



Reunited and Reignited

CLINIC Convening 2023

Agenda

Wednesday, May 17

8:00 am – 7:00 pm **CLINIC Convening Registration Open**

Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

9:00 am – 4:00 pm **LawLogix Power User Training (Pre-Registration Required)**

Paradise Valley, 2nd Floor

10:30 am – 3:15 pm **General Skills Workshop**

Deer Valley, 2nd Floor

12:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Exhibits Open**

Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

12:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Practical Skills for Representing Asylum Seekers Before the Asylum Office
(Pre-registration Required)**

Camelback, 2nd Floor

This interactive half-day workshop will help prepare legal representatives to successfully represent a client before the asylum office. The workshop is intended for those with little to no experience in the representation of asylum seekers. We will begin with a basic overview of the legal elements required for an applicant to be granted asylum. We will then move on to a small group breakout session involving a mock interview with a client. We will discuss and troubleshoot common issues that can arise when interviewing a client who has suffered trauma. We will then discuss the practicalities of appearing before the asylum office. Next, we will conduct a mock asylum interview and ask for participants' feedback on how to handle challenging situations that might arise during an asylum interview. We will end with participants drafting a closing argument before the asylum office and asking select participants to present their closing arguments to the group.

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm **Convening Opening Plenary**

Valley of the Sun Ballroom, 2nd Floor

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Convening Opening Reception**

Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

Thursday, May 18

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Mass at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Basilica**

St. Mary's Basilica

7:00 am – 5:30 pm **CLINIC Registration Open**

Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

7:00 am – 7:45 am **Morning Yoga with Kate Adams**

Camelback, 2nd Floor

7:45 am – 8:45 am **CLINIC Convening Continental Breakfast Open**

Valley of the Sun Ballroom, 2nd Floor

8:00 am – 8:45 am **Reunited and it Feels So Good - Join RIS for Breakfast!**

Ahwatukee Room, 2nd Floor

8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Exhibits Open**

Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

9:00 am – 10:30 am Concurrent Workshops

<p>Navigating Bars to Relief for Afghan Clients <i>Reena Arya, CLINIC; Elizabeth Carlson, CLINIC; Crystal Ortega, Catholic Charities Houston</i></p> <p><i>As Afghan parolees seek permanent residency, asylum, and Temporary Protected Status in the United States, many face intense questioning and scrutiny by USCIS officers on their involvement in armed conflicts and contact with terrorist organizations. In this session, learn the basics on the persecutor bar to asylum, the terrorism-related inadmissibility grounds, and the inadmissibility ground based on extrajudicial killings. We will also provide practical tips for representing Afghan clients effectively before USCIS, including how to answer questions on the I-485, preparing a client to give a sworn statement to an immigration officer, and how to effectively argue that these bars do not apply to your client.</i></p>	<p><i>Phoenix D, 3rd Floor</i></p>
<p>All About Preference Categories: Retention, Revocation, Reinstatement, CSPA and Automatic Conversion <i>Charles Wheeler, CLINIC; Kristina Karpinski, CLINIC</i></p> <p><i>A lot can happen in the life of a family-based visa petition between the time it is filed and when the beneficiary immigrates. This workshop will cover the full gamut of possible events: marriage of the beneficiary, divorce between the parties, naturalization of the petitioner, age out, and death of the petitioner. The discussion will include an overview of the Child Status Protection Act and steps to avoid termination by the State Department due to inactivity.</i></p>	<p><i>Phoenix E, 3rd Floor</i></p>
<p>Selected Issues in Adjustment of Status for U Nonimmigrants <i>Marta Garcia-Lascurain, CLINIC; Joanna Mexicano Furmanska, CLINIC</i></p> <p><i>In this workshop, the presenters will explore challenges and solutions for U nonimmigrants and their family members at the adjustment of status stage and beyond. Topics will include the effect of loss of relationship while in U status, the need for extensions of status, the effect of prior removal orders, the importance of discretion, documenting continuous physical presence and the I-929 process for qualifying family members who were never in U status. Join us for a discussion of these issues and more.</i></p>	<p><i>Encanto, 2nd Floor</i></p>
<p>Making Your Way Through the Grand Canyon of Religious Worker Immigration Law <i>Mikhayla Stover, CLINIC; Nicholas Frank, CLINIC; Nicole Bonjean, CLINIC; Rita Dhakal, CLINIC</i></p> <p><i>Interested in navigating the deep, narrow alleys and canyon of Religious Worker Immigration Law? Want to peer down the giant chasm of the USCIS customer service gorge? Well, look no further and join the Religious Immigration Services (RIS) team as they discuss the R-1 Religious Worker visa program and its steep valleys of I-129 petitions and R-1 visas. This “basics” workshop will offer an overview of the R-1 religious worker visa category, including the I-129 petition, changing status, extending status, and other issues related to the R-1 religious worker visa and status.</i></p>	<p><i>Deer Valley, 2nd Floor</i></p>
<p>Sharing and Learning with Others: State and Local Advocacy Successes, Lessons Learned, and Unaddressed Challenges Where You Live <i>Ricardo Morales Bermudez, Chicanos Por La Causa; Viviana Westbrook, CLINIC</i></p> <p><i>Come hear about all the various forms advocacy that can take at the state and local level. Hear about some of the efforts already being done in Arizona. Engage in discussion around advocacy efforts in your state. Bring your insights, share your questions, and learn about best practices in engagements. Topics will include efforts around professional licensing, language access, victim rights, driver’s licenses/state identifications, healthcare, access to counsel, unemployment benefits, tuition equity, and so much more!</i></p>	<p><i>Paradise Valley, 2nd Floor</i></p>

Thursday, May 18 (Continued)

10:30 am – 11:00 am Refreshment Break
Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Concurrent Workshops

<p>Marriage-Based Immigration Charles Wheeler, CLINIC; Reena Arya, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Marriage-based immigration imposes special rules and procedures that often present distinct challenges for the practitioner. We will cover topics such as establishing bona fide marriages, meeting higher standards of proof in some cases, addressing prior marriages and divorce, challenging allegations of fraud, removing the two-year conditions on permanent residency, and anticipating potential ethical issues in representing multiple parties. We will also cover the significance of state laws that govern where the parties will reside, in addition to federal public policy standards.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix D, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>The Effect of Travel on Naturalization Eligibility and LPR Status Jennifer Riddle, CLINIC; Kristina Karpinski, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Applicants for naturalization must meet certain residence and physical presence requirements. Travel outside the U.S. may affect eligibility for citizenship and in some circumstances may lead to a finding of abandonment of LPR status. This workshop will cover issues related to the residence and physical residence requirements, including: maintaining lawful permanent residence status; when travel abroad may break the continuity of residence; exceptions for spouses of U.S. citizens, members of the armed services, and others; and when a conditional resident can file for naturalization. The session will also include a discussion of abandonment of residence and steps that can be taken to avoid an abandonment finding.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix E, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Top 10 Issues in Immigration Program Management Laura Burdick, CLINIC; Janice Beers, Catholic Multicultural Center; Silvana Arista, CLINIC; Nubia Torres, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Immigration program managers share similar challenges, but often don't have the opportunity to discuss them with their peers. In this workshop, you will hear from CLINIC staff and organization leaders from around the country on the top 10 issues facing immigration program managers, including funding challenges, unauthorized practitioners, ethical issues, technology and more. Hypothetical scenarios will be used to guide an open discussion.</i></p>	<p>Encanto, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Reunited; Not Revoked: All Things Religious Worker Permanent Residency Kate Adams, CLINIC; Graciela Mateo, CLINIC; Carolina Lugo, CLINIC; Miguel Naranjo, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Sitting there staring at the same old wall? Bored, tired and looking for answers to it all? There's one perfect fit and RIS is it! Join RIS as we discuss the permanent residency process for religious workers. This "intermediate" workshop will cover all things permanent residency, including renewing the permanent resident card, maintaining permanent residency, traveling outside of the U.S. for extended periods of time and other issues related to the permanent residency process for religious workers.</i></p>	<p>Deer Valley, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Community Organizing and Other Strategies for Promoting Immigrant Integration Luis Guerra, CLINIC; Emerson Arevalo, CLINIC; Benjamin Brokaw, CLINIC; Tania Guerrero, CLINIC; Leya Speasmaker, CLINIC; Ricardo Morales Bermudez, Chicanos Por La Causa, Laura Nino-berry, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Successful immigrant integration happens at the local level, with participation and effort by newcomers and the receiving community. Join us as we briefly cover the tenants of a successful integration and inclusion initiative. Learn from CLINIC affiliates who are successfully changing their communities by leading innovative integration work, such as community organizing and leadership and advocacy classes.</i></p>	<p>Paradise Valley, 2nd Floor</p>

Thursday, May 18 (Continued)

12:45 pm – 2:15 pm **CLINIC Convening Awards Luncheon**
Valley of the Sun Ballroom, 2nd Floor

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Concurrent Workshops**

<p>Health-Based Grounds of Inadmissibility Nubia Torres, CLINIC; Marta Garcia-Lascurain, CLINIC</p> <p><i>How are health-based inadmissibility grounds determined and who is involved in making that assessment? What guidelines must civil surgeons and panel physicians follow when conducting medical examinations and what does the exam entail? How are determinations made on the drug abuse and mental or physical disorder ground? How does the legalization of marijuana under certain state laws affect inadmissibility? What about COVID-19 vaccinations? Can any of the health-based grounds be waived? Attend this workshop to learn the answers to these and other burning questions about health-based inadmissibility.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix D, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>All About Fiancé(e)s Charles Wheeler, CLINIC; Kevin Woehr, World Relief Chicagoland; Kristina Karpinski, CLINIC</p> <p><i>This workshop will discuss the pros and cons of applying for a fiancé(e) visa and the steps in that process: confirming eligibility, completing the Form I-129F, gathering necessary documentation, preparing for the consular interview, and adjusting status after marriage to the petitioner. It will also cover derivative children, marriages beyond the 90- day period or to someone other than the petitioner, backlogs, and appeals.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix E, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Non-LPR Cancellation: Preparing and Proving the Case Elizabeth Carlson, CLINIC; Joanna Mexicano Furmanska, CLINIC; Fernando Wytrykusz, Catholic Legal Services Archdiocese of Miami</p> <p><i>This workshop, appropriate for all levels, will review the requirements of non-LPR Cancellation of Removal, an important form of defensive relief for clients in removal proceedings, and discuss the common obstacles to proving eligibility. We will discuss the heightened hardship standard for this form of relief, how a criminal conviction can bar your client from non-LPR cancellation, and recent updates in the “stop-time rule.” We will also discuss some procedural challenges with non-LPR cancellation, including the statutory cap on grants that can be issued each year.</i></p>	<p>Encanto, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Federal Policy Changes: The Year in Review Anna Gallagher, CLINIC; Karen Sullivan, CLINIC</p> <p><i>This panel will review the changes in immigration law and policy over the past year, illuminating the administration’s expansions and reductions of noncitizens’ access to lawful status and forms of relief. Topics will include asylum, the administration’s regulatory agenda, TPS, and more. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of key policies and the knowledge to help push back against counterproductive policy changes in the future.</i></p>	<p>Deer Valley, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Grant Proposal Writing and Application Strategies Leya Speasmaker, CLINIC; Benjamin Brokaw, CLINIC; Julie Sommers Neuman, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Join CLINIC’s Field Engagement staff in a workshop covering tips and tricks to completing a successful funding application. We will cover all parts of the application process, including finding grants that are appropriate for your organization, crafting a successful proposal, submitting the proposal, and tracking data that can be used for a future proposal. CLINIC’s Advancement team will also participate.</i></p>	<p>Paradise Valley, 2nd Floor</p>

Thursday, May 18 (Continued)

4:15 pm – 5:45 pm Concurrent Workshops

<p>Basics of Asylum Law and Procedure Reena Arya, CLINIC; Marta Garcia-Lascurain, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Asylum law does not have to be intimidating! Please join us as we break down the basics of asylum law and procedure. We will discuss concepts such as persecution, well-founded fear, nexus, the five protected grounds and the bars to asylum. We will also discuss current trends in asylum procedure at the asylum office, immigration court and at the border.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix D, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Common Waivers in Family-Based Cases Jennifer Riddle, CLINIC; Charles Wheeler, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Many of the most common grounds of inadmissibility are waivable: unlawful presence, prior removal orders, fraud, crimes of moral turpitude, and smuggling. This workshop will summarize the eligibility requirements for these waivers, review the relevant standards, including extreme hardship, and suggest strategies for documenting and packaging the waiver application. It will also look at ways to achieve a positive exercise of discretion.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix E, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Client and Witnesses Preparation Elizabeth Carlson, CLINIC; Joanna Mexicano Furmanska, CLINIC; Aly Beinert, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington</p> <p><i>You have worked hard to prepare your client's application for an immigration benefit or for relief from removal, and now your client is scheduled for an interview with USCIS or for an individual hearing before the immigration court. How do you prepare your client for that important day? Presenters will cover what to expect at the interview, share tips for preparing clients and explain the role of the advocate during the interview. The presenters will also discuss how to prepare your client to testify on direct and cross examination in immigration court and will include tips for rehabilitating testimony if things go awry. Finally, we will discuss working with witnesses in immigration court proceedings.</i></p>	<p>Encanto, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>The Human Consequences of USCIS Policies on Religious Workers: Where Are We Today, and How Can We Continue to Advocate? Graciela Mateo, CLINIC; Elnora Bassey, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Nonimmigrant religious workers play an integral role in the United States by providing essential services to our U.S. communities. The past few years brought many challenges to religious workers and the U.S.-based organizations they serve. The difficulties hindered hundreds of religious workers in significant ways and pushed U.S. organizations to figure out how to serve their communities with fewer workers. In this webinar, we'll look back at the challenges in the most recent years, including policy changes and processing delays. We'll also discuss the progress we've seen and the current state of play. You'll hear from our resident religious immigration attorney on how USCIS policies directly impacted their clients and from our policy counsel on how we all can continue to push for religious workers to be treated fairly. We invite all who are interested in learning more about nonimmigrant religious workers to join in!</i></p>	<p>Deer Valley, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Tips, Trends and Challenges in DOJ R&A Laura Burdick, CLINIC; Silvana Arista, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Join CLINIC's DOJ recognition and accreditation experts for updates and a discussion of the latest trends we are seeing in adjudications. Learn how you can avoid pitfalls in the application process. This workshop will cover topics such as renewal of recognition and accreditation, extension of recognition to sub-offices, and full accreditation. We will also discuss CLINIC's advocacy efforts on R&A and issues on the horizon, such as proposed changes to Forms EOIR-31 and EOIR-31A.</i></p>	<p>Paradise Valley, 2nd Floor</p>

Thursday, May 18 (Continued)

6:15 pm – 7:30 pm **Equifax CONNECT Happy Hour, Hosted by Equifax**
St. Mary's Basilica Garden - 231 N 3rd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Friday, May 19

7:00 am – 7:45 am **Mass at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Basilica**
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Basilica

7:00 am – 7:45 am **Morning Yoga with Kate Adams**
Camelback, 2nd Floor

7:30 am – 2:00 pm **CLINIC Registration Open**
Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

7:45 am – 8:45 am **CLINIC Convening Continental Breakfast Open**
Valley of the Sun Ballroom, 2nd Floor

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Exhibits Open**
Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Concurrent Workshops**

<p>Hot Topics in Parole Jennifer Riddle, CLINIC; Joanna Mexicano Furmanska, CLINIC</p> <p><i>In recent years, the Biden administration has increasingly used humanitarian parole to facilitate the orderly entry of certain vulnerable populations without providing them a more lasting immigration status. Some of these programs have left practitioners confused about the appropriate application process and next steps for clients whose periods of parole expire. Other programs have been challenged in federal courts, leaving their futures in question. Join us for a discussion of the latest developments relating to the nationality-specific parole programs, port parole, CAM, and other issues affecting parolees more recently. Topics will include how to advise clients about obtaining parole, securing work authorization, traveling, and potentially seeking re-parole when their status lapses.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix D, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Update on Public Charge/Affidavit of Support Charles Wheeler, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Practitioners new to immigration law will benefit from this overview of the public charge ground of inadmissibility, including a step-by-step guide to completing Form I-864, Affidavit of Support. The workshop will provide guidance on how the USCIS is implementing the new public charge final rule and incorporating the five statutory factors into their adjudications.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix E, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Crime-Based Inadmissibility Elizabeth Carlson, CLINIC; Reena Arya, CLINIC</p> <p><i>This workshop, intended for beginners, will guide you through the basics of crime-based inadmissibility. We have just met a potential client who is seeking adjustment of status through his U.S. citizen wife but has been arrested in the United States. Can he still obtain his green card? We will consider whether our client is inadmissible, on what grounds, and whether a waiver is available to him. We will discuss inadmissibility based on convictions for crimes involving moral turpitude and controlled substance offenses. We will discuss the definition of "conviction" for immigration purposes and when waivers are available for crime-based inadmissibility. Together we will review and analyze our client's criminal records and help to provide him with the best advice on next steps for his immigration journey.</i></p>	<p>Encanto, 2nd Floor</p>

Friday, May 19 (Continued)

<p>State and Local Efforts for Change: 2023 State and Local Legislative and Policy Updates Thus Far Viviana Westbrook, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Curious to learn what the 2023 state legislatures have done? Did Maryland pass the Access to Healthcare bill? Did Indiana and South Carolina pass their tuition equity bills? What did Minnesota do with its newfound Democratic trifecta status having control of the governor's seat, the House, and the Senate? This session will provide an overview of bills in the session, as well as advocacy efforts at the local level. Learn about how you can become involved in advocacy efforts where you live!</i></p>	<p>Deer Valley, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Peer to Peer Guided Conversation Luis Guerra, CLINIC; Tania Guerrero, CLINIC; Leya Speasmaker, CLINIC; Nubia Torres, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Join Field Engagement staff for a moderated open forum around advanced program management topics. Participants will have the opportunity to network and engage with peers on management challenges and other issues common to immigration legal service programs.</i></p>	<p>Paradise Valley, 2nd Floor</p>

10:30 am – 11:00 am Refreshment Break
Valley Foyer, 2nd Floor

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Concurrent Workshops

<p>Prior Removal Orders, Unlawful Presence and the Permanent Bar Sara Flagel, World Relief Chicagoland; Charles Wheeler, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Clients often have previous entrances and exits into and out of the United States by the time they walk into your office. Some have been stopped by Customs and Border Protection, but it is not always clear what happened during that interaction. What do all these trips and encounters mean? This workshop, appropriate for practitioners of all levels, will explore the various ways that clients' immigration histories can lead to inadmissibility for a prior removal, unlawful presence, the permanent bar, or reinstatement of a prior removal order. The session will also cover when a waiver may be available to overcome these grounds.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix D, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Ask the Experts Charles Wheeler, CLINIC; Elizabeth Carlson, CLINIC; Reena Arya, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Bring your questions to this informal session with affiliates and CLINIC staff where we can brainstorm on confounding issues and complex cases.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix E, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Ethical Boundaries and the Scope of Immigration Representation Joanna Mexicano Furmanska, CLINIC; Marta Garcia-Lascurain, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Immigration practitioners work in a fast-paced, demanding environment. They often face thorny ethical issues but also scenarios in which ethical boundaries are not as clear. The presenters will use common case scenarios to illustrate how the rules of ethics may guide both attorneys and accredited representatives in navigating the boundaries and scope of representation.</i></p>	<p>Encanto, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Addressing Problems in Case Processing: Working With Agencies to Troubleshoot Your Case Kheila Moore, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Adrienne Chulapakorn, Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman; Karen Sullivan, CLINIC</p> <p><i>In this session, a panel will share updates on case processing tools and procedures and tips for preparing cases. They will discuss how to counsel clients on timing and expectations and how to tackle problem cases. This session will also cover case advocacy resources available to CLINIC affiliates.</i></p>	<p>Deer Valley, 2nd Floor</p>

Friday, May 19 (Continued)

12:30 pm – 2:15 pm Lunch on Your Own

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm Concurrent Workshops

<p>Selected Issues in Adjustment of Status Nubia Torres, CLINIC; Jessica Hernandez; Catholic Charities Dallas</p> <p><i>For beneficiaries residing in the United States and otherwise eligible, adjustment of status provides an avenue to gain permanent residence without having to travel abroad. This workshop will cover strategies and challenges in establishing eligibility for adjustment under INA § 245(a) and § 245(i), including: proof of admission for 245(a) eligibility; parole, including travel on advance parole by DACA recipients and TPS holders; maintaining lawful immigration status for preference category applicants; qualifying for 245(i) adjustment as a grandfathered or after-acquired derivative beneficiary; and demonstrating the applicant deserves a favorable exercise of discretion.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix D, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Updates on Naturalization Laura Burdick, CLINIC; Marta Garcia-Lascurain, CLINIC; Janice Beers,</p> <p><i>Applicants for naturalization must demonstrate an understanding of the English language and a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. history and civics. Exemptions to the English language requirements are available based on the applicant's age and years as a Permanent Resident and there is an exception to the English and/or civics test if the applicant is unable to comply because of a physical or developmental disability or a mental impairment. This panel will discuss recent, proposed changes to the English-speaking test and the civics test and CLINIC's advocacy efforts on this issue. This panel will also provide an overview of important USCIS forms and policy changes that are intended to remove barriers for those who qualify for the disability waiver. The session will cover the criteria for obtaining a disability waiver, tips on working with medical professionals to complete the N-648 Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions, and procedures for submission to USCIS.</i></p>	<p>Phoenix E, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Finding the Facts Reena Arya, CLINIC; Elizabeth Carlson, CLINIC</p> <p><i>Your client tells you that they were stopped at the border and had some contact with immigration authorities. They also tell you that they have a criminal record from many years ago. What should you do next? Whether you're new to the practice of immigration law or need a refresher, this workshop will be valuable to you in determining how and where to get the facts you need in order to counsel your client on immigration options. Topics will include FOIA requests, how to obtain FBI RAP sheets and criminal records, as well as how to analyze the results of these requests.</i></p>	<p>Encanto, 2nd Floor</p>

4:00 pm

End of Convening