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The Pro Bono Collaborative Project Spotlight 12-20-2017

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December 20, 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.



Pictured left to right: Krystle Tadesse, Esq. (Locke Lord LLP), Christina Canty (RWU Law 3L), Cecily Zeigler, Esq. (Dorcas International Institute of RI), Meredith Renner, Esq. (Locke Lord LLP) and Arjun Vedmurthy (RWU Law 2L) not pictured Matthew Murphy, Esq. (Locke Lord LLP)

Helping Local Immigrant Families Remain Together: The PBC's 601A Waiver Project with Locke Lord LLP and Dorcas International Institute of RI

If you're an immigrant married to a US citizen you may have a legal pathway to citizenship, but you'll need to leave the country for several months, returning to your home country to wait to process your visa application abroad. Fortunately, some families can obtain a special waiver (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Form I 601A waiver), allowing them to stay together during this process and avoiding the hardship of having the immigrant petitioner leave to process back in his or her home country.

Since September 2016, Locke Lord LLP has been providing pro bono representation

to low-income families who are eligible for 601A waivers. The project receives referrals from Dorcas International Institute of RI in Providence. A team of attorneys from Locke Lord LLP and RWU Law students provide full representation for individuals applying for a 601A waiver.

"I enjoy assisting individuals with their waiver cases because it brings some comfort in a situation that can seem complicated and discouraging. This experience has helped me to learn more about discretionary options when working on cases that involve adjudication by USCIS."

Christina Canty, RWU Law 2018

In addition to the 601A waiver cases, Locke Lord attorneys have provided pro bono representation to several victims of domestic abuse applying for U Visas. If you or your law firm would like to get involved in pro bono immigration work, please contact Suzanne Harrington-Steppen at sharrington-steppen@rwu.edu.

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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