

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS NEEDED FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN HELD AT EMERGENCY RECEPTION CENTER AT TORNILLO, TX

The ABA's Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA) seeks **Spanish-speaking** volunteer attorneys to provide legal services to detained immigrant children being held at the federal "Emergency Reception Center" at Tornillo, near El Paso, Texas

The "Emergency Reception Center" (ERC) at Tornillo, Texas, has been designated for unaccompanied immigrant children fleeing violence and harm in their home countries. The Office of Refugee Resettlement activated Tornillo in May 2018, when other permanent detention facilities for children reached full capacity. The ERC facility is located near the Mexico border in Tornillo and is preparing for a drastic expansion of up to 2,400 children fleeing violence and harm in Central America.

Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services (DMRS) of El Paso is a nonprofit agency providing on-the-ground Know-Your-Rights presentations and legal screenings for children housed at the ERC. CILA is an expert legal resource center created by the American Bar Association (ABA) in 2015 to increase and enhance legal representation for unaccompanied children in Texas. CILA is charged with helping to train and support ERC staff and assist with recruiting and mentoring of volunteers.

Due to the increasing numbers of children at the Tornillo ERC, DMRS and CILA seek assistance from volunteers and temporary staff to meet the children's legal services needs. Spanish speaking attorneys licensed in any state are welcome to participate. Volunteers are needed on the ground as soon as September 24, 2018.

Interested individuals should email CILA's contract ERC Staff Attorney, Brandon Roché (brandon@rocheimmigration.com). Please include Full Name, Bar State and Number, and your availability for volunteering.

