

Volunteer & Change a Child's Life Today

ProBAR is designed to utilize the services of volunteers who are not experienced in immigration law as well as those who are. We welcome volunteer attorneys, recent law graduates, law students and legal assistants. Attorneys need not be licensed in the State of Texas to participate. ProBAR provides malpractice insurance for attorneys working on cases through our office. In addition, law students under the direction of a supervising attorney may be permitted to represent children at their immigration court hearings. There are a number of ways in which you can volunteer with ProBAR's Children's Project:

- ❖ Long-term attorney volunteers stay in South Texas for a period of two weeks, a month, or longer, and handle one or more cases;
- ❖ Short-term attorney volunteers are assigned one or more cases in advance and travel to South Texas to represent detained children;
- ❖ Law students, recent law school graduates, and legal assistants, under attorney supervision, help complete applications, develop supporting documentation and legal memoranda, and prepare applicants to testify at their hearings;
- ❖ Law students intern for a period of no less than ten weeks and are fully integrated into the office, attending legal rights presentations, intakes, court hearings, and handling one or more cases under the supervision of an attorney.

ProBAR Children's Project

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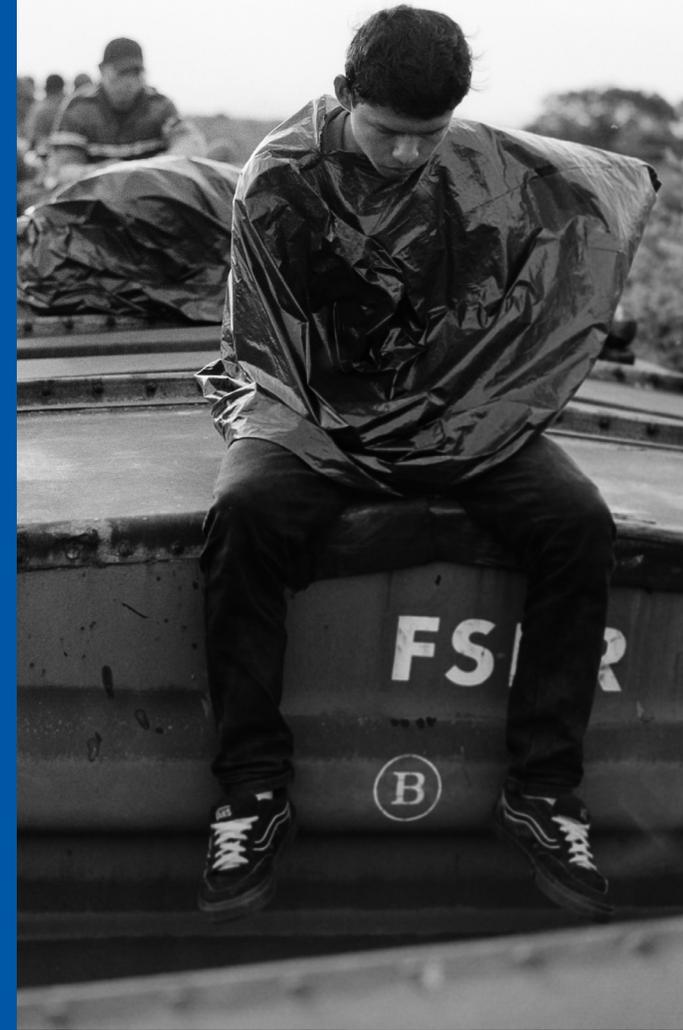
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There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. —Nelson Mandela



ProBAR
South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project

Children's Project

A project of the American Bar Association
Fund for Justice and Education

What Is ProBAR?

The South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) was created in 1989 by the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association as a national effort to provide pro bono legal services to immigrants and asylum-seekers detained in remote South Texas by the federal government. ProBAR recruits, trains, and coordinates the activities of volunteer attorneys, law students, recent law graduates, and legal assistants. ProBAR has two offices, both in Harlingen, Texas. One office serves the population of adults in immigration detention at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas, the other, the population of detained children.

Founded in 2003 with just one staff-person, ProBAR's Children's Project now has a team of attorneys, Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representatives, paralegals, and volunteers. The Children's Project currently serves more than 400 detained, unaccompanied children at shelters in South Texas by providing them with "Know Your Rights" presentations and coordinating their legal representation.



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The Children We Serve

Each year in the United States, the Department of Homeland Security detains approximately 8,000 children for immigration violations. The children served by ProBAR's Children's Project are among the most vulnerable individuals in need of legal representation in the U.S. today. They are separated from family and detained in remote facilities while they face removal proceedings in immigration court. They range in age from newborns to 17 year olds. Most do not speak English and have limited educations. They are often victims of violence in their homes, their communities, or during their journey to the United States.

Why Your Help Is Critical

Many of the children we serve are eligible for protection under U.S. law, including the Special Immigrant Juvenile visa, U-visa, T-visa, or asylum. However, due to their youth, language barriers, and the complexity of U.S. immigration law and procedure, these children face insurmountable obstacles to proving their claims for protection before an immigration judge or asylum officer on their own. In addition, the children we serve typically do not have the financial or other means to obtain private representation.

The ProBAR Children's Project provides the means for the legal community to respond, but we need your help. We serve the highest volume of unaccompanied minors in the nation. South Texas is an area with few legal resources and an exceedingly high demand for services. As a result, your time and skills can and will make a huge difference in the life of a child.

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"When I won asylum

I promised myself in my heart, and I promised the Judge from my heart that I would not let her down. From that moment my goal was to give the best of me and do something good with my life. When I won my case with ProBAR, my life changed color. To be there was like the start of a great beginning."

—Claudia, National Honor Society member, granted asylum