



Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

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2017 Annual Report



Embracing the gospel value of welcoming the stranger, CLINIC promotes the dignity and protects the rights of immigrants in partnership with a dedicated network of Catholic and community immigration legal programs.

Our Mission

The strength of a network

CLINIC was founded to guide diocesan programs in providing the immigration legal services needed locally. The goal was for each affiliate to become self-sustaining, using CLINIC's legal and programmatic training and technical assistance.

Today our nearly 350 affiliates range in size from one- or two-person offices with a small array of services to major organizations with dozens of legal professionals who assist thousands of clients a year with some of the most complex immigration cases. Their low-income clients include people of all backgrounds. For over a decade, our network has welcomed non-Catholic member agencies.

Our affiliates are staffed by attorneys or accredited representatives who have been trained under a Department of Justice recognition and accreditation program. Many have backgrounds in law, but some are pastors, deacons, social workers, and teachers. Many are immigrants themselves and some are former clients of the organization for which they work.

Our roots in faith

Our mission is grounded in Catholic social teaching on migration. We live these lessons by championing causes like family reunification and humanitarian relief. CLINIC's network offers immigration legal services to the most vulnerable and disenfranchised migrants: unaccompanied minors, refugees, asylum seekers, detainees, families in need of reunification, naturalization applicants, agricultural workers, survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence and others.

CLINIC prioritizes education and advocacy that offers a faith-based perspective. In addition, our specialists in religious worker immigration serve the needs of sisters, brothers and priests who come to the United States, often to provide spiritual support for newcomers from their shared homelands.

By offering training from some of the country's most respected experts in their fields, CLINIC empowers communities to defend themselves. In 2017, nearly 10,000 participants joined one of our trainings.



CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.

Defending migrants with faith and law books

For more than 30 years, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., has been on the cutting edge of training nonprofit immigration legal service providers to offer affordable, quality legal representation to immigrants. Today the network that started in 1988 with a handful of diocesan agencies includes nearly 350 organizations in 47 states.

As it has throughout its history, CLINIC continues to react adeptly to rapid changes in the world of immigration law and policy. With a robust response to recent threats to vulnerable populations, CLINIC prepares its members to meet growing demands for legal screening, protection from deportation, applications for permanent residency and citizenship. CLINIC's work focuses on four core areas: advocacy, capacity building, religious immigration services, and training and legal support.

As the largest charitable legal immigration network in the nation, CLINIC provides substantive legal and program management training and resources, as well as advocacy support at local, state and national levels. CLINIC also has a team of immigration attorneys who specialize in religious worker immigration law, assisting Catholic archdioceses, dioceses and religious communities to navigate this complex area of law.

2017 Timeline

CLINIC's 29 years of preparing nonprofit agencies nationwide to provide legal guidance to immigrants came to dramatic fruition in 2017. The inauguration of President Donald J. Trump changed the lay of the land for immigration. A challenging year for immigrants, it was the time for CLINIC's network to show what it does best.

Soon after he took office, doors were closed for young adults who arrived in the United States as children, for refugees, for intending immigrants and even for visitors from Muslim-majority countries. Longtime U.S. residents found themselves targeted for deportation and for less-humanitarian interpretations of immigration law than in the past.

CLINIC's staff and its network across the country rose again and again to new challenges. It began with support for immigration attorneys who gathered in force at international airports to help people caught up in the Muslim travel ban. New legal trainings were designed to respond to the changing legal environment. Affiliated agencies nationwide hosted Know Your Rights events to train and screen undocumented immigrants for potential paths to legal status. Advocacy campaigns defended the rights of individuals and entire populations of people, such as those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, or Temporary Protected Status.

The timeline that follows traces the major immigration-related events of the year and how CLINIC and its network rose to the challenges.

CLINIC launches the Defending Vulnerable Populations Project

In response to the administration's increased use of detention and its broadened approach to who is targeted for deportation, CLINIC developed this grant-funded program to prepare our affiliates and partners to represent immigrants in removal proceedings. Through a series of in-person trainings, mentorship and tailored resources, we help 238 practitioners gain the skills needed to represent clients in immigration court.



January

Donald J. Trump is sworn in as president of the United States, after making his plans to limit legal and undocumented immigration a large part of his campaign.

The president issues executive orders approving work to begin constructing a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, significantly expanding the use of detention and deportation, and shifting enforcement priorities to include all immigrants, not primarily those with serious criminal convictions.

CLINIC's staff become weekly guests on the Son Rise Morning Show with Jacob Popcak

As weekly guests on the Son Rise Morning Show, which airs locally in Cincinnati and nationally via EWTN on Sirius XM, staff discussed prominent immigration-related topics with host Jacob Popcak. CLINIC guests included Jeanne Atkinson, staff members Miguel Naranjo, Jill Bussey, Leya Speasmaker and Patricia Zapor, as well as board members Sister of Charity Sally Duffy and El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz.

CLINIC launches Know Your Rights materials

The comprehensive step-by-step manual shows immigrants how to assert their civil rights when interacting with law enforcement in various settings, including public schools and workplaces. The guide is available in nine languages.



February

The president issues an executive order pausing the refugee resettlement program, reducing the number of refugees who can be resettled in 2017 to 50,000, suspending the admission of Syrian refugees and suspending immigration from several Muslim majority countries. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York blocked enforcement of travel ban. Other federal courts followed.

Jeff Sessions is confirmed as U.S. attorney general. His confirmation process raises arguments about the former senator's views on race, civil rights and immigrants.

More agencies and staff around the country are providing immigration legal services

CLINIC helps 14 new organizations and 60 members of their staff apply for recognition and accreditation from the Department of Justice. This credential allows them to provide quality, affordable immigration legal services.

We join Catholic partners in a joint press conference on administration's recent actions on immigration issues

Alongside the Center for Migration Studies, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, CLINIC voices outrage over the president's executive orders that limited refugee resettlement and instituted the travel ban.



DHS Secretary John V. Kelly mentions to reporters the agency's proposal to separate children and parents caught crossing the border in an effort to deter undocumented immigration.

CLINIC staff volunteers at Know Your Rights and screening workshop
CLINIC staff are among volunteers for a screening event at St. Camillus Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, helping undocumented immigrants understand if they qualify for legal status. The session made use of new CLINIC know-your-rights materials, including a screening tool for legal representatives to use.



Training series launches on "What do All Advocates Need to Know About Removal Orders and Removal Proceedings"

This three-part series explains the immigration legal proceedings process, how removal orders could affect a client's case, how providers could educate their local community and how immigrants can protect themselves; 2,391 people attended these trainings.

CLINIC co-hosts a celebration for UNITE HERE! president and CLINIC board member, D. Taylor in New York

More than 100 people join us at the historic Friars Club for a tribute reception and fundraiser in honor of D. Taylor UNITE HERE! president and labor organizer, known for his support of immigrant workers.



CLINIC hosts Vows and Visas program

CLINIC and Trinity University collaborate to celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week by hosting Vows and Visas, a program to recognize immigrant religious women for their work in the United States.

The president issues a new executive order to replace the Jan. 27 order. Most of the same anti-immigrant actions remain in place, except it now bans immigration from six predominantly Muslim countries, instead of seven.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson of Hawaii issues a nationwide block of the president's March 6 executive order. U.S. District Judge Theodore D. Chuang of Maryland issues a second injunction, saying the revised travel ban was intended to discriminate against Muslims.

April

CLINIC helps hundreds of religious workers navigate the complicated immigration system

CLINIC is one of the few organizations in the country that specializes in religious worker immigration law. We represent Catholic archdioceses, dioceses and religious communities as they bring immigrant workers to their communities. Many work with fellow immigrants. And at the end of 2017 we have a client roster of 810 people.



Attorney General Jeff Session announces a "zero-tolerance" policy that prohibits attempted and successful undocumented entrance into the United States and instructs federal prosecutors to bring criminal charges against immigrants who violate the policy.

May

CLINIC releases significant data on the number of undocumented immigrants with possible options for legal status

Preliminary data from 3,000 immigrants in southern states gathered from January to April showed that approximately 15 percent of the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States may have a path to legal status. Analyzed by Tom Wong, assistant professor of political science at the University of California at San Diego, this data and a forthcoming report were announced at Convening.

Instead of fully renewing TPS for Haiti, DHS extends the protection for six months, through Jan. 22, 2018.



CLINIC holds its largest Convening to date

Held in Atlanta, our 2017 annual conference brought together more than 500 participants for comprehensive training on immigration law, program management and advocacy. Through our workshops, legal practitioners, particularly nonprofit staff, are able to obtain quality, affordable instruction and resources.

The Dilley Pro Bono Project sues and secures better treatment of detained mothers and children seeking asylum

Dilley Pro Bono Project challenges a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy that arbitrarily restricts the type of legal services the project may provide their clients at the South Texas Family Detention Center. The policy directly interferes with volunteers' ability to effectively represent their clients. In August 2017 the lawsuit is settled, ensuring access to mental health evaluations for certain detained mothers and children seeking asylum.



CLINIC trains 335 people during our eight-part webinar series "Representing Clients in Removal Proceedings"

This series details the total experience of representing someone in immigration court, from analyzing the case to filing with the Board of Immigration Appeals. We are one of the few organizations that can assist learners of all levels in this capacity. It is part of CLINIC efforts to ensure that some of the most vulnerable immigrants have access to quality legal assistance.

CLINIC launches local project to help immigrants affected by the travel ban

This initiative provides immigration legal advice and representation to people from the countries covered by the administration's travel ban who live in Montgomery County, Maryland. It is part of the Defending Vulnerable Populations Project, and CLINIC's first time conducting outreach in Arabic and Farsi. The multilingual attorney hired for the project also communicates with affected people nationwide using Facebook pages in Farsi and Arabic.

CLINIC founds TPS National Advocacy Working Group

Comprised of more than 80 organizations at the end of 2017, this coalition forms to create a plan for persuading government officials to continue Temporary Protected Status, as well as to strategize about how to help TPS holders as decisions are made about renewals.

As part of the DVP project, CLINIC sets out to increase the number of legal professionals who are able to represent clients in immigration court.

The trainings were in July and September for attorneys, and October and December for DOJ partially accredited representatives. The training included a lecture-style presentation of court proceedings, plus the opportunity to participate in mock trial exercises for hands-on experience.

BIA Pro Bono Appeals Project matches 93 percent of the project's clients with legal representation

Since 2001, the project has connected thousands of vulnerable immigrants with pro bono counsel to defend their cases before the Board of Immigration Appeals. In 2017, we maintained a referral list of 446 attorneys. Of the accepted cases closed out this year, 42 percent have successful outcomes.

We attend the annual meeting for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Each year CLINIC attends this conference for the staff of CLINIC's Religious Immigration Services to connect with Catholic sisters and share resources that highlight the newest immigration updates. We also reconnect with current clients and answer any questions they, or newcomers, may have.

June

Immigration court backlog grows to more than 500,000 pending cases.

The Supreme Court announces it will hear *Trump v. International Refugee Assistance Project* and *Trump v. Hawaii*, two cases that challenge the administration's travel ban executive order.

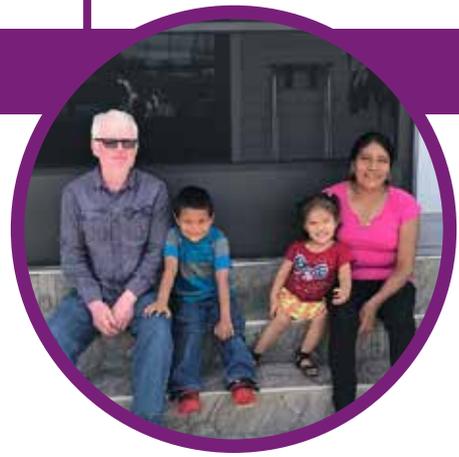
A group of states, led by Texas, send a letter to the attorney general threatening to sue the government if DACA is not rescinded by Sept. 5, 2017.



July



August



TRAINING: Administration announces the end of DACA, we update our network as quickly as possible
 Within days of the administration announcing the end of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, we train 209 people through an online webinar.

CLINIC executive director joins Catholic delegation to Haiti
 Alongside Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, a CLINIC board member, and delegates from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Jeanne Atkinson travels to Port-au-Prince to observe country conditions related to efforts to extend TPS for Haiti.



Facebook Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg uses our Dreamer Facebook frame
 CLINIC's frame for Facebook profile pictures goes viral! It is used by more than 709,000 people, in addition to Mark Zuckerberg.



Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests nearly 500 people during "Operation Safe City," a nationwide series of raids that target undocumented immigrants in cities and states that have openly opposed the administration's immigration agenda. It included New York, Los Angeles, Washington and Portland, Oregon.

CLINIC and Church World Service launches first faith-based sign-on letter in support of TPS
 More than 700 religious leaders come together to encourage the White House to continue the Temporary Protected Status program.

CLINIC co-hosts the 14th annual Immigration Law and Policy Conference
 More than 490 people gather in Washington to discuss immigration policy under the new administration, threats to humanitarian relief programs like TPS and immigration enforcement at all levels. Social media reports on the conference reach an estimated 287,000 timelines. Panelists include experts from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, USCIS, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Brookings Institute. This event is co-sponsored by CLINIC, Migration Policy Institute and Georgetown Law.

DHS terminates TPS for Sudan.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announces plan to phase out DACA.

September

October

VIDEO: We support nontraditional organizations that provide legal services to immigrants
 The Addison Public Library in Illinois is one of the first public libraries in the country to seek DOJ recognition and accreditation. In a video shared on YouTube and among our social media followers, CLINIC discusses how this credential has elevated libraries' role locally. We offer nontraditional organizations, such as libraries and hospitals, specialized training, resources and support as they pursue DOJ Recognition and Accreditation. The efforts increase the number of places immigrants can find affordable legal services.



The administration takes steps to further reduce the independence of immigration judges with "numeric performance standards." Advocates and immigration judges say the action would shift their focus from fairly adjudicating cases, to simply meeting quotas by any means necessary.

ADVOCACY: CLINIC leads faith-based and secular organizations in an advocacy letter in support of TPS for Sudan
 More than 120 faith, nonprofit, academic and other organizations call on the administration to reconsider ending the humanitarian program.



Border Patrol detains an undocumented 10-year-old girl as she passes through a Texas checkpoint while heading to the hospital to have gall bladder surgery. Agents follow the ambulance to the hospital and wait outside her room until she is released from the hospital. She is then transferred to a medical facility in San Antonio, 150 miles away from her parents.

ADVOCACY: CLINIC joins Catholic partners in a letter to head of DHS to extend TPS for Honduras and El Salvador
 With more than 252,000 people who hold TPS at risk, CLINIC, alongside the USCCB Committee on Migration, Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA urged the Department of Homeland Security to continue TPS for these Central American countries.

We train 130 people at our annual family-based immigration training in El Paso
 This two-day immigration law training provides updated information and analysis on family-based immigration. Petitions from citizens or immigrants with green cards seeking to sponsor close family members for immigration are among the common paths for gaining legal status.

Ambassador Paul Altidor of Haiti visits our national office in Silver Spring
 The Haitian ambassador joins the monthly meeting of the TPS Advocacy group at CLINIC's national office to discuss the Haitian government's efforts in helping to keep TPS available for its citizens.

The CLINIC Fellows program ends, with success in increasing access to immigration legal services in the South
 This two-year program added an additional full-time immigration legal representative to 12 DOJ recognized programs in eight southeastern states. Together, they served more than 46,000 people and doubled the number of outreach and education events in the region.

CLINIC continues to specialize in high-quality immigration legal trainings
 Over the year, CLINIC trains 9,712 people on various advanced and fundamental topics. We hold 79 trainings, including those in-person and online.

TRAINING: We train hundreds of practitioners during our "Adjustment Options for TPS Holder" webinar
 We train 487 people on the permanent immigration status options available to immigrants with TPS who live in the 6th and 9th U.S. Circuit Court jurisdictions.

We hold our second annual Las Posadas Navideñas celebration
 In partnership with the Archdiocese of Washington, we gather more than 50 people on Capitol Hill to celebrate the 400-year-old tradition as a symbol of our solidarity with migrants. Posadas is a re-enactment of the Holy Family's journey, with a focus on its similarity to the plight of contemporary migrants.

The CLINIC network continues to grow
 Over the course of 2017, CLINIC welcomes 36 new organizations into our network.

November

DHS terminates TPS for Nicaragua, effective Jan. 5, 2019. Approximately 2,550 Nicaraguans currently have TPS.

DHS fails to make a decision on TPS for Honduras by the deadline, so the status of the approximately 57,000 recipients is automatically extended for six months



DHS terminates TPS for Haiti, effective July 22, 2019. Nearly 50,000 Haitian people reside in the United States under this humanitarian program.

December

The administration announces campaign to end family reunification policies, referring to them as "chain migration"



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Financial Highlights 2017

