BUILDING JUSTICE:
INCREASING QUALITY IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION IN NEW JERSEY

Roundtable on Immigration Representation
January 25, 2013
9:00am—2:00pm
Rutgers School of Law—Newark
123 Washington Street • Newark, NJ 07102

For further information, see:
http://law.newark.rutgers.edu/roundtable-immigration-representation
January 25, 2013, 9:00am–2:00pm
Registration and coffee at 8:30am

Rutgers School of Law–Newark
Center for Law & Justice
123 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

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Many immigrants in removal proceedings face the harsh prospect of being deported from the United States because they cannot afford competent attorneys. Nationally, only half of immigrants are represented, though for detained immigrants, a mere 16% have representation. The total number of detention beds in New Jersey is now around 2,350 – a 47% increase over 2011 – which means thousands of immigrants are detained every year in New Jersey.

While government-funded counsel is routine in the criminal justice system, the U.S. government does not generally fund legal representation in immigration proceedings. How can this gap in legal representation be addressed? What steps can be taken to increase the capacity of legal service providers, promote pro bono representation, expand legal orientation and legal representation programs, educate the public and government officials about these challenges, and ensure that immigrants are not victimized by unscrupulous advice?

This dialogue aims to identify concrete steps that can be taken to address the need for increased, quality immigration representation in New Jersey, and to bring stakeholders together to chart out some next steps for collaborative action.
8:30 – 9:00  **Registration & Coffee**

9:00 – 9:10  **Welcome**
John J. Farmer, Jr., Dean of Rutgers School of Law

9:10 – 9:30  **Keynote Remarks**
The Hon. Michael Chagares, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

9:30 – 10:30  **Introductory Panel:**
The Need for Legal Representation for Immigrants in New Jersey

The panel will discuss gaps in legal representation, nationally and in New Jersey, for immigrants in immigration proceedings, the impediments to securing representation, components of quality representation, and the impact of lack of quality legal representation on immigrants and the Immigration Court.

**Juan P. Osuna**, Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review

**Amy Gottlieb**, Program Director, Immigrant Rights Program, American Friends Service Committee

**Mark Parry**, Esq., American Immigration Lawyers Association, New Jersey Chapter

Moderator: Lori Adams, Managing Attorney, Refugee Protection Program, Human Rights First
10:30 – 12:00  **Roundtable Discussion, Part 1:**
**Models to Develop, Build on, Replicate, and Expand**

The roundtable will identify existing and potential representation models – from direct services to pro bono representation to government funded counsel – and ways in which effective models could be developed, built on, replicated, and expanded in New Jersey. The discussion will be kicked off by the contributors below.

**Contributors include:**

- Lori Nessel, Professor of Law and Director, Center for Social Justice, Seton Hall Law
- Raquiba Huq, Supervising Attorney, Immigration Project, Legal Services of New Jersey
- Stacy Caplow, Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School; Co-chair of the New York Immigrant Representation Study Steering Committee
- Oren Root, Director, Center on Immigration and Justice, Vera Institute of Justice
- Morgan Alen, Pro Bono Coordinator, Kids in Need of Defense-Newark
- Joanne Gottesman, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Immigrant Justice Clinic, Rutgers School of Law-Camden

Facilitator: Lawrence Lustberg, Chair, Gibbons PC; Director, John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest and Constitutional Law

12:00 – 12:30  **Lunch is served**
12:30 – 2:00

**Working Lunch, Roundtable Discussion, Part 2:**

*Next Steps for Collaborative Efforts to Increase Quality Representation for Immigrants and Asylum Seekers in New Jersey*

The roundtable will identify concrete steps to increase quality immigration representation in New Jersey. Contributors to the discussion will include a variety of stakeholders from the private bar, government officials, foundation, and non-profit organizations. Rapporteurs will record recommendations and ideas for next steps.

**Contributors include:**

- Daniel Weiss, Law Offices of Daniel L. Weiss; At-Large Trustee to the New Jersey State Bar Association
- Robert C. Brady, Director, Gibbons P.C.
- Melissa Castro, Deputy Outreach Director for U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, Newark Office.
- Cindy K. Miller, Deputy Director, Division of Consumer Affairs
- Foundation representatives and experts
- Elissa Steglich, Managing Attorney, Immigrant Rights Program, American Friends Service Committee

**Facilitators:** Catherine Weiss, Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP; Chair, Lowenstein Center for the Public Interest
Eleanor Acer, Director, Refugee Protection Program, Human Rights First

**Rapporteurs:** Roman Guzik, Rutgers Immigrant Rights Collective
Andrea Guttin, Associate Attorney, Human Rights First

2:00pm

**Closing Remarks**

Anju Gupta, Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic, Rutgers School of Law-Newark