Sanctuary for Families

LIST OF RESOURCES

The below represent some suggested places to start your research when representing an asylum seeker. **Please note that this is not intended as an exhaustive list of available resources. Please consult with your contact at Sanctuary for more information and guidance.**

Asylum Law and Procedure

1. Law of Asylum in the United States by Deborah Anker, Director of the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic, is a leading legal treatise with up-to-date analysis of various aspects of asylum law.

2. AILA'S Asylum Primer: A Practical Guide to U.S. Asylum Law and Procedure, authored by Regina Germain and published by the American Immigration Lawyers Association, is a thorough guidebook on asylum practice.

3. The United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) publishes a range of advisories and opinions on the adjudication of asylum claims worldwide. As this is the body tasked with enforcing the provisions of the Refugee Convention and Protocol, its guidance is often cited in legal briefs to adjudicators at all levels. You may wish to access its legal publications, available at http://www.unhcr.org.

3. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) publishes guidance in the form of memoranda and training manuals for its asylum adjudicators which can be very helpful in understanding law, procedure, and policy, and can be referenced when arguing your client's claim. You may wish to access these materials and others at http://www.uscis.gov.

4. The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), part of the Department of Justice, is responsible for adjudication of immigration cases in removal proceedings before the Immigration Court and under appellate review before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). The EOIR publishes an Immigration Court Practice Manual, which you must consult as soon as you are representing someone in removal proceedings. A separate manual exists for cases that are before the BIA. Both can be found at http://www.justice.gov/eoir.

5. The nonprofit ProBono.Net maintains a web-based clearinghouse of asylum samples and guidance at http://www.probono.net/.

Finding a Medical or Psychological Evaluator

6. The Mount Sinai Human Rights Program, directed by Dr. Holly Atkinson, provides pro bono medical and psychological evaluations for asylum seekers:https://mountsinaihumanrights.com/human-rights-clinic.

7. HealthRight International maintains a Human Rights Clinic program which provides asylum seekers and their attorneys with referrals to medical professionals: https://healthright.org/what-we-do/resources/information-for-attorneys.

8. The Asylum Program at Physicians for Human Rights provides asylum seekers and their attorneys with referrals to medical professionals: http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/asylum/for-attorneys.html.

Due to the number of requests received by these clinics, your client may be placed on a waitlist for an evaluation. Please check with your contact at Sanctuary for recommendations for other evaluators who may be able to assist in a time-sensitive case.

Researching Country Conditions Information and Finding an Expert

9. It is always wise to read about the country from which your client has fled persecution even before your first client meeting. You may start with the most up-to-date annual human rights reports of the U.S. Department of State. It is also important to be familiar with reports from other years that are relevant to your client's case and to submit them if they help substantiate the claim. Access annual human rights reports reports via http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/.

10. Consult publications and experts at Amnesty International via www.amnesty.org.

11. Consult publications and experts at Human Rights Watch via www.hrw.org.

12. Consult other international and local human rights organizations with relevant experience and expertise. Be broad and creative in your research, but be sure to keep your submissions to adjudicators relevant.

13. International governmental organizations and agencies such as the World Health Organization, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and others provide a wealth of information about conditions in other countries.

14. The Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at University of California, Hastings, maintains country conditions information relating to gender-based violence in most countries of the world. You can request research memoranda as well as referrals to experts by accessing their site at http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/.