



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2022

A Letter from Co-Executive Director Edna Yang

It's hard to believe that it's already August. We hope that you all have enjoyed the summer and have managed to stay cool in this heat. Last month we shared the work we have been doing with the survivors of the trailer tragedy in San Antonio. As we continue to represent and support those survivors, I wanted to share [this article](#) that explains the lethal impact of our federal government's inaction in immigration reform and Texas' targeted attacks on immigrants seeking safety. Until we have comprehensive reform, we will continue to see such tragedies occur.

We have been busier than ever these past few months responding to the ever changing needs of the community. We continue to serve the hundreds of Afghan families who have relocated to central Texas with their asylum applications with the amazing support of our pro bono volunteers. A recent case victory: an Afghan asylum-seeker whom we assisted at our legal clinic in March won his asylum case last month!

On August 27th, we will hold an in-person clinic in Austin to assist individuals from Cameroon apply for temporary protected status; and on September 17th,

we will hold a naturalization clinic in San Antonio to help long-term residents apply for their US citizenship. If you are an attorney or a translator who speaks French, Dari or Pashto and are interested in volunteering at either of these clinics, please reach out to us [here](#). We are always so grateful for the generous support of our volunteers.

Mark your calendars - on October 6th, we will hold our in-person Immigrant Justice Luncheon in Austin, to celebrate our work and the communities we serve! We hope you will consider joining us - more information to come soon. As always, thanks for your continued commitment to immigrant justice!



Congratulations to Maddy Dwertman, recipient of ABA Pro Bono Publico Award

Maddy Dwertman, senior associate at Baker Botts LLP and AG board member, was recognized by the American Bar Association for their outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for low-income and disadvantaged persons. In the past 2½ years alone, Maddy has donated more than 865 pro bono hours to support American Gateways, 320 of them during the pandemic year of 2021! Thank you, Maddy, for your stellar leadership, drive, and commitment to supporting access to justice for immigrants in Central Texas. [Learn more about Maddy's pro bono work here.](#)

Pictured below: Maddy Dwertman, center, with ABA leadership.



Work permits granted after 5 long years!

Waco office Director, Anali Loooper, with two grateful clients who received their work permits after an arduous five year waiting period. They chose to share their photos to encourage others that all will work out, even after a long wait. Felicidades!

