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(Pwd: **GA-AL-M3MB3R5!**)

February 2, 2018 Chapter Newsletter

Chapter Needs

A Time to Care

We've had two tragedies befall members in recent weeks. Please send good vibes, love, prayers, thoughts, or whatever you're inclined to do to help our members in their intense times of need. I've spoken with Arturo and Romy and they have given me permission to share the following:

Arturo Corso: Arturo's teenage son, Xander, passed away on January 21st. His beautiful obituary can be found [online](#), along with a place to [donate to a fund](#) to support "futurey written renaissance scholars" through the North Georgia Community Foundation.

Liliana Loftman and Romy Kapoor: Liliana was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in February 2016. Over the last several months, Liliana's condition has deteriorated rapidly and she requires around-the-clock care. The family has established a GoFundMe page to help with the high costs of financing home health care, quality of life treatments and other items not covered by insurance. Read their story and donate [here](#).

This is a good time to remind ourselves to take a moment to breathe, appreciate our friends and family, and to reach out to each other for support whenever needed.

11th Circuit Newsletter Group Seeks Volunteer

A volunteer is needed to assist with preparing summaries of a small number of 11th Circuit cases to be included in the the bi-monthly newsletter of BIA cases, OCAHO cases, and immigration - related cases from the 11th Circuit and U.S. District Courts in Georgia, Alabama and Florida. That newsletter is currently prepared and edited by several volunteers from the GA-AL, Central Florida, and South Florida AILA Chapters.

Marshall Cohen and Roberta Cooper share the 11th Circuit cases, but a third volunteer is needed for these cases. The volunteer would commit to preparing summaries for

approximately 5 - 10 cases, and the time required would be approximately 1 - 2 hours every two months.

Please contact Marshall Cohen at cohen@antoniniandcohen.com if interested.

Website Coordinator Needed

Our chapter website needs someone to help with keeping content fresh and with getting information up in a timely matter. If you have experience with WordPress and would like to help put up minutes, job announcements, newsletters, etc., please contact our First Vice Chair, Eli A. Echols at first.vice.chair@ga-al.com.

Chapter Events

2018 Georgia-Alabama Chapter Conference February 23 -24

The speakers have confirmed, dinners are being planned, and the Conference Planning Committee is looking forward to welcoming you to the Georgian Terrace later this month!

View the [Program](#)

Dates: February 23-24, 2018

- Attorney, AILA Member: \$400.00
- Attorney, Non-AILA Member: \$500.00
- Non-Profit Employee: \$200.00
- Paralegal: \$275.00
- Law Student (must have prior approval): \$100.00

[Register online](#)

The deadline to receive a special room rate (\$179.00/night) at The Georgian Terrace has officially passed, but there may still be a few rooms available. It never hurts to ask!

How to Represent Minors Before the Atlanta Immigration Court / Training for the Attorney of the Day Program Rescheduled to February 6th

When: February 6, 2018

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: State Bar of Georgia - [104 Marietta St NW #100, Atlanta, GA 30303](#)

Sponsored by: GA-AL AILA Chapter Pro Bono Committee and KIND- Kids in Need of Defense

[Register online](#)

AILA's mission behind the Attorney of the Day (AOTD) program is to provide pro se respondents in removal proceedings on the UAC docket with legal assistance. This will further the court's and AILA's mission of ensuring fair adjudication because respondents who are informed of their legal options will be better equipped to pursue them. It will also reduce the time burden that pro se respondents place on the court. Respondents who are informed that they may have relief available will be motivated to seek counsel, and even those who do not have relief available will better understand their legal situation.

If you signed up for the January 18th date, paid for CLE, and cannot make the February 6th date, please contact Killa Marti, Esq., Pro Bono Committee Chair, at killa@solanofirm.com

Save the Dates - Advocacy Days

Please save the date for these lobby days: Feb. 27th and March 20th, 9 am-noon at the Georgia Capitol.

These lobby days are co-sponsored by Project South, GLAHR, Women Watch Afrika, BAJI, and the Georgia-Alabama AILA Chapter.

Other Local Events

Call for Volunteers: Family Preparedness Clinics February 18th and February 25th

To empower families, a team of advocates created the [Georgia Immigrant Family Preparedness Guide](#), which outlines steps families may take to ensure children's wellbeing in the event a caregiver is detained. Now the team is hosting a series of Family Preparedness Clinics. At the clinics, volunteer attorneys assist parents and guardians in obtaining travel documents for children and completing certain legal documents, including school affidavits, power of attorney, and declarations. Please see the attached flyer to share with anyone who may benefit by attending.

Opportunity #1:

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta will be hosting a clinic for the Cambodian community at the Angkor Resource Center in Riverdale on February 18. Registration to volunteer for this clinic is [here](#). Details are below:

February 18, 2018 Immigrant Family Preparedness Clinic
Angkor Resource Center
640 Hwy 138 SW, Riverdale GA 30296
Sunday, February 18, 2018
Time: TBD

They will also be hosting clinics for the Vietnamese community in February or March. If you are interested in assisting in one of those clinics, please contact Amy Mei Willis at awillis@advancingjustice-atlanta.org or 404-890-5655.

Opportunity #2:

There will also be a clinic on February 25 at St. Edward's Episcopal Church in Lawrenceville. The information for that session is below. Registration is [here](#). Volunteer attorneys specializing in immigration or family law are in special demand for both clinics.

February 25, 2018 Immigrant Family Preparedness Clinic

St. Edward's Episcopal Church

737 Moon Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Sunday, February 25, 2018

1:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Hosted by Alston & Bird, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Kids in Need of Defense, and Southern Poverty Law Center

If you have any questions about the February 25th clinic, you can contact Carmen Martinez at Carmen.Martinez@splcenter.org or Tori Guy at Tori.Guy@splcenter.org.

Advocacy Workshop February 4, 2018

The New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta and Tzedek Georgia, A Reform Jewish Group are hosting an open to the public event about how to Influence Your Legislators. See attached flyer for more information.

Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Columbia Presbyterian Church, 711 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA

2018 Asian American Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day February 22, 2018

Join Asian Americans Advancing Justice for their Seventh Annual Asian American Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day on Thursday, February 22nd in the Georgia State Capitol located in downtown Atlanta. Our Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day is designed to be a relationship-building opportunity among Asian American leaders, Georgia elected officials and other policy makers. The event draws the largest number of Asian American business and community leaders to the Georgia Capitol each year, typically bringing together over 300 guests.

This year's event will start with coffee and refreshments as well as a formal program at the Floyd Room at the James H Floyd Building from 7:30AM - 9:00AM, followed by an opportunity to lobby elected officials on important issues in the legislature. Guests will be invited to join the group back in the Floyd Room for a lunch and keynote address (TBD).

For any questions, please contact Berenice Rodriguez at:
Berenice@advancingjustice-atlanta.org.

To purchase tickets or sponsorships <https://2018legbreakfast.eventbrite.com>

Go Formal for Freedom to Support GAIN March 23, 2018

The Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN) is pleased to invite you to their annual Go Formal For Freedom on March 23, 2018 at the Intercontinental Buckhead. Several people will be recognized for their pro bono work for asylum seekers and for victims of violence, including the Honorable Beverly Baldwin Martin of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Tickets and information on the event are [online](#) or see the attached flyer.

Immigration Agency News and Developments

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ICE Detainee Dies

Yulio Castro-Garrido, 33, died of pneumonia on January 30th. He had been detained at the Stewart Detention Center and was transferred to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. This is the second detainee to die in ICE custody in FY2018. If anyone has information about Mr. Castro-Garrido and his death, please contact Azadeh Shahshahani at Azadeh@projectsouth.org.

USCIS to Take Action to Address Asylum Backlog Agency Will Focus on Processing Recently Filed Applications

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that the agency will schedule asylum interviews for recent applications ahead of older filings, in an attempt to stem the growth of the agency's asylum backlog.

USCIS is responsible for overseeing the nation's legal immigration system, which includes adjudicating asylum claims. The agency currently faces a crisis-level backlog of 311,000 pending asylum cases as of Jan. 21, 2018, making the asylum system increasingly vulnerable to fraud and abuse. This backlog has grown by more than 1750 percent over the last five years, and the rate of new asylum applications has more than tripled.

To address this problem, USCIS will follow these priorities when scheduling affirmative asylum interviews:

1. Applications that were scheduled for an interview, but the interview had to be rescheduled at the applicant's request or the needs of USCIS;
2. Applications pending 21 days or less since filing; and

3. All other pending applications, starting with newer filings and working back toward older filings.

Additionally, the Affirmative Asylum Bulletin issued by USCIS has been discontinued.

For details on how we will schedule interviews, go to our [Affirmative Asylum Interview Scheduling](#) page.

ICE Announces Formalized Courthouse Arrests Policy

I haven't seen a copy of this policy, but news outlets are reporting that "The two-page directive from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it will enter courthouses only for specific targets, such as convicted criminals, gang members, public safety threats and immigrants who have been previously deported or ordered to leave. "

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/ice-formalizes-plans-courthouse-arrests-004759005.html>

Arrests at I-130 Interviews

Thank you to Joy Smith and Beryl Berquist in sharing their stories at USCIS yesterday. We don't need a [news story](#) to tell us this is happening. In prior USCIS HQ engagements, AILA was told that USCIS never stopped contacting ICE when someone with a prior order appeared - it was just that ICE decided that those cases were not priorities. In this age of "everyone is a priority" those USCIS calls have started to lead to increased apprehension. We will be discussing this at our February USCIS/AILA liaison meeting.

AILA National News and Events

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Immigration Justice Campaign Seeks Volunteers and Mentors

The Immigration Justice Campaign is a joint initiative of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the American Immigration Council. Its mission is to fight for due process and justice for detained noncitizens by fortifying the army of lawyers across the country who are ready and able to vigorously defend their rights in court. To learn more, visit www.aila.org/justice.

The Campaign will also partner with local nonprofit organizations to expand your opportunities to take your fearless lawyering to the next level and volunteer to represent immigrants detained in places like Texas, Colorado, Ohio and Georgia - or to mentor newer volunteers. Together, we will strengthen the army of lawyers needed to advocate for detained immigrants.

Training opportunities include:

- An on-demand [bond hearing webinar](#) (free)

- Upcoming CLEs in partnership with the [AILA South Florida Chapter](#) (\$229) on March 24, 2018, in Miami, FL, and the National Immigration Project (TBD) on April 12, 2018, in Washington, DC, and via webcast
- A [three-part fearless lawyering video series](#) featuring retired immigration judges (free)

Learn more and volunteer [online](#).

Questions? Contact Justice Campaign Director Karen Lucas at klucas@immcouncil.org.

AILA Spring Conference - Registration Open April 13, 2018 in Washington, DC

Key Updates On:

- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Executive Office for Immigration Review
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Creative Solutions for Your Clients in this Challenging Environment
- NEW Format! Conversations with the Agencies
- Earn up to 10 CLE Credits

With the upheaval wrought in the first year of the Trump administration, you'll want to make sure that you're up to date on all the latest proposed policy changes. Join us on Friday, April 13, for the [2018 AILA Spring CLE Conference](#), where you'll get updates from AILA liaison committee members and the government leaders who implement and shape American immigration policy. New for this year, you'll have the opportunity to hear what each agency's priorities are for the year ahead in our "Conversation with the Agencies," where government officials will describe their outlooks for the year. Get the critical information you need in order to effectively help your clients in the next year and beyond!

See the [complete conference program](#), and register today!

Job Scene

- From Jessica Stern - Stern Law is seeking a Senior Associate to join our crImmigration firm. Please see the attached job description.
 - In the meantime, we're building a solid core network of experienced attorneys who have mastered their craft (in one or more of the following areas: criminal trial work, post-conviction appeals, mitigation, immigration removal defense, BIA/11th circuit immigration appeals) to join forces on a contract basis.

- The Latin American Association Seeks a Defense Attorney
 - Summary: The attorney is responsible for interviewing and screening non-detained clients in removal proceedings, assessing eligibility for relief from removal, and representing clients before the Executive Office of Immigration Review. Please see attached for full job description and contact information.
- Rachel Effron Sharma seeks immigration paralegal.
 - Areas of focus: family immigration, asylum law, business immigration, U visas, and some court cases. Positive work environment, the ability to grow your knowledge, and a meaningful job helping people who need it. We are busy, and we have the best clients. Email resume/ cover letter to rachel@easyvisa.us
 - Qualifications /requirements:
 - Experience working in a law office, prefer past immigration law experience, but not required
 - Good customer service skills, likes immigrants, and likes helping people
 - Very attentive to detail, can self-manage his or her tasks, and likes to learn new things
 - Excellent computer skills
 - Great writing skills
 - Spanish proficiency is preferred, but not required
 - Availability full time during regular business hours
- Rahim Dhanani is seeking a paralegal. Please see attached.
- The Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN) is seeking a Full-Time Victims of Violence Navigator. See attached job description or review [online](#).

Contact Us

- Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/ailagaal/>
- Tweet with us! <https://twitter.com/@ailagaal>
- Chapter Website: www.ga-al.com
 - Password for AILA Members Only Page: GA-AL-M3MB3R5!
- Chapter Yahoo Group: As chapter members, you get to use it. Send anyone on the Executive Committee an email if you want in on the action - the ability to post responsibly and search older threads.



Tracie L. Klinke
Chair

[Georgia Alabama Chapter](#)
[American Immigration Lawyers](#)
[Association](#)