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The Pro Bono Collaborative Project Spotlight 09-06-2017

Roger Williams University School of Law

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September 6, 2017



Project Spotlight

The Pro Bono Collaborative periodically spotlights one project or issue as a way to keep our volunteers and supporters aware of and engaged in PBC projects and local access to justice initiatives.



Family Preparedness Planning training for attorneys and community liaisons at Central Falls Middle School. From left to right: Eliza Vorenberg, Director, PBC; Suzanne Harrington-Steppen, Associate Director of Pro Bono Programs, RWU Law; Learning Community student; Patricia Martinez, Exec. Director, Family Supports and Student Support, Central Falls School District; Deborah Gonzalez, Director, Immigration Clinic, RWU Law; Maria Duque, Administrative Manager, The Learning Community; and Victor Capellan, Central Falls Superintendent of Schools.

The Immigrant Family Preparedness Planning Project

Who will care for my children if I am detained or deported?

In response to the new Administration's executive orders, we have been working hard

to help prepare immigrant parents of minor children for the possibility of detention or deportation by assisting them in completing the necessary legal forms to insure that, if they are detained or deported, their children will be cared for by the adult of their choice during their absence.

The project trains pro bono attorneys and law students to work directly with immigrant families who are at risk of being separated from their minor children if they are detained or deported. At our Family Preparedness Planning events, attorneys and RWU Law students walk parents through the three critical legal documents needed to appoint a caregiver and provide that person with authority to make educational and medical decisions in the parents' absence. Notary Publics are on hand at every event to notarize the documents. In addition, parents are given a packet of best practices and information to gather in one place for their chosen caregiver.

Since May, we have held several trainings and Family Preparedness Planning events in Central Falls, Providence, and Newport.

We would love your help with this project. You can make a real difference by giving our immigrant neighbors some measure of security. Trainings are under 2 hours and Family Preparedness events are no more than 3 hours.

About the PBC

The PBC staff identifies and develops pro bono projects that appeal to transactional and business attorneys, facilitates ongoing pro bono projects and works to increase access to justice. The PBC is not a referral program, but instead matches law firms with community organizations to provide pro bono legal assistance in a specific area of law. [Read more about the PBC...](#)

If you are an attorney and would like to get involved in this or any other PBC project, we would love to hear from you.

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