



A Letter From Co-Executive Director Rebecca Lightsey

Like many of you, we are heartbroken over the tragic killings that occurred in Uvalde. We hope that this tragedy will be a wake up call for our government to address this senseless violence that continues to occur. There are ways that you all can get involved to help those in Uvalde and we wanted to share those with you all -

BLOOD DONATIONS

There is an immediate need for blood donations – Please donate blood if you are able.

University Health (19 locations) [SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT](#)

South Texas Blood & Tissue (5 locations) [SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT](#)

VOLUNTEER TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES

If you are able to volunteer from now through the month of JUNE, please provide your name, practice area and dates available to SA-LSA by emailing: UvaldeResponse@sa-lsa.org.

There are victim service agencies on-site in Uvalde and SA-LSA will coordinate with them as the families become ready to address the legal issues around this tragic loss.

As we mentioned last month, we are so grateful for all the community support we receive here at American Gateways. A couple of weeks ago, we had a very successful Citizenship Clinic in San Antonio (see the story below), with the help of dozens of pro bono attorneys and volunteers.

Now, with summer here, we are delighted to welcome several summer interns, both undergraduates and law students. We have law students from the Univ. of Texas, Baylor, St. Mary's and McGregor School of Law, as well as undergraduate interns. These committed, motivated students do so much to help us and our community. It is great to have such support.

We are also grateful for the support we get from our legal community, including State Bar partners. In addition to all our pro bono support, the Corporate Council Section of the Bar supported our Citizenship Clinic and the Litigation Section of the Bar is supporting a summer law intern.

Next month is Immigrant Heritage Month, and a time to celebrate at American Gateways. Please join us on June 3rd, for our [June Fiesta](#) at Esquina Tango in Austin to celebrate the immigrant community with our volunteers, contributors, and community. We hope you all will be able to join us.

American Gateways Helps 97 Legal Permanent Residents Apply for Citizenship

The San Antonio office hosted a very successful in-person naturalization clinic on May 7th. With the help of 40 attorney and non-attorney volunteers, 6 community outreach tables, including USCIS, American Gateways helped 97 individuals fill out their naturalization application. Now, they must wait for an interview date and pass their citizenship test, before finally becoming a US citizen. Many individuals at the clinic responded that they sought citizenship for better job opportunities and the right to vote!



What do Immigration Hearings Look Like in 2022?

Ever since COVID entered our lives in March 2020, immigration court has moved most of its hearings over Zoom. Our staff have continued to be flexible with the ever-changing landscape. Two weeks ago, American Gateways attorneys Meri Soniat du Fossat and Annabel Watson represented a client before a San Antonio immigration judge over Zoom in our Austin office. Because of their hard work and dedication, their client was granted asylum - after waiting seven long years for a hearing. Congrats Meri and Annabel!



In Case You Missed It

Last month Co-Executive Director Edna Yang was quoted in The New York Times on Governor Abbott's plan to overturn a Supreme Court Ruling that requires public schools to educate undocumented children. If you have a New York Times subscription and would like to read the article, check it out [here](#), or look to your inbox for the full article we shared two weeks ago.



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