ABA PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE DETAINED IMMIGRANTS ON THE CALIFORNIA BORDER AUGUST 19 - 23, 2019

The ABA’s Commission on Immigration is sponsoring a volunteer trip to the Immigration Justice Project (IJP) August 19 - 23, 2019.

What is the IJP?

The Immigration Justice Project (IJP), located in San Diego, California, is a project of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Immigration. The San Diego sector is one of the busiest sectors on the U.S. southern border and a major crossing point for immigrants and asylum-seekers into the United States.

The IJP serves detainees at the Otay Mesa Detention Center, one of the largest immigration detention facilities in the country, by providing group legal orientations, pro se assistance, and direct representation to the detained population. The IJP has a small, dedicated staff that relies on pro bono volunteers to amplify the effect of their work.

What will volunteers do?

Volunteers will meet with adult immigrants and asylum-seekers at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, California, 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, August 19, 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.

Future volunteer trip dates include:

- December 2 - 6, 2019