



June 26, 2017 Chapter Newsletter

Latest Chapter News

AC 2017 Wrap-Up

We had over 70 people attend the GA-AL luncheon on June 22nd in New Orleans. It was great to catch-up with everyone!

Several chapter members presented at the Annual Conference, including Kristin Aquino-Pham, Clayton Cartwright, Aimee Clark, Chuck Kuck, Hiba Ghalib, Elizabeth Garvish, Janora Hawkins, Mark Johnson, Tracie Klinke, Kevin Miner, Jay Ruby, Sonal Shah, Natasha Snow and Scott Titshaw.



Congratulations to Sarah Owings!



Immediate Past Chair, Sarah Owings, became an elected member of the AILA Board of Governors and began her three-year term on June 22nd. She was also awarded with the AILA Advocacy Award and received a Presidential Commendation for bringing awareness and action to the hostile court situation in Georgia and for mobilizing our chapter during the travel ban.

Board of Governors Meeting

Much of the discussion focused on moving AC18 from Grapevine, Texas to San Francisco. Since AILA is still in negotiations, we don't have detailed information to share regarding the finances of the change in venue.

We also discussed how to move forward with liaison work in this new day of agency silence and whether or not AILA should advocate for funding for more immigration judges (to alleviate the backlog). In the end, the consensus was to work hard to facilitate conversation with local liaisons and not to push for increased funding for IJs.

Government News

Atlanta Immigration Court Update

Thank you to Michael Urbina, EOIR Committee Chair, for getting the following information to us (a summary was provided at the June 16th Annual Meeting), but get everyone on the same page with what we know so far:

- New court opens on August 14th (anticipated)
- Located at 401 West Peachtree Street NW on the 26th floor (Summit Building)
- The building is attached to the Civic Center Marta Station and parking is extremely limited
- There will be one metal-detector for the building
- IJs at the new building -
 - Baird
 - Triggermann
 - TBD new IJ
- IJs at 180 Ted Turner -
 - Cassidy
 - Houser
 - Kris - courtroom 4
 - Pelletier
 - Wilson
- The docket distribution will be as follows -
 - Wilson, Cassidy and Pelletier will be the detained judges
 - Houser will finish out the juveniles he has now and initial masters for juveniles throughout 2017
 - Triggerman will take all 2018 juvenile initial masters and all future juvenile
 - Baird, Kris and new IJ will be doing non-detained
 - Houser will remain doing non-detained after he gets done with his juveniles
- Staffing Issues
 - There will be 5 EOIR staff at new office
 - OCC will eventually have an office at new building but there construction is delayed. We are working on getting a filing box at the new building.
- Filings
 - If the IJ is at the new location, you must file there
 - All NTAs will be filed at 180 and split
 - If you have a case that is off-docket, you will need to file at 180
- Times
 - The IJs at new location start at the same time as 180
 - If you have hearings in both at the same time, you will need to file a motion to continue, or whatever you deem appropriate

USCIS Updates

The Montgomery USCIS Field Office held their grand opening to the public on June 14th. Chapter member Zainab Alwan was present and provided us with these notes:

- The office is open and adjudicating cases
- Infopasses are available but are only scheduled every two weeks
- Most of the officers are from out of state
- Most officers are veterans
- The office plans to naturalize 4,000-5,000 people this year
- The office is pretty accessible with ample parking-it is about 1.5 hours from Birmingham and 3 hours from Atlanta
- The Field Office Director is Nicholas Bartell

Our chapter is putting together a Montgomery USCIS Subcommittee liaison group and looks forward to engaging with Director Bartell and his team.

Upcoming Events

- June 29 CLE by Project South
 - “How to Effectively Use the International Human Rights Framework in Your Litigation and Advocacy”
 - Register at:
https://join-southernmovement.nationbuilder.com/legal_education_human_rights
- July 13 CLE by Project South
 - Overview of the findings of their report focused on conditions at Stewart and Irwin. The program is free and lunch will be provided in addition to copies of the report.
 - Register at:
https://join-southernmovement.nationbuilder.com/imprisoned_justice

Ongoing Chapter Activities

- Let Center of Excellence observe your individual hearings
 - If you have an upcoming asylum case and would be so kind as to let CoE volunteers observe, please email ariel@innovationlawlab.org with dates and times.
- Raid Updates
 - If you want to be added to the Crimmigration listserv that is our effort in conjunction with GACDL, email Latrice Latin llatin@latinlawimm.com.
- CFI/RFI help needed at Stewart Detention Center
 - Contact Amir Naim to volunteer –anaim@georgiaasylum.org. you do not need to go in person and can participate by telephone.

Contact Us

- Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/ailagaal/>
- Chapter Website: www.ga-al.com
- Chapter Yahoo Group: In case you didn't, 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.

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Georgia | Alabama Chapter
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