



MINNESOTA
ADVOCATES
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
310 4TH AVENUE SOUTH
SUITE 1000
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415

MINNESOTA
ADVOCATES
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifteenth Annual Asylum Conference



June 2, 2000
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m
University of Minnesota
Law School

229 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis

7 CLE credits pending

The Fifteenth Annual Asylum Conference

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights' Fifteenth Annual Asylum training seminar—recognized as one of the finest asylum training programs in the country—brings together representatives from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the Executive Office for Immigration Review, academia, and the Immigration bar to cover basic and advanced asylum law and procedures, and to highlight recent changes in asylum law and regulations. The Conference will address cutting-edge issues in international and domestic law, including updates on gender-based and other developing areas of asylum law. Track I will cover the basics of applying for asylum, including tips on completing an asylum application and preparing the client for the asylum officer interview. Track II will provide advanced training in areas such as appellate procedure and family-based immigration to experienced volunteer attorneys and immigration practitioners.

Breakout sessions feature a tutorial on human rights country condition documentation, information on refugees' social service needs and on working with torture victims, as well as training on representing detained asylum seekers and battered women. Conference participants will also have the opportunity to observe a mock INS asylum interview and mock Immigration Court asylum hearing.

This full-day conference provides an A-to-Z training in handling asylum claims for volunteers, students and immigration practitioners. This seminar serves as a recruiting and training tool for *pro bono* attorneys, legal assistants and law students interested in handling asylum cases.

Sponsors Include

Ingber & Aronson
Midwest Coalition for Human Rights
Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi
University of Minnesota Human Rights Center

Minnesota Advocates' **Refugee and Immigrant Program** serves refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants by:

- Providing legal representation to indigent asylum seekers who have fled persecution and are in danger of torture or execution if forced to return to their home countries;
- Combating anti-immigrant sentiment by working in Minnesota Schools and communities through youth and adult education, written and video educational materials, and training and technical assistance;
- Educating about immigrant rights, community services, work authorization, and new laws affecting immigrants, thereby assisting refugees, asylees and other indigent immigrant newcomers to become independent, self-sufficient, and productive members of the community;
- Providing education and advocacy for battered refugee and immigrant women and children.

Through its **Refugee & Asylum Project**, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights provides legal representation to approximately 900 indigent individuals and families annually with the help of more than 300 volunteers. The Project's clients have fled persecution based on religion, race, political opinion, ethnicity or social group, and need legal assistance in bringing their asylum claims. They are in danger of detention, torture or death if forced to return home. More than 90% of the project's clients have been granted asylum. A *pro bono* attorney is often the difference between life and death for our clients.

The Refugee &
Immigrant Program

The Refugee and
Asylum Project

FACULTY

Dr. Kathi Antolak ~ Center for the Victims of Torture.

Colleen Beebe ~ Staff Attorney, Cambodian Asylum Project.

Audrey Carr ~ NAPIL Equal Justice Fellow / Staff Attorney, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

Judge Joseph Dierkes ~ Judge, Executive Office of Immigration Review, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Karen Ellingson ~ Director/Managing Attorney, Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.

Michele Garnett ~ Staff Attorney, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

Loan Huynh ~ Immigration Attorney; Mattos Law Office.

Terry Louie ~ Office of District Counsel, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Judith A. Marty ~ Former Supervisor and Asylum Officer, Los Angeles Asylum Office.

Patricia Mattos ~ Immigration Attorney, Mattos Law Office.

Joanne Meehan ~ Center for the Victims of Torture.

Kathy Moccio ~ Immigration Attorney, Dorsey & Whitney.

Laura Melnick ~ Staff Attorney, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services.

Dr. Andrea Northwood ~ Center for the Victims of Torture.

Judge Kris Olmanson ~ Judge, Executive Office of Immigration Review, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Nancy Peterson ~ Immigration Attorney, Guyton Law Office.

Jennifer Prestholdt ~ Director, Refugee and Immigrant Program, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

Paula Schwarzbauer ~ Staff Attorney, Centro Legal.

Elizabeth Streefland ~ Immigration Attorney.

Steve Thal ~ Immigration Attorney; Chair of MN/Dakotas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Bill Tomlyanovich ~ Asylum Officer, INS Office of Asylum in Chicago, Illinois

David Weissbrodt ~ Professor of Law, University of Minnesota Law School.

Track I ASYLUM BASICS

7:30-8:00 Registration and Coffee

8:00-8:15 Welcome and Overview

8:15-8:30 International Refugee Law

8:30-9:15 Preparing an Asylum Case:
Nuts and Bolts

9:15-10:15 Preparing an Asylum Case:
An Advocate's Perspective

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Mock Asylum Interview

11:30-1:00 Lunch: Viewing of Film
"Well-Founded Fear" with
Discussion Following

1:00-1:15 Take a *Pro Bono* Case and
Introduction to *Probono.net*

1:15-2:00 Breakout Session I
◆*Country Documentation*
◆*Refugees' Social Service Needs*
◆*Gender-Based Asylum Law*

2:00-2:45 Breakout Session II
◆*Working with Torture Victims*
◆*Detention and Credible Fear*
◆*Representing Battered Immigrant Women*

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-4:00 Mock Removal Hearing

4:00-5:00 Representing a Client in
Removal Proceedings

Track II ADVANCED PROCEDURE

7:30-8:00 Registration and Coffee

8:00-8:15 Welcome and Overview

8:15-9:15 Appellate Procedure Before
the BIA and Eighth Circuit.

9:15-10:15 After Asylum is Granted: An
Immigration Law Primer

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Recent Asylum Cases in the
Federal Courts and the BIA

11:30-1:00 Lunch: Viewing of Film
"Well-Founded Fear" with
Discussion Following

1:00-1:15 Take a *Pro Bono* Case and
Introduction to *Probono.net*

1:15-2:00 Breakout Session I
◆*Country Documentation*
◆*Refugees' Social Service Needs*
◆*Gender-Based Asylum Law*

2:00-2:45 Breakout Session II
◆*Working with Torture Victims*
◆*Detention and Credible Fear*
◆*Representing Battered Immigrant Women*

2:45-3:00 Break

3:30-4:00 Mock Removal Hearing

4:00-5:00 Representing a Client in
Removal Proceedings

REGISTRATION

- I will attend but cannot take a *pro bono* case \$200
- I will attend and will take a *pro bono* case \$100
- I will attend and am a staff member at a non-profit organization
- I will attend and am currently a law student \$25
- I will *not* attend but would like the conference materials sent to me \$25

Total _____

Name

Firm/Non-Profit/Law School

Address

Phone

Fax

Email Address

Method of Payment

- Check (please make payable to MAHR)
- Visa
- Master Card

Credit Card # Exp. date

Signature

I am planning to attend:

- Track I: Asylum Basics
- Track II: Advanced Procedure

Please Return to:

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
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Minneapolis MN 55415
Fax: (612) 341-2971

For Information Contact: Peder Nestingen
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(612) 341-3302 ext. 118