

LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE PRO BONO PROGRAM

Representing Survivors with U-Visas to Apply for Lawful Permanent Residence

LACLJ'S MISSION and SERVICE MODEL

The mission of the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) is to secure justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and to empower them to create their own future. We implement an integrated service model in partnership with Community Advocates or “CAs” (social workers and MSW students) to provide holistic legal services in the areas of Family Law, Immigration, and Criminal Justice Advocacy to low-income immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or human trafficking.

U VISA ADJUSTMENT CLINIC+ PROJECT OVERVIEW

LACLJ's Clinic+ Project is an opportunity to represent low-income U-visa recipients in their adjustment of status (AOS) applications for lawful permanent residence (a “green card”). Attorneys will participate in a 3-hour “clinic” day where they will draft the petition, meet with their client, and have an LACLJ staff attorney available to answer any questions. Follow up will be needed to finalize the petition with any missing documents or information identified during the clinic, schedule and pay the fee for the required medical examination, and to mail the petition to USCIS. An LACLJ attorney will review the complete filing and provide feedback before it is sent to USCIS. Following up after filing includes forwarding receipt notices to the client, ensuring the client attends their biometric appointment, responding to any requests for further evidence and eventually providing them with their work permit and then green card once it arrives! We recommend teams of 2 attorneys per client, and most cases are adjudicated and completed in 1-2 years from the date of filing.



BENEFITS OF TAKING A CASE WITH LACLJ

Training and Resources — LACLJ provides links to pre-recorded trainings on adjustment of status (AOS) cases and then will conduct a live Q&A session to answer questions and supplement the materials. We also have a resource library with form and declaration samples, templates, and other helpful tools and resources for representing survivors in their AOS petitions.

Ongoing support and technical assistance – LACLJ attorneys will provide continued technical assistance and support in answering questions about the case and will provide feedback on the completed petition before filing. Clients are also assigned a CA to provide emotional support, connect the client with social service-related resources and referrals, and support the client in completing any follow up for the attorney.

Extensive Experience, Limited Scope – Attorneys will have an opportunity to work closely with a client, prepare immigration forms, and become familiar with specific aspects of immigration law and procedure. Unlike other types of immigration cases, which can span many years, most U visa-based AOS cases are adjudicated in less than 2 years, but the vast majority of the work on the case is completed before the filing.

Impact – Help a survivor come full circle on their long road to security in their immigration journey! These survivors waited many years, sometimes 10+ years, to receive U-visas and an additional 3 years following their U visa approvals to qualify to apply for a green card. This is a chance to be a critical partner in this final step of their journey toward having a green card and the increased opportunity and reduced fear that comes with it!

GET INVOLVED

Contact LACLJ's Pro Bono Manager, **Amanda Jancu**, at amandaj@lajl.org for more information.