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Newsroom: Arias '09 Aids NM Detainees

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Alumna Rose Elvira Arias '09 is featured in a front-page profile on her efforts to aid women driven by gender-based violence to cross the U.S. border with children in tow.

From the Providence Journal: "Providence lawyer aids detainees at N.M. ‘deportation mill’ targeted in lawsuit" by Karen Lee Ziner

Providing immigration lawyer Rosa Elvira Arias [RWU Law ‘09] interviewed told wrenching stories of gender-based violence — rape, gang-rape, kidnapping — that drove the women to flee their home countries and cross the U.S. border with children in tow.

Arias, of the law firm of Mills & Born, volunteered this month at the Artesia Family Residential Center, a remote New Mexico temporary detention facility that is the target of a lawsuit by four civil-rights organizations. The suit alleges that expedited “fast-track” deportations are denying the due-process rights of women and children seeking asylum in the United States. […]

Arias, 32, answered the American Immigration Lawyers Association’s call for volunteer attorneys to help detainees in Artesia, opened after a border influx peaked in June. She worked there from Sept. 3 through Sept. 8.
AILA organized the effort “after learning that many women and children at this detention center were being deprived of attorney representation and having their cases quickly denied by immigration officials and immigration judges,” Arias says. […]