

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS NEEDED TO SERVE UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN HELD IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF SOUTH TEXAS

The ABA's Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA) in conjunction with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) seeks Spanish speaking volunteer attorneys to provide legal services to detained immigrant children being held in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas

The tent city in Tornillo, Texas has closed and there has been an influx of children into other facilities around the country. Many of the recently arrived children are being sent to the converted Wal-Mart facility in Brownsville known as Casa Padre and other facilities in the Rio Grande Valley. ProBAR is tasked with providing legal services to more than 4,000 children detained in the region. CILA seeks assistance from volunteers to meet the children's legal services needs.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following weekends:

February 8 - 10, 2019

February 22 - 24, 2019

March 8 - 10, 2019

March 22 - 24, 2019

Teams will arrive the Thursday night before the Friday - Sunday sessions. There will be an orientation starting at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning. Volunteers will work full days Friday–Sunday; leaving Sunday night after 6:00 p.m. or Monday morning. Volunteers should be fluent in Spanish and preferably have basic knowledge of immigration law. CILA will provide training webinars and on-site orientation and supervision.

We will be interviewing children at the ProBAR offices in Harlingen, Texas. The work is primarily initial legal screenings - assessing for immigration relief. We will not provide direct representation. All of the children are designated as Unaccompanied Alien Children (UC) and, as such, do not need a credible fear interview.

Volunteers will be asked to bring their own laptops and are responsible for their own travel expenses and arrangements. We have secured a group rate at a local hotel and will arrange transportation to/from the hotel to the site each day. CILA has some funding available to help with volunteer travel costs.

Attorneys licensed and in good standing in any state are welcome to participate. Interested individuals should email CILA's program assistant, Angelica Rodriguez (angelica.rodriguez@abacila.org) and please copy CILA's contract Staff Attorney, Brandon Roché (brandon@rocheimmigration.com).

Please include Full Name, Bar State and Number, and your availability for volunteering. THANK YOU!

