

# 2014 justice AmeriCorps Training Program

## EOIR Office of Legal Access Programs

Steven Lang, Program Director

# Pro Bono Program

Since April, 2000

Aim – To improve access to legal advice and counseling and increase rates of representation for individuals appearing before the Immigration Courts and Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

# OLAP

Improve access to legal information and counseling and increase representation rates for foreign-born individuals appearing before the immigration courts and Board of Immigration Appeals.

# OLAP

## Programs:

- 1) Legal Orientation Program (LOP)
- 2) Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Alien Children (LOPC)
- 3) National Qualified Representation Program (NQRP)
- 4) BIA Pro Bono Project
- 5) Model Hearing Program

# New Programs

- justice AmeriCorps (ICW CNCS)
- Baltimore Representation Initiative for Unaccompanied Children (BRI)

## *Proposed:*

- *List of Pro Bono Legal Services*
- *Recognition and Accreditation Program*

# Legal Orientation Program

For all detained respondents prior to initial  
Master:

- \* Group Rights Orientations
- \* Individual Orientations
- \* Self-help Materials / Workshops
  - \* Pro Bono Referral

# Legal Orientation Program

- Carried out through contract with Vera Institute and subcontracts with local NGOs
- Local immigration court coordination
- Local ICE / CDF coordination

# Legal Orientation Program

- \* Helps detained respondents make wiser decisions earlier in proceedings
  - \* Faster completion times (12 days)
    - \* Less time in detention (6 days)
- \* Improved access to legal information & counseling

# Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Alien Children (LOPC)

- Authorized under TVPRA Section 235(c)(4)
- In cooperation with HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Carried out under contract with Vera Institute and through subcontracts with nonprofit organizations
- Launched in October 2010 at four sites
- Expanded to 14 sites total

# Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Alien Children (LOPC)

- Current sites:
- Arlington (DC)
- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Charlotte
- Dallas
- Harlingen
- Houston

# Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Alien Children (LOPC)

- Long Island
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New York
- Newark
- San Francisco

+ LOPC National Call Center – NYC\*\*

# BIA Pro Bono Project

- Since January 2001
- Pro bono attorney driven – NGO Partners
- Access facilitated through technology
- Over 1000 cases placed with pro bono
- Precedent Decisions (e.g. Leocal, M.A.M.)

# Model Hearing Program (MHP)

- *Practical and relevant “hands-on” immigration court training to small groups of attorneys and law students with IJ volunteer in courtroom.*
- *Useful tool for improving quality of advocacy and increasing levels of pro bono representation.*
- *Over 60 Model Hearings held since June 2001*

# National Qualified Representation Program (NQRP)

- ***Franco Gonzalez*** – Permanent Injunction (April, 2013)
- National Policy (April, 2013)
- Contracts with providers in CA, WA, AZ
- Currently expanding to Miami, Houston, El Paso and Denver
- National expansion underway

# Working with EOIR

- OLAP Technical Assistance
  - jAC guidance in coordination with CNCS
  - Beyond scope of jAC
- \*\*Evaluation Contract – data collection requirements
- \*\*Local implementation – how will cases be accepted?

# Immigration Courts

- Pro Bono Liaison Judges and Pro Bono Committees
- Juvenile Docket Judges
- Court Administrators
- OPPM Guidance
  - OPPM 07-04
  - OPPM 08-01

# Thank you!

Steven Lang

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