

Beacon of Justice Award

Eligible law firms will have provided pro bono legal assistance to clients, which includes individuals or families in immigration proceedings, organizations that serve such individuals, or other groups, between January 1 and December 31, 2019.

The criteria for successful applicants includes the extent to which the law firm:

1. utilized creative ideas, tools, and technology in this pro bono work;
2. increased access to counsel or enhanced the effectiveness of representation; and
3. advanced policies and/or practices that provide pathways to justice and opportunity for these individuals and their families.

**DEADLINE:
March 31, 2020**

The ongoing humanitarian crisis along the U.S. southern border impacts hundreds of thousands of migrant children, women, and men seeking asylum or hoping to immigrate to the United States. Ever changing federal policies and practices have exacerbated the already challenging situations for those desperately searching for safety and the American promise of the "Blessings of Liberty." But they are not alone. The legal community has responded with their strong commitment to uphold the rule of law and safeguard the legal rights of these individuals.

The 2020 Beacon of Justice Award will recognize and honor law firms with pro bono programs serving vulnerable people fleeing to the U.S. border. These programs are both diverse and many, and they range from helping pro se individuals better represent themselves to providing direct legal representation for the individuals and families in family separation, detention, and immigration proceedings.

Application Summary

1. In 800 words or less, describe how the law firm's pro bono program has expanded opportunity for low-income and vulnerable individuals or families seeking asylum or to immigrate to the United States. Specifics about the people helped, including details on needs identified/met, as well as scope of assistance ought to be included.
2. Attach additional articles or materials (no more than 3) that illustrate the work described in the narrative summary.
3. Provide the main contact person(s) in your organization whom we may contact should any questions arise.
4. Identify the number of attorneys and paralegals in your firm, the total number of pro bono hours your firm provided between January 1 and December 31, 2019, and the total number of pro bono hours that were devoted to representing immigration and asylum related work between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Where applicable, please describe the type of activity and the number of hours non-legal professionals who also volunteered for this pro bono legal program.

For more details on the event and to access an application please visit <http://www.nlada.org/donate/annual-dinner>. Recipients will be notified directly in early April 2020, and the award will be presented on June 9, 2020 in Washington, DC during NLADA's Annual Exemplar Award Dinner. Please contact Chelsey Gibson at c.gibson@nlada.org or 202-452-0620, ext. 259 with any questions.

