comes to an end, I am honored to share some of what ProBAR has accomplished, thanks to our many supporters and our dedicated staff.

During the past year, we grew our federal litigation work. We filed habeas corpus petitions demanding the release of people who should not be detained. As an organizational plaintiff, we and other organizations filed a lawsuit against the federal government for violating the rights of unaccompanied children previously subjected to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP or Remain in Mexico) with their families.

We continue to develop new strategies to support people. We represented children who had received *in absentia* removal orders through the MPP process. And during the MPP wind down, we welcomed and assisted people as they were admitted to the United States.

Throughout the pandemic, ProBAR helped many people secure release from detention centers, where people live in tight quarters and social distancing is not possible. We prioritized the most medically vulnerable people. We helped many people win their immigration cases before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Immigration Courts. We established new partnerships and worked in new ways with existing partners to make it possible for us to mentor pro bono representation for people who were in MPP and now live in distant parts of the United States.

ProBAR served more non-detained people than ever before. We doubled the size of our clinical social work team. We launched weekly group counseling sessions at a local shelter for non-detained asylum seekers. We provided social services to children who were released after turning 18 in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. We provided legal and social services to more sponsors of released children than ever before, creating a network of support for children released from shelters in our area to sponsors across the United States.

In terms of our work with detained unaccompanied children, we had one of the busiest years in memory. As most of our work had to be done remotely due to the pandemic, our team sought and found innovative solutions to ensure the highest quality of services for detained children. We developed new educational tools and created interactive, child-friendly presentations that kept children engaged. We produced a Know-Your-Rights video in Mam and Quiche, two of the most common Indigenous languages spoken by the children we serve.

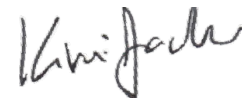
Despite the remote environment, we hosted several groups of law student volunteers. We also grew our volunteer translator program, making it possible for us to represent more people who speak languages other than Spanish or English.

We continue to see severe hardships at the border, including the return of MPP and the continuation of Title 42, both of which prevent migrants from accessing the legal process they are due. Nevertheless, and even before reaching the end of 2021, we have assisted well over 24,000 people during the year. Though we are living in a time of uncertainty,

we stand ready for the challenges that will come our way in 2022.

We thank you for your support of our work and wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



ProBAR Director

Law with Humanity | **Professionals with Purpose**



[Read more](#)

Advocating for Asylum Seekers Under Title 42

On March 20, 2020, Priscilla, ProBAR attorney, received a notification on her cell phone—a tweet announcing the implementation of Title 42 restrictions on immigration processing. “At first I was confused but then I read that it was COVID-related,” she reflects. The policy issued by U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) called upon a 1944 public health statute, referred to as Title 42, to issue a regulation that suspended the entry of certain noncitizens into the United States, citing concern over potential spread of the COVID-19 virus that at that time had no known treatment or vaccine (HHS, 2020).

New & Notable



Hispanic Heritage Month: in Service of Migrant Children Forging New Lives, a Recurring American Story

[Blog post](#) by Priscilla Orta explores the parallels between contemporary migration



What is Title 42?

You have likely heard that many migrants have been unable to enter the US since the beginning of the pandemic under a policy called Title 42. But what is Title 42, and how has it affected ProBAR’s work? Click [here](#) for an infographic explaining Title 42 and its implications.



Enhancing Immigration Practice by Integrating Social Workers

On November 10th, ProBAR staff joined the Vera Institute of Justice and ABA Commission on Immigration for a [webinar](#) and panel

journeys made by unaccompanied children and her own great-grandmother, reflecting the lessons to be learned from the bravery of children.

discussion of approaches and best practices for the integration of social work with legal services and the ways that collaborations can support clients.

Get Involved!



Pro Bono Spotlight *Securing Family Unity: The Power of Zealous Pro Bono Representation*

In October 2021, a pro bono team from Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP received notice that the Board of Immigration Appeals upheld an Immigration Judge's grant of cancellation of removal, ending their client's nearly three-year fight to avoid deportation and separation from his family. Their win highlights the incredible impact that pro bono attorneys can make for clients – whatever the form of relief they seek and at every stage of their case.

[Read more here.](#)

Calling Pro Bono Attorneys

ProBAR seeks pro bono attorneys interested in providing representation to a client in removal proceedings, or who wish to represent a detained migrant in their request for release or appeal. Interested Attorneys should fill out the form below to express your interest. All representation is currently remote.

[Sign up](#) to learn more!

Translation Volunteers Needed!

ProBAR is currently seeking volunteers to assist with various translation projects. Spanish-language ability is especially needed but support is needed in other languages as well including French, Arabic, and more. Openings remain for our third volunteer orientation!

[Learn more and apply.](#)

Intern with ProBAR!

ProBAR is currently accepting applications for Summer 2022. Legal Internships are full-time and 10 weeks in length. Adult Team interns will assist attorneys and paralegals with providing legal information and assistance to indigent adults in area detention facilities. Children's Team interns will support attorneys and work on cases involving direct representation of primarily Central American unaccompanied children detained in Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) shelters in South Texas. Successful candidates will have Spanish language abilities and be enrolled in or recently graduated from a JD program.

Interested students should submit a cover letter and a resume to volunteer@abaprobar.org. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis.

Visit our
Website



ProBAR seeks dedicated advocates to join our team as UC Specialists!

[Watch](#) ProBAR Unaccompanied Children Legal Services Specialist Stephanie Jara explain her role and what it means to serve diverse populations of detained immigrant youth by informing children about their rights, listening to their stories to determine how attorneys can help them, and empowering them with specialized information relevant to their situation.

[Learn More](#)

Join Our Team!

ProBAR is currently hiring for a number of positions in our Legal, Release Support, Business Administration, and Shelter Services 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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