ABA PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE DETAINED IMMIGRANTS IN SOUTH TEXAS
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The ABA’s Commission on Immigration is sponsoring a volunteer trip to the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) April 29 - May 3, 2019

What is ProBAR?

ProBAR, located in Harlingen, Texas, is a project of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Immigration. ProBAR serves detained adults and unaccompanied children in the Rio Grande Valley by providing group legal orientations, pro se assistance, pro bono referrals, and direct representation. The Rio Grande Valley is the busiest migration sector along the Southwest border. In 2018, ProBAR served more than 18,000 immigrants and asylum-seekers, including hundreds of individuals impacted by family separation.

What will volunteers do?

Volunteers will meet with adult immigrants and asylum-seekers at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas, and provide assistance with applications for relief. Volunteers may also prepare individuals for initial screening interviews with asylum officers and/or provide representation in bond hearings. There will be a mandatory training session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning, April 29, and volunteers will work full days Monday-Friday.

How do I sign up?

Interested individuals should email Jennie Kneedler (jennie.kneedler@americanbar.org), Commission Staff Attorney, and copy Nicole Gasmen (nicole.gasmen@americanbar.org), Commission Program Assistant. Please include your full name and state bar number. Attorneys licensed and in good standing in any state are invited to participate, but preference will be given to volunteers who are fluent in Spanish and have some knowledge of immigration law. Volunteers are responsible for their own travel arrangements and expenses. The Commission on Immigration will seek a group rate at the Courtyard Marriott in Harlingen, Texas.

Future volunteer trip dates include:

- May 20 - 24, 2019
- June 10 - 14, 2019
- July 15 - 19, 2019