



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

ProBAR | South Texas Pro Bono
Asylum Representation Project

ProBAR Bulletin

South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project

Volume 8 Spring 2023

Director's Message



Check out ProBAR Director Laura Peña's video message above for the Spring 2023 ProBAR Bulletin! In her message, Laura shares the path that led her to ProBAR, recent organization highlights, and ProBAR's mission and values.

Special Word on Brownsville Tragedy

ProBAR stands in solidarity.

ABA AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
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ABA ProBAR is shocked by the horrific incident that took place on Sunday, May 8, 2023, at the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center in Brownsville, Texas. The incident resulted in the loss of 8 innocent lives and in serious injury of several others.

ProBAR extends its condolences to the victims and their families and all those who have been impacted by this senseless tragedy. Together with our community partners, ProBAR will continue to actively support the victims of this unimaginable tragedy.

Ending of Title 42

TITLE 42 UPDATE

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The ABA believes all people seeking protection from persecution or torture are entitled to a full and fair adjudication of their asylum request.

Since March 2020, border enforcement agencies have used Title 42 to block asylum seekers from applying for protection at the border leading to their exclusion or expulsion from the U.S. without adjudication of their claims. This month, the Biden Administration finally ended the use of Title 42.

ABA ProBAR is closely monitoring how the end of Title 42, and new border enforcement mechanisms, are affecting asylum seekers' access to the immigration system in the RGV. Look for our summer newsletter where we will report on our on-the-ground findings.

Client Spotlight

Making the RGV "Home": The Journey of a Syrian Refugee



Before fleeing his home, Syrian refugee, Fadil dreamt of moving to New York City to follow his dream. The support provided by ProBAR's Clinical Team and a local resettlement assistance shelter, La Posada Providencia, influenced his decision to make the RGV his home.

Read more about Fadil's journey and how he is pursuing his reimagined dream in the U.S.

[Read more here.](#)

In Case You Missed It

ProBAR by the Numbers for 2022

ProBAR assisted individuals from more than 50 countries, our volunteers put their ideals into action with more than 8,000 hours of service, and we served more than 30,000 people with legal orientations. See the link below for more statistical output from 2022.

[Read more here.](#)

ProBAR Announces New Director and Deputy Director

The ABA is very pleased to announce that we have selected Laura Peña as ProBAR's next Director and Aimee Korolev as its first-ever Deputy Director.

[Read more here.](#)

From ProBAR Client to ProBAR Shelter Services Director: Cindy Bernal's Inspiring Personal Journey

Before she was the ABA Commission on Immigration's 2023 Community Advocate Award winner, Cindy Bernal was a ProBAR client who faced potential deportation by ICE. Read more about the personal journey and professional impact of ProBAR's current Director of Shelter Services!

[Read more here.](#)

Helping Migrant Youth Bridge the Representation Gap: The Impact of the Case Continuity Project for ProBAR's Clients

See how ProBAR and Staff Attorney Vale Gonzalez keep a Honduran client connected with like-minded legal organizations around the country with our Case Continuity Project.

[Read more here.](#)

ProBAR Announces Values & Beliefs Statement

After a collaborative process that incorporated ideas and perspectives from staff at all levels, ProBAR is pleased to announce a formal statement of our shared Values and Beliefs. Together, these ideas form the guiding principles for our collective work.

[Read more here.](#)

Get Involved!



ProBAR would like to share a special thank you to the law student volunteers from the University of Minnesota, Loyola University Chicago, and the University of Miami who joined our team for a week each this spring semester, completing over 500 hours of incredibly meaningful work in the Rio Grande Valley and helping our team to extend our reach.

Students worked closely with our Legal team on a variety of case matters to support unaccompanied children and adults. We greatly appreciate these groups taking time during their breaks from school to join us and support our mission of empowering migrants.

Thank you for your support!

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.

Remote Translation Program

ProBAR's Remote Translation Program is 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.

ProBAR is Hiring!

JOIN OUR TEAM!



Career Opportunities

ProBAR is currently hiring for a number of positions in our Legal and Release Support Departments. *Please note that Spanish and English fluency is required for these positions.*

We are currently hiring for many positions, including:

- Attorneys
- Paralegals
- Legal Assistants
- Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Specialists

For a closer look at what it means to be an ABA ProBAR team member, hear more from our [staff](#).

Visit our job board for more information.

[Job Board](#)

Support ProBAR

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