

Las Americas Pro-Bono Attorney FAQ

- 1. What is the Puentes Libres Project? Find out more at Hispanic Federation.
- Where is Las Americas located? Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center is located in El Paso, Texas, less than two miles from the international border and the Paso del Norte port of entry. Our office is located at 1500 E. Yandell Dr., El Paso, TX 79902.
- 3. *What services does Las Americas provide?* Las Americas provides free and low-cost immigration services ranging from deportation defense and detained asylum work to humanitarian affirmative immigration work and family-based petitions.
- 4. *Do I have to be an immigration attorney to volunteer?* No, however, prior immigration experience is preferred.
- 5. *If I'm not an immigration attorney, will Las Americas provide training and support?* Yes, we are developing webinars. For the time being Staff Attorney, Nico Palazzo, will offer a PowerPoint presentation on Zoom.
- 6. *Will I need to travel to El Paso for court appearances?* Master Calendar hearings can be done telephonically. However, pro-bono attorneys have to travel to El Paso, TX for the individual hearing.
- 7. *Am I required to be licensed to practice law in Texas?* No but you have to have active registration in any state bar.
- 8. *What level of fluency in Spanish is required?* Volunteer attorneys must be fully bilingual in Spanish and English. Volunteer attorneys must be able to write and speak proficiently in both English and Spanish.
- 9. *How will I receive a referral if a case is assigned to me?* It will be emailed to the attorney with the MOU to sign and client file. Eventually we will create a system using Box to upload the documents securely.
- 10. *How many clients will I be asked to represent?* You will be referred to no more than one client at a time. You will be asked to provide full representation for that client.
- 11. *What expenses are involved and will I be responsible for those expenses?* Just travel and housing. If you are an immigration attorney who needs help covering such costs, please



write to Diana at <u>volunteersinfo@las-americas.org</u> for information on how to apply to the Project Corazon - Lawyers for Good Government Travel Fund.

11. I have more questions! Please email volunteersinfo@las-americas.org with any questions.