

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS NEEDED TO SERVE UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN HELD IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF SOUTH TEXAS

The ABA's Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA) in conjunction with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) seeks Spanish speaking volunteer attorneys to provide legal services to detained immigrant children being held in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas

Each day, unaccompanied children cross the southern border without a parent or legal guardian, many of them seeking protection from violence they faced in their home countries. Many of the recently arrived children are placed in federal custody in the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas. ProBAR provides legal services to the approximately 4,000 unaccompanied children detained in the region. CILA seeks assistance from volunteers to meet the children's legal needs.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following weekends:

April 12-14
April 26-28
May 17-19
May 31-June 2
June 14-16
June 28-30

Teams must arrive the Thursday night before the Friday - Sunday sessions. There will be an orientation starting at 8:30 a.m. Friday morning. Volunteers will work full days Friday—Sunday; leaving Sunday night after 6:00 p.m. or Monday morning. Volunteers should be fluent in Spanish and preferably have basic knowledge of immigration law. CILA will provide training webinars and on-site orientation and supervision.

We will be interviewing children at the ProBAR offices in Harlingen, Texas. The work is primarily legal screenings - documenting a child's information for assessment of eligibility for immigration relief. We will not provide direct representation. All of the children are designated as Unaccompanied Alien Children (UC) and, as such, do not need a credible fear interview.

Volunteers are responsible for their own travel expenses and arrangements. We have secured a group rate at a local hotel and will arrange transportation to/from the hotel to the site each day. CILA has some funding available to help with volunteer travel costs.

Attorneys licensed and in good standing in any state are welcome to participate. Interested individuals should email CILA at cila@abacila.org.

Please include: Full Name, Bar State and Number, and your availability for volunteering. THANK YOU!

