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

December 29, 2017 Chapter Newsletter

Chapter News

Win a Conference Registration - Tell Us How We're Doing

Time to get out your red pen and grade your Executive Committee! We want to hear if your needs are being met, ideas you have for events or CLEs - all with the hope of serving you better in the start of 2018.

If you complete [our short survey](#) by December 31, 2017 and provide us your AILA number, you'll be entered to win a Chapter Conference registration (valued at \$400). We can't wait to hear from you!

Invitation to Meet with the Director of the National Visa Center

Conn Schrader, Director of the NVC, will be in Atlanta on Friday, January 26th. NVC staff will brief our membership and local community organizations updates to their systems and processes and provide helpful tips. You must RSVP by January 20th to attend. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Date: Friday, January 26th

Time: 8:00am - 9:30am

Location: USCIS Atlanta Field Office - 2150 Parklake Drive, Atlanta, GA 30345

RSVP To: rsvptonvc@state.gov

Chapter Events

**Register for the 2018 Georgia-Alabama Conference - Early Bird Rates End
January 5th!**

Believe it or not, the early bird rate is fast approaching for our 2018 Chapter Conference. Register by January 5th to save \$100.

[Register online](#)

View the [Program](#)

Dates: February 23-24, 2018

- Attorney, AILA Member (Early Bird): \$350.00 - ACT FAST!
- Attorney, Non-AILA Member: \$500.00
- Non-Profit Employee: \$275.00
- Paralegal: \$100.00
- Law Student (must have prior approval): \$50.00

Information about reserving a room at [The Georgian Terrace](#) is also on our website. We have secured a special rate of \$179.00 per night during the conference.

Meditation Instruction with the Wellness Committee January 3rd

The Wellness Committee invites our members to attend an evening of instruction in meditation followed by a talk on the how, why and value of mindfulness in relieving stress and living well. The session will be led by Venerable Nicolas, a learned Buddhist monk who regularly presents on this topic worldwide to varying audiences.

Attendees are requested to make a \$5 contribution at the time of the meeting.

Date: January 3, 2018

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Georgia Meditation Center, [4522 Tilly Mill Rd, Atlanta, GA 30360](#).

No registration needed.

Start 2018 With All You Need to Know About Crimmigration! January 4th

There will be a CLE focusing on the intersection of criminal law and immigration the morning of January 4th as part of the State Bar's Mid-Year Meeting. You can register for the CLE here: <http://www.georgiabar.org/MeetingsInitialBarNumber.ASP>.

Pre-registration has already closed, but you can register in-person on the day of (subject to space availability).

Attached is information on the sessions and speakers.

Advanced Asylum Training on Particular Social Groups January 11th

Join AILA, GAIN and KIND to gain a deeper understanding of asylum law to protect vulnerable populations. The training will focus on crafting cognizable particular social groups and a mock asylum merits hearing. We will discuss representing unaccompanied minors at their merits hearings. See the attached flyer for more information.

Date: January 11, 2018

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Troutman Sanders, [600 Peachtree Street, Suite 5200, Atlanta, GA 30308](#)

RSVP to: mrodriguez@supportkind.org

Federal Litigation Workshop January 12th

Come learn from a local legend in creative litigation, Peter Hill. He will walk us through the various remedies available in federal court and offer his own war stories to illustrate creative applications of these remedies in the fight for our clients against the overwhelming power of DHS and DOJ. We will end the meeting with a brainstorming session on how this chapter can better serve chapter members to improve the federal litigation here in Atlanta.

Date: January 12, 2018

Time: Noon

Location: Northlake Thai, 3939 Lavista Road, Suite A, Tucker, GA 30084

[Register online](#)

How to Represent Minors Before the Atlanta Immigration Court / Training for the Attorney of the Day Program January 18th

When: January 18, 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.

For more information on the AOTD Program or this training opportunity, please contact: Killa Marti, Esq., Pro Bono Committee Chair, at killam@solanofirm.com

Getting Those Clients – Presented by New Members Division January 18th

Learn how to market yourself to build your book of business. Lawyers for Equal Justice Works Executive Director, Stephanie Everett will provide a presentation specifically focused on essential marketing tools for solo practitioners.

Date: January 18th

Time: 6:30pm- 8:00pm

Cost: \$18 (for dinner),

Location: Troutman Sanders, [600 Peachtree Street, Suite 5200, Atlanta, GA 30308](#)

[Register online](#)

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 Immigration News and Events

Pro Bono Assistance Needed for Iraqis Detained in Etowah

You may be aware that several hundred Iraqi nationals subject to prior orders of removal were arrested and detained by ICE this past summer. This came about after Iraq agreed for the first time in decades to accept repatriation of many of its nationals, in exchange for being left out of the second Executive Order/Travel Ban.

The district court's stay on removals is for 90 days from the date that the government produced the A files and ROPs to the detainees. That date was 11/27 for most of the class. That means that the motion to reopen has to be filed by 2/25/18 or thereabouts. The 90-day clock is ticking, and that makes finding counsel urgent—particularly in light of the upcoming holiday break. The good news is that all but one of the Etowah detainees signed designations that permit the Hamama team to get copies of their files, so attorneys who take those cases can hit the ground running. Preparing a motion to reopen before the stay expires is definitely do-able, but the sooner we find counsel the better.

If you are interested and available, please contact Linda Goldberg at loehlergoldberg@gmail.com / 734-945-9768.

Pro Bono Assistance Needed for Detained Vietnamese

A large number of Vietnamese people with final orders of removal who were recently re-detained pending an apparent change in Vietnam's repatriation policy. An ad hoc group of lawyers and advocates have completed a number of screenings, and now we are working to try to place cases with pro bono lawyers who can handle motions to reopen. Currently, the vast majority of these individuals don't have attorneys. Initially, most folks were detained at Stewart, but some have gotten moved to Folkston, Texas, or back to California.

If you are interested and available, please contact Phi Nguyen, Litigation Director with Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta, at pnguyen@advancingjustice-atlanta.org or 770-818-6147.

Job Scene

- Smith, Gambrell & Russell is seeking a business immigration paralegal. Please see attached.
- Alexander D. Silpa, who recently passed the Georgia Bar, is looking for an entry position at a local immigration law firm.

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