BIA RECOGNITION AND ACCREDITATION

A Step-by-Step Guide for Non-Profit Community-Based Agencies

WORLD RELIEF

CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC. CLINIC
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Sample documents prepared by Jack Holmgren and Laura Burdick. They are not samples from actual applications, and there is no guarantee that such applications would be approved.

Thanks to Jennie Guilfoyle, Training and Legal Support Attorney, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., for use of information from her article, “BIA Issues Two Decisions on Recognition and Accreditation.”

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Section I. What is the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and Why Apply for Agency Site Recognition and Agency Staff/Volunteer Accreditation?

Board of Immigration Appeals Recognition and Accreditation
The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), located in Falls Church, VA, is part of the U.S. Department of Justice. The BIA, among other duties, handles applications for agency site recognition and agency staff/volunteer accreditation of non-lawyers to practice immigration law.

Unless an office has an attorney on staff, each office location must be recognized by the BIA as an organization, and have at least one accredited representative on staff, in order to be legally providing immigration legal services. The attorney(s) or BIA representative(s) should be the individual(s) who are giving any immigration advice, filling out immigration forms, practicing immigration law and supervising any non-BIA representatives who are also assisting the office’s immigration department.

Office recognition (barring unusual circumstances) does not expire. Staff accreditation does expire after three years and needs to be renewed. An accredited representative is only authorized to assist clients at the recognized sites of the organization. An accredited representative may be full-time, part-time, or a volunteer. He or she may even become accredited at more than one agency. He or she should apply to be accredited at one of the agency’s recognized sites at which s/he is working or volunteering. Once accredited at one recognized site, the representative is authorized to practice immigration law at all other recognized sites of the same organization.

There are two types of accreditation:

- **Partial accreditation** allows the representative to counsel immigration clients, complete immigration forms, and represent clients before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The partially accredited representative can fill out USCIS forms and represent clients at USCIS interviews.

- **Full accreditation** allows the representative to do everything that a partially accredited representative can do, and represent clients before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). EOIR contains the Immigration Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals. A fully accredited representative can also represent clients in removal, summary removal, rescission and other proceedings in immigration court. He or she may handle appeals to the BIA. However full accreditation does not permit a representative to represent anyone before state courts, the federal Courts of Appeals, or the U.S. Supreme Court.
For more information on BIA recognition and accreditation, including a current roster of BIA-recognized offices and accredited representatives, see http://www.justice.gov/eoir/ra/raroster.htm.

This step-by-step guide is organized in separate sections, depending on whether you are applying for your office’s recognition and staff accreditation (Section II), or only staff accreditation (Section III) or renewal (Section V).

This guide is current as of the publication date. It does not constitute legal advice. The laws, interpretations of the laws, forms, and policies associated with BIA recognition and accreditation change occasionally, so please confirm that the information in this guide is still current before relying on it. Please check EOIR’s website for form versions, instructions, recent caselaw regarding BIA recognition and accreditation, and other important information. The website is http://www.justice.gov/eoir/biainfo.htm.

We also encourage you to read three articles on CLINIC’s website:


All three of these articles are available online at https://cliniclegal.org/resources/toolkit-bia-recognition-accreditation. In addition, we recommend you review these decisions, available at EOIR’s virtual law library at http://www.justice.gov/eoir/vll/libindex.html.

Finally, we encourage you to review the FAQ sheet on the recognition and accreditation program which is available on the EOIR website at http://www.justice.gov/eoir/ra/RandAFAQsPrintableVersion.pdf. This 27-page document addresses 91 questions and is divided into three sections on general information, recognition, and accreditation.
Section II. Starting Out: What Is the Process for Applying for BIA Agency Site Recognition and Agency Staff/Volunteer Accreditation?

Note: If your office is already recognized and you are just applying for new or renewing staff, skip to Section III.

BIA Application Requirements
To be recognized by the BIA, an organization must have established that it has adequate knowledge, information and experience to provide immigration legal services, and that it charges or accepts only nominal fees for those services.

The focus in this section is to prove that your office has experience in immigration law and access to resources, including law libraries, electronic information, and other immigration experts.

The application must include all of the following required elements. When filing for office recognition and staff accreditation at the same time, the BIA prefers that you separate the two applications in two separate packets. Any materials needed for both packets should be photocopied. If more than one staff person is applying for accreditation, the BIA prefers a separate application packet for each person.

The materials listed below are for the office recognition packet. For the staff accreditation packet, you will need the following materials: Form EOIR-31A, Request by Organization for Accreditation of Non-Attorney Representative (recommended but not required); copy of cover letter; table of contents; staff resume; certificates and agendas of trainings attended; letters of recommendation; copies of any prior BIA decisions on accreditation; and evidence of advocacy and research skills (for full accreditation only).

☐ The completed Form EOIR-31 and accompanying materials

Complete and print out Form EOIR-31, Request for Recognition of a Non-Profit Religious, Charitable, Social Service, or Similar Organization from the EOIR website at http://www.justice.gov/oir/oirforms/oir31.pdf. Note that EOIR occasionally revises the form. It now includes a checklist of information that must be submitted with the application. Check the EOIR website to make sure that you have the most current version of the form. Make sure to carefully read the instructions of the form. We have organized the information for the EOIR-31 below based on the questions listed on page 1 of the actual form (October 2013 version). The form should be completed online and printed out.
Filling Out the EOIR-31

**QUESTION 1: The Applicant**

Indicate the individual office you are applying for, such as “The Immigration Assistance Center, Anytown, IA.”

**QUESTION 2: Applicant’s Contact Information**

Include the requested contact information.

**QUESTION 3: Type of Office**

Indicate your type of office (non-profit religious, charitable, social service or other).

☐ **Proof of Non-Profit Status (IRS document)**

Include a copy of the IRS letter showing your organization’s 501 (c) (3) designation, if applicable, as proof of non-profit status.

**QUESTION 4: Information About the Organization**

☐ **Charter, Constitution, By-Laws and/or Articles of Incorporation**

Include a copy of the Charter, Constitution, By-Laws and/or Articles of Incorporation for your organization, if applicable.

**QUESTION 5: Charges or Membership Dues**

In the blank you may answer something like “nominal fees.” Membership dues are not encouraged.

☐ **Fee Schedule**

Include a copy of the fees your office intends to charge. Note that according to *Matter of EAC, Inc.*, Interim Decision 3614, organizations apparently may offer a limited range of immigration legal services, but must be able to “discern” when a case requires referral to other representation because it requires more expertise than the organization can provide.

In the fee schedule, it is helpful to include information on the agency’s fee waiver policies; any reduction in agency fees for additional family members or limit on the total charge per family; and what services are included in the agency fee (USCIS filing fee, representation at the interview, document translation, etc.). Also, in the cover letter you should describe how your office determines its charges for immigration legal services. For guidance on how to set fees, see Chapter 6 of *Managing an Immigration Program: Steps for Creating and Increasing Legal Capacity*, available online at
Office’s Funding Sources and Budget

This is a minimal document listing the amounts and sources of funding for your agency’s immigration program and a basic budget. Most agencies will list the grants they receive and any fees they take in. You need to demonstrate that your office has funding sources other than fees. The BIA requires that organizations only charge “nominal fees.” While this has not been well-defined, it is clear that they wish to see significant other funding. You may include “in kind” funding in your list, such as the value of volunteer hours, donated supplies, or donated space. Be sure to take into account the often substantial support your program receives if it has a “parent” agency. Often overlooked are the contributions of free or below market rate rent, office equipment use, office supplies, computers, software, information management systems support, administrative costs, employee benefits, and the like. Be sure you give a thorough accounting of all the resources that support your program.

QUESTION 6: Knowledge, Information and Experience

Cover Letter and Table of Contents

Include a cover letter describing the attached application, with a table of contents. (The table of contents may be included in the letter itself as a list of enclosures, or on a separate page.)

The cover letter should be from the supervisor of the applicant(s) applying for individual accreditation. For example, if the program director is not applying for accreditation, the program director should sign the cover letter. However, if the program director is applying, his or her supervisor should sign. If the executive director is applying, the chair of the board of directors should sign.

The cover letter should explain that the application is for the office and should list any staff or volunteer who is applying for accreditation, so it is a basic outline of the whole application. The supervisor of each staff member may also write a separate letter of recommendation (discussed below).

List of Law Library Contents and/or Online Resources Available to the Office

Include a list of legal and/or internet resources available to your organization. Because we use the internet so frequently now in our work, it is imperative that you mention the types of information you find online (especially if your own law library is small). In Matter of EAC, Inc., the BIA explains that organizations must at a minimum have access to up-to-date copies of the Immigration and Nationality Act, federal immigration regulations, and BIA precedent decisions (available through the EOIR Virtual Law Library). EAC suggests that internet access alone should be sufficient for an approval of BIA recognition. Nevertheless, we strongly recommend that each office have hard copies.
of at least one general treatise on immigration law, such as *Kurzban’s Immigration Law Sourcebook*, as well as materials on the organization’s specific practice areas, and annually updated copies of the INA and chapter 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Although not required, we recommend you list any local law libraries to which your office has access, including but not limited to, law schools, city/county/state law libraries, or law libraries of law firms or other non-profit agencies.

**QUESTION 7: Description of Immigration Legal Services**

This information should be included in the cover letter. Describe the specific types of cases staff will handle.

**QUESTION 8: Other Information**

- **Resume of Individual Applying for Accreditation**

  Resumes should include the individual’s education and immigration-related work experience. They should also list the types of immigration forms the individual has worked on, by form number and title (for example: I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant). Include in the trainings section information on the dates, sponsoring agencies, and locations of all immigration law and practice trainings the individual has attended. (Note that an application for initial accreditation must show that the individual recently completed at least one formal training course designed to give new practitioners a solid overview of the fundamentals of immigration law and procedure.) Also indicate if the individual regularly attends immigration liaison meetings with USCIS or other government agencies. The resume should list any languages the individual speaks, as well as mentioning the individual’s experience working with people from different countries. It is a good idea to include any community service the applicant has performed.

- **Certificates and Agendas of Trainings Individual Has Attended**

  It is ideal to include both the agendas and certificates (if received) for all trainings. However, both may not be available. If neither is available, include a short description of the training in the resume and how many hours or days the training was.

- **Organizational Chart for the Office**

  This chart may list the staff and volunteers in the office and the office’s connection to the other offices if your agency has more than one office. Of greatest importance is to show the chain of supervision of the person(s) who will be providing legal immigration services.
☐ Letters of Recommendation

Note that if you are applying for office recognition and individual accreditation, you need letters of recommendation for both the office’s recognition and the individual’s accreditation. These letters can speak to both recognition and accreditation, or one or the other. For example, some recommenders will be familiar with the office but not the individual, and some may be familiar with the individual but less familiar with the office overall.

It is recommended that you obtain letters of recommendation from the supervisor of the individual applying for accreditation and a local immigration law practitioner who is familiar with the applicant’s immigration legal skills and knowledge, i.e., a BIA fully accredited representative or an attorney. If applying for recognition at the same time, obtain a letter or two from outside sources recommending recognition and/or accreditation.

Letters most often come from other local non-profit immigration legal services programs or private attorneys. Letters should indicate how the person writing the recommendation knows immigration law and for how long (the person’s background and qualifications), how they know the office and/or accreditation applicant, for how long, and why recognition or accreditation is recommended. The letters should indicate that the office and/or accreditation applicant has sufficient knowledge, information and experience in immigration law. If the letter is for an individual, the letter should indicate that the applicant is a person of good moral character. The letter should also indicate that the recommender will answer any immigration legal questions that the applicant has.

☐ Evidence of Advocacy and Research Skills (For Full Accreditation Only)

In addition to indicating what trainings the staff or volunteer has attended, include samples of advocacy and research skills, such as copies of cover letters, affidavits, briefs, legal memos, or similar work the individual has prepared, with all identifying client information redacted. Or include summaries of individual cases on which the individual has worked that required advocacy and research skills.

☐ Technical Legal Support from BIA Fully Accredited Representatives or Attorneys

Document technical legal support of staff by attorneys or fully accredited staff from recognized organizations. Include proof of the experience of the attorneys or fully accredited staff (their background and qualifications), as well as any fees charged for the support. Page two of the actual Form EOIR-31 asks for “[w]ritten confirmation of any agreement(s) made to consult with other non-profit organization(s) or private attorney(s) on a pro bono basis in more complicated cases or other acceptable arrangements to demonstrate adequate knowledge and experience in immigration law and procedure.”
☐ Copy of Prior BIA Decision on Recognition, if Applicable

If your office has applied for recognition before, include copies of the decisions on those applications, whether they were approved or denied. Make sure you have fixed any problems or weaknesses in a denied application before applying again.

**QUESTION 9: Accreditation Requests**

Specify whether an accreditation request is being made for one or more individuals. If so, indicate the applicant’s name and whether s/he is seeking partial or full accreditation. If more than one person is applying for accreditation, include a separate sheet listing the information requested in question 8 for each applicant.

**SIGNATURE:**

The same individual who wrote the cover letter should sign the Form EOIR-31 at the bottom of the page, and type his or her name and title.

**PROOF OF SERVICE:**

On page two of Form EOIR-31, fill in the appropriate addresses for USCIS and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as described in Section IV below, “What Is the Process for Submitting the Application?”

The individual who is actually mailing the application needs to sign and date, indicating when s/he mailed the application.
Section III. What is the Process for Applying for Agency Staff/Volunteer Accreditation if the Agency Site is Already Recognized?

Applying for Accreditation
Once the office is recognized, it remains recognized indefinitely, unless the BIA withdraws recognition due to severe problems with the office or if the office notifies the BIA that it is no longer wanting to be recognized. Office recognition does not need to be renewed.

An office can apply to add more individually accredited representatives at any time. The process is much simpler than applying for office recognition with accreditation. If applying for accreditation of more than one staff at the same time, the BIA prefers a separate application packet for each staff person.

Application Contents

□ Information for Individual (As Explained in Section II)

An application for accreditation of an individual working in an agency that is already recognized must include:

- a cover letter from the individual’s supervisor or an official of the organization;
- a table of contents (may be included in the cover letter);
- a resume;
- certificates and agendas of trainings attended (note that an application for initial accreditation must show that the individual recently completed at least one formal training course designed to give new practitioners a solid overview of the fundamentals of immigration law and procedure);
- letters of recommendation;
- evidence of advocacy and research skills (for full accreditation only); and
- copies of any prior approvals of accreditation by the BIA, if any, as explained in Section II.

Note: Form EOIR-31A, Request by Organization for Accreditation of Non-Attorney Representative is recommended, but not required. This form is available at http://www.justice.gov/eoir/eoirforms/eoir31a.pdf. Complete the form online and print it out.
**Certificates of Service**

If you are applying for individual accreditation alone, you must prepare a certificate of service to USCIS and ICE. Page 2 of the EOIR-31A has a certificate of service section (part 7), so this is one advantage of using the form when applying for accreditation. (The proof of service is also incorporated into the EOIR-31 application for new office recognition.) The certificate of service must include: what you are sending; the name and address of the USCIS District Director and ICE Chief Counsel; the date it was sent; and the signature of the sender. Follow the directions in Section IV on where to send the application copies.
Section IV. What is the Process for Submitting the Application?

Submitting the Application
The mailing process for a combined recognition and accreditation application or solely for accreditation is the same.

Your complete application includes proof of service on USCIS and ICE. A proof of service is a simple legal document that lets the BIA know that you sent complete copies of everything that the BIA received to the appropriate USCIS and ICE officials. For office recognitions, this proof of service is part of Form EOIR-31. For staff applications/renewals, the proof of service is part of Form EOIR-31A, or if you choose not to use the EOIR-31A, it will have to be a separate proof of service form you create.

Note: The BIA prefers that you organization the recognition and accreditation applications in separate packets, copying any materials that are needed for more than one packet. For example, if you are applying for agency recognition and accreditation of two staff, you will submit three separate packets.

Make FOUR copies of the original application (including proof of service), so that you have a total of FIVE.

1. Mail the original by certified mail, return receipt requested to:
   
   Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator  
   Board of Immigration Appeals  
   Clerk’s Office  
   5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000  
   Falls Church, VA 20530

2. Mail a copy of the application by certified mail, return receipt requested, to your local Chief Counsel for ICE. To find a listing of the Chief Counsels, go to [http://www.ice.gov/contact/opla/](http://www.ice.gov/contact/opla/). If you are not sure which office covers your area, contact the nearest office on the list to ask, or contact the Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator of the BIA at (703) 305-9029.

3. Mail a copy of the application by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the local District Director for USCIS for your area. To find where to send the USCIS copy, go to [http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/field-offices](http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/field-offices). Use the Field Office Locator to find the field office for your locale. On the field office page, the district office is listed in the top right corner. Click on the district office to find the name and address of your District Director.

4. Keep a copy for your office.
5. Send a copy to your national or state network coordinator (if applicable).

**Expediting the Application**
The BIA must provide USCIS and ICE with 30 days to respond to your application. If you wish to expedite your application, you may contact USCIS and ICE before submitting your application and ask them to either: 1) provide their recommendation directly to your organization for inclusion in your application or 2) respond quickly to the BIA once your application is filed.
Section V. What is the Process for Renewing Agency Staff/Volunteer Accreditation?

Renewing Accreditation
An individual who is accredited must have his or her agency file an application to renew accreditation on the individual’s behalf every three years. If an application for renewal is filed at least 60 days before the expiration date, accreditation will remain valid pending the BIA’s consideration of the application. This requires the agency to mail it in some way that it can document that the BIA received it before the 60 day period. Most programs send it certified mail, return receipt requested. While noting the 60 day filing rule in its online FAQ sheet, the BIA highly recommends submitting the renewal request even earlier, between 90 and 120 days in advance, in order to allow plenty of time for the BIA to process the request.

If the individual does not apply on time, his or her accreditation ends and s/he is no longer authorized to practice immigration law. Therefore it is vital that representatives renew on time. If not, the individual will not be eligible to engage in the authorized practice of law until his or her accreditation application is granted.

It is critically important that program managers make clear to staff and volunteers that, without current accreditation, they are not allowed to practice law and must not file the G-28 form.

If there is no representative who is currently accredited on staff, that office is not authorized to practice immigration law because at least one accredited representative is required (even though the office remains recognized). If an individual does not apply on time, s/he must file a new application as soon as possible.

The Renewal Application
The renewal application should state the last time that the individual was accredited (the first time, or the last renewal). It is important to indicate if the individual has received additional experience (e.g., more types of cases or more complex cases) and training.

While there is no set requirement that additional training was received since the last accreditation period, the individual should show some ongoing training. The industry standard is 40 hours of immigration law training/year. The training format can be in-person, e-learning, webinar, or other modalities, including accessing archived materials on immigration law websites such as https://cliniclegal.org/ or http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/.
Application Contents

□ Information for Individual (As Explained in Section II)

An applicant applying for renewal of accreditation in an agency that has already been recognized must include:

- a cover letter from the applicant’s supervisor or an official of the organization;
- a table of contents (may be included in the cover letter);
- an updated resume;
- certificates and agendas of trainings attended since last application period;
- copy of the previous BIA decision approving accreditation; and
- updated evidence of advocacy and research skills (for full accreditation only), as explained in Section II.

Note: Form EOIR-31A, Request by Organization for Accreditation of Non-Attorney Representative is recommended, but not required.

It would also be helpful to include information about the applicant’s caseload and any information regarding supervision by other BIA accredited staff or attorneys. Letters of recommendation are encouraged but not required.

If an office has already been recognized, do NOT use Form EOIR-31 to apply for renewal of accreditation for individual staff. Instead, we recommend using Form EOIR-31A. Also, the cover letter from the director (or alternate) should indicate the date in which the office became recognized, the date the individual was last accredited, and whether the individual is applying for partial or full accreditation. (Especially note if the individual was previously partially accredited and now is applying for full accreditation. In that case, the individual will need to show proof of training and experience in the skills needed for full accreditation.)

□ Certificates of Service

If you are applying for renewal of individual accreditation, you must prepare a certificate of service to USCIS and ICE. Page 2 of the EOIR-31A has a certificate of service section (part 7), so this is one advantage of using the form when applying for accreditation. The certificate of service must include: what you are sending; the name and address of the USCIS District Director and ICE Chief Counsel; the date it was sent; and the signature of the sender. Follow the directions in Section IV on where to send the application copies. Follow the directions in Section IV on where to send the application copies.
Section VI. Sample Requests to the BIA for Agency Site Recognition and Agency Staff/Volunteer Accreditation
SAMPLE A: Recognition and Accreditation Request Cover Letter

[Letterhead]

[DATE]

Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator
Board of Immigration Appeals
Clerk’s Office
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000
Falls Church, VA 20530

RE: REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION OF THE IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE CENTER (IAC) OFFICE LOCATED AT 555 MAIN STREET, ANYTOWN, IOWA 50500

REQUEST FOR PARTIAL ACCREDITATION OF IAC EMPLOYEE FULANA MARIA DE TAL (DE TAL)

Dear Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator:

I ask the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to please grant recognition to the office mentioned above under 8 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 1292.2(a). Please also grant Fulana Maria De Tal (De Tal) agency staff accreditation pursuant to 8 CFR, Section 1292.2 (d).

IAC provides a number of charitable social services in the city of Anytown. With this application IAC seeks to begin providing immigration legal services as the need is so much greater than the existing resources in our area.

Our agency has sufficient knowledge and experience with immigration law to merit your grant of recognition. De Tal has sufficient knowledge and experience with immigration law, is of the highest moral character and merits partial accreditation.

Fees

Our agency is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit charitable organization. We charge clients nominal fees for immigration legal services. We do not have membership dues.

Type of Immigration Services Offered

The IAC has at its disposal adequate knowledge, information, and experience in immigration law and procedure, as required by 8 CFR § 1292.2 (b). This agency has fulfilled that requirement through its staff member’s attendance at many trainings dealing with immigration law including the range of immigration benefits available and the bars to immigration.
Please note that, in accordance with Matter of Central California Legal Services, Inc., 26 I&N Dec. 105 (BIA 2013), De Tal has recently completed a formal training course designed to give new practitioners a solid overview of the fundamentals of immigration law and procedure. The course was entitled, “Introduction to Immigration Law Practice: A Course for New Practitioners” and was completed on (date). Copies of the training agenda and certificate of completion are attached.

De Tal has handled a number of immigration benefit applications and this makes her qualified as well. As documented by letters of reference from individuals such as Samantha Sams, BIA Fully Accredited Representative, Overthere Immigration Services Agency, Elsewhere, [or Joe Smith, an immigration attorney] De Tal has experience in immigration law, including the I-130 Alien Relative Petition, the I-485 Adjustment of Status immigration benefit application, and the N-400 Naturalization Application.

The IAC will offer immigration legal services related to its core mission of serving low-income members of the immigrant community. These benefits will include the I-130, I-485, and N-400. IAC will also screen every client for other potential immigration benefit eligibility, e.g., asylum, VAWA, cancellation of removal, acquired and derivative citizenship, etc.

Referral of Complex and Court Cases

IAC will accommodate those needing immigration court representation or other immigration legal services by referring them to Overthere Immigration Services Agency. This agency provides assistance with immigration court representation and other immigration benefit applications.

Technical Legal Support Arrangement

IAC and De Tal will receive technical legal support from Overthere Immigration Services Agency BIA Fully Accredited Representative Samantha Sams [or Joe Smith, an immigration attorney]. Please see the attached letter documenting this arrangement with Sams [or Smith].

IAC Immigration Legal Services Funding and Expenses

Funding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund for Justice</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Anytown</td>
<td>$ 7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Subsidy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees (projected)</td>
<td>$ 8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>De Tal Salary and benefits</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead/Allocated Costs</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[specify]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immigration Legal Services Caseload

Currently, IAC has no immigration legal services caseload. Above there is a description of the work we will be authorized to perform once your Board is kind enough to allow us to help eligible clients to navigate the immigration legal system by granting us recognition. We will begin to take on a case load once we have agency site recognition and agency staff accreditation. [or IAC’s caseload consists of family-based immigration and naturalization.]

Thank you very much for your fair and rapid consideration of my request, on behalf of the IAC, for agency site recognition and agency staff partial accreditation.

Sincerely,

Katherine Jones
Executive Director

Enclosures:
Form EOIR-31 (Latest Version including Proof of Service on the local District Director for USCIS and Local Chief Counsel for ICE)
Form EOIR-31A
Evidence of Non-Profit Status: IRS 501 (c) (3) letter
By-Laws
Articles of Incorporation
Fee Schedule
List of On-Site & Internet Immigration Law Library Resources
Organizational Chart
Resume for Fulana Maria De Tal
Copies of Certificates and Agendas for Immigration Law Trainings
Letter of recommendation for agency recognition from Overthere Immigration Services Agency
Letter summarizing technical legal support agreement and recommendation for Fulana Maria De Tal from Samantha Sams, BIA Fully Accredited Representative [or Joe Smith, Attorney]
SAMPLE B: Accreditation Request Cover Letter

[ON AGENCY LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator
Board of Immigration Appeals, Clerk’s Office
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000
Falls Church, VA 20530

RE: REQUEST FOR PARTIAL ACCREDITATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER EMPLOYEE MR. KASKA YAWO

Dear Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator:

I ask the Board of Immigration Appeals to please grant Mr. Kaska Yawo agency staff accreditation pursuant to 8 CFR, Section 1292.2 (d). Catholic Charities Diocese of Worcester is a BIA recognized agency at 10 Hammond Street, Worcester, MA 01610-1513.

Mr. Yawo has sufficient knowledge and experience with immigration law, is of good moral character, and merits partial accreditation. He has been employed at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester since November 2004 starting in our Refugee Resettlement and Placement Program. Over time, his responsibilities expanded to include immigration services. Mr. Yawo has a strong work ethic and a caring, compassionate nature to responsibly assist the many people needing these services.

Mr. Yawo has been diligent in pursuing immigration training opportunities and has assisted many clients with various immigration forms, as detailed in the attached resume. Please note that, in accordance with Matter of Central California Legal Services, Inc., 26 I&N Dec. 105 (BIA 2013), Mr. Yawo has recently completed a formal training course designed to give new practitioners a solid overview of the fundamentals of immigration law and procedure. The course was entitled, “Introduction to Immigration Law Practice: A Course for New Practitioners” and was completed on (date). Copies of the training agenda and certificate of completion are attached.

Thank you very much for your fair and rapid consideration of my request on behalf of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester.

Sincerely,

Catherine Loeffler
Executive Director

Enclosures:
Form EOIR-31A (including proof of service on USCIS and ICE)
Resume for Kaska Yawo
Copies of certificates and agendas for immigration law trainings
Letter of recommendation from Paulette Brooks, Immigration Law Analyst, USCIS Ombudsman Office
Letter of recommendation from Theresa Khen Doan, Interim Administrator of the Refugee Reception and Placement Program, Catholic Charities Diocese of Worcester
RE: Application for renewal of partial accreditation of Maria Garcia to represent immigrants at the Immigration Assistance Center (IAC) office located at 555 Main Street, Anytown, Iowa 50500

Dear Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator:

I ask the Board of Immigration Appeals to please renew the partial accreditation of Maria Garcia pursuant to 8 CFR, Section 1292.2 (d). Ms. Garcia represents immigrants at the IAC, a BIA recognized agency.

I highly recommend Ms. Garcia for re-accreditation. Since gaining partial accreditation in (date), Ms. Garcia has continued with her professional growth and has become a vital immigration specialist for our region. She has gained considerable experience in providing immigration assistance by preparing a wide range of applications, including applications for naturalization, adjustment of status, TPS, employment authorization, and many others detailed in her attached resume. Ms. Garcia has increased her skill level by participating in ongoing immigration law trainings, webinars, and conferences available through CLINIC. (Please see attached resume for a list of recent trainings attended.) She continues to be a person of good moral character and merits partial accreditation.

Thank you very much for your fair and rapid consideration of my request on behalf of the IAC for renewal of partial accreditation for Ms. Garcia.

Sincerely,

Jane Smith
Executive Director

Enclosures:
Form EOIR-31A (including proof of service on USCIS and ICE)
Resume for Maria Garcia
Copies of certificates and agendas for immigration law trainings attended
Letter of recommendation from Joe Attorney
Copy of previous BIA decision granting partial accreditation
For Official Use Only:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mail To:</th>
<th>Date Received (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Recognition & Accreditation Program Coordinator  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
Board of Immigration Appeals, Clerk's Office  
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000  
Falls Church, VA 20530  
(preferred for most mailings) | Recognition & Accreditation Program Coordinator  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
Board of Immigration Appeals, Clerk's Office  
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000  
Falls Church, VA 20530  
(courier, overnight, or in-person deliveries) |

1. **World Relief Kalamazoo** requests recognition pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 1292.2(a) and (b) so that it may apply for accreditation of persons of good moral character to represent others in immigration proceedings before the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and/or the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

2. **Organization's Address:** 135 Blueberry Way  
   - **Kalamazoo**, MI 12345  
   - **(City)**  
   - **443-451-1992**, **(Phone Number)**  
   - **jsmith@worldrelief.org**, **(Email Address)**  

3. By signing this form, you certify that the organization is a non-profit religious, charitable, social service, or other (specify: non-profit religious) organization established in the United States. Attach proof of the organization's non-profit status.

4. If the organization is chartered, attach a copy of the Charter, Constitution, Articles of Incorporation, and/or By-laws.

5. What charges or membership dues, if any, are charged to clients? **Nominal fees—see attached**. Attach a fee schedule, if applicable, with list of services, along with a detailed statement of the organization’s sources and amounts of funding other than dues or fees.

6. Attach a detailed statement regarding the knowledge, information, and experience in immigration and nationality law and procedure available to the organization. Also attach a list of library and/or internet resources.

7. Provide a description of the specific immigration legal services the organization will provide.

8. Resumes and any immigration training certificates for staff members should be attached. A description and/or diagram of the organizational structure of the organization should be included, which shows the supervision of staff members. Any supervision or assistance provided by attorneys should be documented, including proof of the immigration practice experience of the attorneys. Any arrangement to consult with other recognized organizations or attorneys should be documented.

9. Indicate whether an accreditation request is being made at this time. **☑ Yes □ No**. If you answered yes, provide the name of the proposed representative: **Josephine Blauer**. Indicate the type of accreditation sought for this individual: **☑ Partial □ Full**. (Attach a separate sheet if more than one accreditation request is being made).

**SIGN HERE ➔**  

Jane Smith, Executive Director  
(Type or print) Name and title of authorized official of organization

You must complete the Proof of Service on the reverse
PROOF OF SERVICE
(You Must Complete Both)

I, __________________________, __________________________,
(Print Name)

mailed or delivered a copy of this Form EOIR–31 and its attachments to the local District Director for USCIS
10/01/2013
(Date - mm/dd/yyyy)
of DHS on __________________________
(149 Immigration Rd)
at __________________________
(Number and Street)

Anytown, MI 12345
(City, State, ZIP Code)

SIGN HERE X Jane Smith

I, __________________________, __________________________,
(Print Name)

mailed or delivered a copy of this Form EOIR–31 and its attachments to the local Chief Counsel for ICE
10/01/2013
(Date - mm/dd/yyyy)
of DHS on __________________________
(169 Very Cold Place)
at __________________________
(Number and Street)

Anytown, MI 12345
(City, State, ZIP Code)

SIGN HERE X Jane Smith

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED?
☐ Completed Form EOIR-31, including proof of service
☐ Proof of nonprofit status (IRS document)
☐ Copy of Charter, Constitution, By-Laws and/or Articles of Incorporation
☐ Fee schedule for all immigration services provided and membership dues, if applicable
☐ List of law library contents and/or online resources
☐ Funding sources and budget
☐ Organizational chart and a description of the specific immigration legal services the organization will provide
☐ Staff resumes, certificates of training, letters of recommendation and evidence of advocacy and research skills
☐ Requests for accreditation with supporting documentation, if applicable
☐ Written confirmation of any agreement(s) made to consult with other nonprofit organization(s) or private attorney(s) on a pro bono basis in more complicated cases or other acceptable arrangements to demonstrate adequate knowledge and experience in immigration law and procedure. Matter of EAC, Inc. (Recognition) 24 I&N Dec 556 (BIA 2008)
☐ Copy of BIA decision on prior recognition application, if applicable

For more information about recognized organizations, visit the EOIR website at http://www.justice.gov/eoir

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. The estimated average time to review the form, gather necessary materials, complete the form, and assemble the attachments is 2 hours. If you have comments regarding the accuracy of this estimate, or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions reducing this burden, you may write to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Office of the General Counsel, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600, Falls Church, Virginia 20530.

The information is authorized by 8 U.S.C. §§ 1103, 1229a, 1362 and 8 C.F.R. 1292.2 in order to request recognition of a non-profit religious, charitable, social service or similar organization. The information you provide is mandatory and required to obtain recognition. Failure to provide the requested information may result in denial of your request. EOIR may share this information with others in accordance with approved routine uses described in BIA-002, Roster of Organizations and their Accredited Representatives Recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Form EOIR-31
Rev. October 2013
1. Organization seeking accreditation of representative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of organization</th>
<th>World Relief Kalamazoo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DBA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and Street</td>
<td>135 Blueberry Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip Code</td>
<td>12345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>443-451-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>443-451-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jsmith@worldrelief.org">jsmith@worldrelief.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://worldrelief.org">http://worldrelief.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Check one:

- ✔ Organization is not recognized and a Request for Recognition of a Non-Profit Religious, Charitable, Social Service, or Similar Organization (Form EOIR-31) accompanies this request.

☐ Organization is already recognized. Date of recognition ______________________ (Month/Day/Year)

2. Name of proposed representative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Last</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josephine</td>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>Blauer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other names used n/a

This individual has been previously accredited. ☐ Yes ✔ No If “yes,” provide the name(s) of the other recognized organization(s) for which this individual serves or has served as an accredited representative:

Name of other organization(s)

Date(s) of last approval of accreditation ______________________ (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

3. Type of accreditation sought (check one)

- ☐ Full (practice before BIA, immigration courts, and DHS) or ✔ Partial (practice before DHS only)

4. Renewal of accreditation (check if applicable)

- ☐ Full (practice before BIA, immigration courts, and DHS) or ☐ Partial (practice before DHS only)

Date of last approval of accreditation ______________________ (Month/Day/Year)

(Attach copy of last order approving accreditation, if available)

Optional Form EOIR-31A
October 2014
5. Qualifications for accreditation


2. Broad knowledge of immigration and nationality law and procedure. Attach a resume and documentation demonstrating knowledge and experience in immigration law, practice, and procedure. List relevant trainings completed, including an overview of fundamentals of immigration law and procedure, and include certificates of completion, if any.

3. Full accreditation also requires documentation demonstrating the applicant possesses the essential skills for effective litigation. Attach documents showing relevant education, training, and experience.

6. Attestations (complete both)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer of organization</th>
<th>Proposed representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jane Smith</td>
<td>Josephine Blauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature of officer of organization</td>
<td>Signature of proposed representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Smith</td>
<td>Josephine Blauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print name of officer of organization</td>
<td>Print name of proposed representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18/14</td>
<td>12/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Proof of service (complete both)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DHS USCIS</th>
<th>DHS ICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I, Jane Smith (print name) mailed or delivered a copy of this Optional Form EOIR-31A and its attachments to the District Director for USCIS of DHS on 12/18/14 (Date) at 149 immigration Road (Number and Street) Anytown, MI 12345 (City, State, Zip Code) Jane Smith (Signature)</td>
<td>I, Jane Smith (print name) mailed or delivered a copy of this Optional Form EOIR-31A and its attachments to the Chief Counsel for ICE of DHS on 12/18/14 (Date) at 169 Very Cold Place (Number and Street) Anytown, MI 12345 (City, State, Zip Code) Jane Smith (Signature)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. The estimated average time to review the form, gather necessary materials, and assemble the attachments is 2 hours. If you have comments regarding the accuracy of this estimate, or suggestions for making this form simpler, you can write to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Office of the General Counsel, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600, Falls Church, Virginia 20530.

Optional Form EOIR-31A
October 2014
## The Immigration Assistance Center of Anytown, Iowa

### IMMIGRATION SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE

### ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-485</td>
<td>Application to Register Permanent Residence or to Adjust Status</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child under 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-602 Waiver</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Cap (does not include adult children)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CITIZENSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N-400</td>
<td>Application for Naturalization</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-565</td>
<td>Application for Replacement Naturalization Citizenship Document</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-600 Certificate of Citizenship</td>
<td></td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FAMILY PETITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-730</td>
<td>Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Cap for I-730s</td>
<td></td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consular Processing Bundle (includes I-130/I-864/DS-230) spouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consular Processing Bundle (includes I-130/I-864/DS-230) non spouse IR</td>
<td></td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consular Processing Bundle (includes I-130/I-864W/DS-230) minor</td>
<td></td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Cap for Consular Processing</td>
<td></td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Step Adjustment (I-130/I-485/I-864/I-765/I-131) spouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment for approved I-130/I-129F</td>
<td></td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-130 for Spouse (Petition for Alien Relative)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-130 for non-spouse (Petition for Alien Relative)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-129F (Petition for Alien Fiancé)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-751 (Petition to Remove the Conditions on Residence)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-864 (Affidavit of Support)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC Representation for Approved I-130</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-601a Conditional Waivers</td>
<td></td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MISCELLANEOUS FORMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-90</td>
<td>Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-102</td>
<td>Application for Replacement/Initial arrival-departure document</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-131</td>
<td>Application for Travel Document/Advance Parole</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-134</td>
<td>Affidavit of Support</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization) $30
I-765 & Parole Renewal $50
Parole Renewal $35
G-639 (Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Request) $40
I-589 Nunc Pro Tunc $100
I-821 & I-765 (Application for Temporary Protected Status) $50
I-821D Application for Deferred Action $150

OTHER SERVICES
Consultation $50
Document Review (no filling out forms or after pro se filing) $50
Simple CIS Interview $100
INFOPASS Representation $50
Motion to Reopen $100
Motion to Change Venue $50
Court representation at Master Calendar $100
Photos (2 photographs) $5
Standard document translation (birth, marriage, divorce certificates) $20 per pg
   Cap on document translation $100

No one will be denied services based on inability to pay. A fee waiver is available for clients who can demonstrate financial hardship. Agency fee for applications does not include USCIS filing fee, representation at the interview, or document translation.

Rev 1/29/2013
SAMPLE LIST OF IMMIGRATION LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES

This is not a complete list of immigration references and resources. Depending on the immigration services your organization provides, seek specific resources by talking to experts in the field. At the minimum, it is recommended that your agency have hard copies of the Immigration and Nationality Act and Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations as well as online resources, which are readily available. In addition, it is highly recommended that your agency have an immigration resource purchase and update budget since immigration laws change constantly.

General

The Immigration and Nationality Act (known as INA), *latest edition*

Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (known as 8 CFR), *latest edition*

Executive Office for Immigration Review Virtual Law Library, [www.usdoj.gov/eoir](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir)

Your local or state university libraries may provide public access to immigration law collection. To locate a library, visit [http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb/](http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb/)

Immigration Law Books via World Cat, [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org), helps identify immigration law books and locate libraries that carry them via zip code.

*Kurzban’s Immigration Law Sourcebook*, available at [www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org)

*Guide for Immigration Advocates* published by Immigrant Legal Resource Center, available at [www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org)


*Department of State Visa Bulletin* provides a summary on the availability of immigrant visas by preference categories and regions on a monthly basis. Available at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_1770.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_1770.html)

**Immigration and Legalization Capacity Building**

CLINIC Manual, *Managing an Immigration Program*, available at [https://cliniclegal.org](https://cliniclegal.org). This manual describes best practices used by many of the country's most experienced nonprofit immigration programs and managers. The content includes program design, case selection criteria, case management systems, fee schedules, alternative funding sources, financial controls, marketing, staff training, BIA agency recognition and staff accreditation, and legal representation ethics.

*American Fact Finder* is the U.S. Census Bureau’s on-line tool for demographic research that provides more current data on the U.S. population. It provides more up-to-date data through the
American Community Survey, which is a sample population survey that is conducted annually. To access the online research tool, visit http://factfinder2.census.gov.

Pew Hispanic Center, www.pewhispanic.org, is a nonpartisan "fact tank" in Washington, D.C. that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world in the areas of demography, immigration, identity, economics, labor, education, and remittances. It provides excellent and analytical statistics and data on the immigrant population.

**Naturalization and Immigrant Integration**


CLINIC Citizenship Toolkit, available at www.cliniclegal.org

CLINIC Naturalization Workshop Toolkit, available at www.cliniclegal.org


**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**


ASISTA hosts two list serves, VAWA Updates and VAWA Experts. VAWA Updates provides the latest guidance, policy, and advocacy developments on VAWA laws, including legislation, U visas, trafficking, and related issues. VAWA Experts is a discussion list serve for people with significant expertise in immigration law and a high VAWA case load. To apply, send an e-mail to questions@asistaonline.org.

**Immigration and Crimes**

*Detention Watch Network*, http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/, is national coalition of organizations and individuals working to educate the public and policy makers about the U.S. immigration detention and deportation system and to promote humane treatment of detainees. DWN creates useful and timely resources for members and the community, including the Real Deal Fact Sheet on Detention, the Detention Map, the DWN website, and the Raids Response
Toolkit. It also coordinates meetings and trainings to raise awareness and involvement around detention and deportation issues.

*Defending Immigrants Partnership,* [www.defendingimmigrants.org](http://www.defendingimmigrants.org), contains resources to defend noncitizens in criminal courts.

**Periodicals and Newsletters**

*Catholic Legal Immigration News*, CLINIC’s monthly newsletter, provides immigration law updates, news from the Catholic network, a training schedule, and information on immigration advocacy efforts. The newsletter is available for CLINIC affiliates at [http:// cliniclegal.org](http://cliniclegal.org)


**Online Resources and List Serves**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ website, [http://www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) provides the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 Code of Federal Regulations, all immigration-related forms, policy, and updates from the government. USCIS provides e-mail updates regarding policy changes or new guidelines. To subscribe, visit [http://www.uscis.gov/tools/get-e-mail-updates/get-email-updates](http://www.uscis.gov/tools/get-e-mail-updates/get-email-updates)

CLINIC’s list serve provides news articles and announcements on immigration law. To subscribe, visit [www.cliniclegal.org](http://www.cliniclegal.org).

Immigration Advocates Network (IAN), [www.immigrationadvocates.org](http://www.immigrationadvocates.org), is a one stop resource center for charitable legal immigration providers. This free national online network carries a web-based library; podcast, webinar, and video trainings; calendar of training dates; news alerts; and an online directory of members.

American Civil Liberties Union Immigrants' Rights Project operates a list serve for detention practitioners. To subscribe, please e-mail your name and e-mail address, your employer and your employer's contact information, and a one-sentence statement confirming that you do not work for the government to detentionlistserv@aclu.org.

American Immigration Council’s Immigration Policy Center provides policy reports and updates on immigration and immigrants in America. To access, visit [http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/](http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/).

Brennan Center for Justice hosts the Legal Services E-lert, offering news and opinion pieces about free and low-cost civil legal aid. Legal issues that affect low-income individuals and families, including immigrants, are frequently covered. To subscribe, visit http://www.brennancenter.org/content/elerts/ (scroll down to the bottom of the page).

Detention Watch Network’s list serve connects detention advocates from across the country. The list serve is a great way to stay updated on the latest news on detention and deportation issues. To subscribe, visit http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/listserv. (This list serve is not open to the media or government employees.)


Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) hosts several free e-mail distribution lists as a service to nonprofit agencies, private attorneys and other legal service providers. You can subscribe online at http://www.ilrc.org/ilrc-email-lists/subscribe-or-unsubscribe

Migration News is published by Migration Dialogue at UC Davis and reports on important migration developments world-wide. To subscribe, visit http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/subscribe_mn.php.

National Immigration Law Center (NILC) offers e-mail updates. To subscribe, visit http://nilc.org/

The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild hosts several list serves for its members, including a general immigration list serve and lists that focus specifically on immigration and crimes, HIV, and gangs. To become a member, visit http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/join.htm

Siskind's Immigration Bulletin is published by Greg Siskind, partner at the Immigration Law Offices of Siskind Susser PC. To subscribe to the bulletin, visit http://www.visalaw.com/immigration-resources/bulletin/

**Technical Support Organizations & Resources**

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., http://cliniclegal.org

Immigrant Legal Resource Center, www.ilrc.org

ASISTA (assistance for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse), http://www.asistahelp.org/

Legal Momentum (assistance for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse), www.legalmomentum.org
Women’s Law, www.womenslaw.org

**Partnership, Membership, or Networks**

American Immigration Lawyers Association, www.aila.org (it’s best to include your local chapter information and contact person if your agency already has an established relationship)


Congressional Offices directory: http://house.gov/

Library of Congress “Ask a Librarian” personal assistance by phone or e-mail regarding legal and legislative research assistance for foreign, international, federal, and state law: http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-law.html or 202-707-5079

USCIS Office of Public Engagement has a Community Relations Program to communicate with community-based organizations about their work, policy updates, and guideline changes as well as to receive community feedback. USCIS district offices organize CBO meetings and conduct community outreach through Community Relations Officers. To locate and contact your local USCIS Community Relations Officer, visit the Office of Public Engagement at http://www.uscis.gov/outreach/contact-us

Many states have a local chapter of the Legal Aid Society or have state immigration coalitions.
SAMPLE RESUME

Josephine Blauer
World Relief Kalamazoo
135 Blueberry Way
Kalamazoo, MI 12345
(443) 451-1992
jblauer@wr.org

[Please note: use agency contact information, not your personal contact information]

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

[For employment entries, you should show the title, organization, time worked, and basic job duties for each job in which you gained immigration experience.]

Immigration Advocate
World Relief Kalamazoo December 2010-Present
Assist immigrants and refugees with filling out immigration forms. Prepare Affidavits of Relationship for refugee families. Attend trainings on immigration law and keep updated by reading emails and other sources. Assist with refugee resettlement as necessary.

Evaluate clients' eligibility for immigration benefits and possible bars to immigration. Assist eligible clients with completion of appropriate immigration benefit applications and proper filing of same.

Immigration Benefit Applications Assisted with:

[These are common forms that advocates may have completed. List only the forms you have actually prepared, and add any that are not listed here. Add the number and title of the form.]

AR-11 Change of Address
G-325A Biographic Information
G-639 Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Request
I-90 Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card
I-102 Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival/Departure Record
I-130 Petition for Alien Relative
I-131 Application for Travel Document
I-134 Affidavit of Support
I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or to Adjust Status [Indicate whether for Refugees, Asylees, and/or Family-Based Applications]
I-602 Application By Refugee For Waiver of Grounds of Excludability
I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition
I-751 Petition to Remove the Conditions on Residence
I-765 Application for Employment Authorization
I-864 Affidavit of Support
I-864A Affidavit of Support Contract Between Sponsor and Household Member
I-864EZ Affidavit of Support
I-864W Intending Immigrant's Affidavit of Support Exemption
N-400 Application for Naturalization
N-600 Application for Certification of Citizenship
N-648 Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions

EDUCATION

Bachelors of Arts in French May 2004
University of the Upper Peninsula, MI
[You may add the date of graduation if you like, but it is not required.]

[If you did not attend a college or university, please list your high school information.]

IMMIGRATION TRAININGS

40-Hour Immigration Training August 14-18, 2012
By Immigrant Legal Resource Center and Michigan Immigrants Center
Kalamazoo, MI

The New Affidavit of Support Rules September 14, 2012
By World Relief, Church World Service, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
[hereinafter World Relief, CWS, and LIRS]
Web-Based Training

BIA Recognition and Accreditation May 15, 2012
By World Relief, CWS, and LIRS
Web-Based Training

Program Management April 3-4, 2012
By Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)
Oklahoma City, OK

SPECIAL SKILLS

Fluent in French and English

Extensive experience working with immigrants and refugees from various cultures and countries, such as: France, Kenya, Sudan, Thailand, Burma, Canada, Mexico, Colombia
SAMPLE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR OFFICE RECOGNITION ONLY
(not from attorney or fully accredited representative)

This should be written like a standard letter of recommendation. This is just a sample. The information in bold must be included though not necessarily in those exact words.

[ON LETTERHEAD OF WRITER’S ORGANIZATION]

[DATE]

Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator
Board of Immigration Appeals
Clerk’s Office
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000
Falls Church, VA 20530

RE: Application for Office Recognition of World Relief Kalamazoo, MI

Dear Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for recognition by the Board of Immigration Appeals for World Relief Kalamazoo.

I am familiar with the work of World Relief Kalamazoo and highly recommend it for office recognition from the BIA. I have been familiar with World Relief since [date], when I became Mayor of Our Town, MI, near Kalamazoo. Since that time, I have worked with World Relief on a regular basis.

World Relief participates in an immigrant task force that is run out of my office. This task force meets regularly, and World Relief is an active and important participant. Because World Relief works with refugees and immigrants in the community, its perspectives are vital to the task force and our city’s relationship with refugee and immigrants.

I believe that World Relief Kalamazoo has the necessary knowledge and experience required to provide quality legal services. The organization has a good reputation in our community for its work with refugees and immigrants.

Additionally, there is a great need for quality immigration legal services in the Kalamazoo area, due to the large population of immigrants and the shortage of immigration legal service providers.

I strongly support World Relief’s application for office recognition, as it will allow the office to provide quality immigration legal services to our community. Please contact me at [phone and e-mail] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor of Our Town, MI
SAMPLE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR OFFICE RECOGNITION AND STAFF ACCREDITATION (from attorney or fully accredited representative)

This should be written like a standard letter of recommendation. This is just a sample. The information in bold must be included though not necessarily in those exact words.

[ON LETTERHEAD OF WRITER’S ORGANIZATION]

[DATE]

Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator
Board of Immigration Appeals
Clerk’s Office
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000
Falls Church, VA 20530

RE: Application for Office Recognition of World Relief Kalamazoo, MI and Partial Accreditation of Josephine Blauer

Dear Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for recognition by the Board of Immigration Appeals for World Relief Kalamazoo, and for partial accreditation of Josephine Blauer.

I am a licensed immigration attorney with 10 years of experience practicing immigration law at Adelante, a nonprofit agency in Kalamazoo. My practice focuses on family-based immigration, deportation and removal hearings, VAWA, and asylum.

I am familiar with the work of World Relief Kalamazoo and highly recommend it for office recognition from the BIA. I have been familiar with World Relief Kalamazoo since [date], when I began working with the immigration department of Adelante in Kalamazoo. I have attended many meetings with World Relief and we work cooperatively on a number of issues. I believe that World Relief Kalamazoo has the necessary knowledge and experience required to provide quality legal services.

Additionally, there is a great need for quality legal services in the Kalamazoo area, due the large population of immigrants and the shortage of immigration legal service providers.

I have known Ms. Josephine Blauer since [date], when she came to work for World Relief Kalamazoo. Since that time she has worked as an Immigration Advocate for that office. We have attended many meetings and immigration trainings together. I am familiar with her work.

She has attended numerous trainings on immigration law and gained extensive experience assisting immigrants and refugees with immigration applications. I find Ms. Blauer to be a person of good moral character. She is an excellent immigration worker and is well-respected
in the community. I believe she has the necessary training and experience to warrant partial accreditation from the Board of Immigration Appeals.

I am available to support the World Relief office and Ms. Blauer on immigration questions and strategy. I am available in person, by phone, or by e-mail on a pro bono basis.

I strongly recommend her for [full or partial] accreditation from the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Please contact me at [phone and e-mail] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ms. Recommender
SAMPLE LETTER OF AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL LEGAL SUPPORT

[ON LETTERHEAD OF WRITER’S ORGANIZATION]

[DATE]

Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator
Board of Immigration Appeals
Clerk’s Office
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000
Falls Church, VA 20530

RE: Application for recognition of the Immigration Assistance Center (IAC) office located at 555 Main Street, Anytown, Iowa 50500

Dear Recognition and Accreditation Program Coordinator:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) recognition for IAC. I am familiar with IAC and I fully support the organization’s application to become recognized with the BIA because the need for charitable immigration services is much greater than the existing resources in the Anytown area, which has a very large immigrant and refugee population. I understand that IAC will be focusing on family-based immigration services.

I am a licensed attorney with 12 years of experience in immigration law. My practice focuses on family-based immigration, deportation and removal hearings, and asylum cases. I have met with IAC’s Executive Director, Katherine Jones, and have agreed to provide technical legal support on a pro bono basis. I am available to answer any immigration questions the IAC staff may have by phone or e-mail.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 123-456-7890.

Sincerely,

Joe Attorney, Esq.