ABA/KIND NATIONAL CONFERENCE on Representation and Advocacy for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2017
South Texas College of Law Houston
1303 San Jacinto Street • Houston, Texas

AGENDA & PROGRAM

The ABA Working Group on Unaccompanied Minor Immigrants and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
Table of Contents

Welcome.................................................... 1
Floor Plans.................................................. 2
Opening Plenary Speakers............ 4–5
Agenda at a Glance ......................... 6–7

ABA/KIND
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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Yasmin Yavar
Children’s Immigration Law Academy

[Image - Drawing by KIND client in Seattle depicting his journey to the U.S. alone.]
Thank you for attending the ABA/KIND National Conference on Representation and Advocacy for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children. This important conference has been made possible by the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The last national conference to focus on the immigration legal needs of unaccompanied children took place in 2008. Over the past decade, the network of legal service providers serving unaccompanied children has expanded greatly. Today’s conference brings together talented and committed practitioners from across the country to share best practices and strategies for serving unaccompanied immigrant children. Conference sessions will explore common legal issues in child asylum, trafficking, and Special Immigrant Juvenile cases, as well as the larger social service and policy spheres that touch our work. We encourage you to delve deeper into your own areas of practice this week while also reaching beyond to explore sessions on new and different topics.

With immigration now at the forefront of national policy debates, our work has never been more urgent. We hope this conference supports and inspires you in your work to secure justice and protection for unaccompanied children and allows you to expand your network of new and experienced practitioners. We are excited and proud to be part of this vibrant community, and we look forward to learning from and with you this week and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Podkul
Betty Balli Torres
Cory Shindel
Meredith Linsky
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW HOUSTON
FLOOR PLANS

1ST FLOOR

GARRETT-TOWNES AUDITORIUM

3RD FLOOR

CLASSROOM 314
CLASSROOM 316
CLASSROOM 317

6TH FLOOR

ELEVATORS

Painting by a KIND client living in Maryland.
NETWORKING RECEPTION

Please join us for a networking reception to kick off the conference!

**Wednesday, September 13th**
**6:00–8:00 p.m.**
Vinson & Elkins LLP
1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2500
Houston, Texas

*Many thanks to Vinson & Elkins LLP for their generous sponsorship of the conference reception.*

COMMUNITY DINNER

Please join us in celebrating our community at a Mexican dinner on Thursday evening. We hope you’ll join us for delicious food, music, and dancing! This event is limited to those who previously registered.

**Thursday, September 14th**
**6:00–8:00 pm**
El Tiempo Cantina
322 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas
Cesar Vargas, Featured Speaker
President, Dream Action Coalition
New York’s first openly undocumented attorney

Cesar Vargas was the National Latino Outreach strategist for the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign and is a nationally recognized leader and innovator at the forefront of the fight for immigration reform and the DREAM Act. He has been recognized by Huffington Post’s 40 under 40 Latinos in American politics. Cesar was brought to New York from Mexico at age 5 after his father passed away. He excelled academically and was an honors student in both college and law school. As an undocumented law graduate, he led the fight for equal opportunity and access to the practice of law.

Cesar works at the heart of the DREAMer movement, the most vigorous pro-immigrant push by the advocacy communities to date. Nationwide and on Capitol Hill, Cesar and the organization he co-founded, the Dream Action Coalition, have taken the gloves off in the policy battle for a better immigration policy. His advocacy and story helped in the national efforts to convince President Obama to broaden opportunities for millions of undocumented by expanding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and creating Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA), two essential programs in light of congressional inaction on immigration reform.

Mr. Vargas has also educated immigrants across the country on their rights, spoken on behalf of his community at congressional hearings, and volunteered at clinics to help young undocumented immigrants apply for administrative relief. He has also appeared in Immigration Court on behalf of children facing deportation. Cesar applied to join the New York bar in 2012, but the Second Judicial Department’s Committee on Character and Fitness recommended against his application because of his immigration status. In June 2015, after a nearly three-year legal battle, a five-judge panel in New York ruled that Cesar could be admitted to practice law in the state he has called home for most of his life. On February 3, 2016, he was finally sworn-in as a licensed attorney, making history as the first openly undocumented lawyer to apply to the state of New York.
OPENING PLENARY SPEAKERS
GARRETT-TOWNES AUDITORIUM - 1ST FLOOR

Sonia Nazario, Featured Speaker
Journalist, Author, Activist

Sonia Nazario is an award-winning journalist whose stories have tackled some of this country’s most intractable problems—hunger, drug addiction, immigration—and have won some of the most prestigious journalism and book awards.

She is best known for “Enrique’s Journey,” her story of a Honduran boy’s struggle to find his mother in the U.S.

Published as a series in the Los Angeles Times, “Enrique’s Journey” won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing in 2003. It was turned into a book by Random House and became a national bestseller.

Her recent humanitarian efforts to get lawyers for unaccompanied migrant children led to her selection as the 2015 Don and Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award recipient by the Advocates for Human Rights.

She also was named a 2015 Champion of Children by First Focus and a 2015 Golden Door award winner by HIAS Pennsylvania. In 2016, the American Immigration Council gave her the American Heritage Award. Also in 2016, the Houston Peace & Justice Center honored her with their National Peacemaker Award.

Nazario, who grew up in Kansas and Argentina, has written extensively from Latin America and about Latinos in the United States. She has been named among the most influential Latinos by Hispanic Business Magazine and a “trendsetter” by Hispanic Magazine. In 2012, Columbia Journalism Review named Nazario among “40 women who changed the media business in the past 40.”

She is a graduate of Williams College and has a master’s degree in Latin American studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She has honorary doctorates from Mount St. Mary’s College and Whittier College. She began her career at the Wall Street Journal and later joined the Los Angeles Times. She is now at work on her second book.
AGENDA AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

All Sessions will take place in Garrett-Townes Auditorium, 1st Floor

8:30–9:00 am • Breakfast—“Basics of Representing Unaccompanied Children (UC)"
9:00 am–1:00 pm • Training Sessions—“Basics of Representing Unaccompanied Children (UC)"
1:30–3:30 pm • Registration—South Texas College of Law Houston (atrium, 1st floor)
2:00–3:00 pm • Advocacy Event on Texas Senate Bill 4
3:00–3:30 pm • Welcome (ABA/KIND)
3:30–4:00 pm • Cesar Vargas (Opening Plenary Speaker)
4:00–4:30 pm • Sonia Nazario (Opening Plenary Speaker)
4:30–5:00 pm • Introduce Guests from Abroad
5:00–5:30 pm • Mariachi Band
6:00–8:00 pm • Reception, Vinson & Elkins LLP (1001 FANNIN STREET, SUITE 2500)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

8:00–9:00 am • Breakfast (Provided in atrium, 1st floor)
9:00–10:00 am • Opening Plenary: Former Unaccompanied Children—Advice to Practitioners, in Their Own Words (garrett-townes auditorium)
10:00–11:15 am • Keeping Families Together: Strategies to Locate and Reunify Separated Family Members and Other Best Practices (auditorium)
• PSGs in UC Asylum Claims: Strategies and Best Practices (Room 314)
• Immigration Consequences of Crimes, Delinquency, and Gang Allegations (Room 316)
• Getting Creative to Advance Children’s Rights: Advocacy Strategies in Challenging Times (Room 317)
11:15–11:30 am • Break
11:30 am–12:30 pm • Peering into the Future: Appeals before the BIA, AAO, and State and Federal Courts (Auditorium)
• State-level Advocacy Benefitting Immigrant Youth (Room 314)
• Meeting the Needs of Today’s Unaccompanied Mexican Children (Room 316)
12:30–2:00 pm • Lunch (Provided in atrium)
2:00–3:30 pm • Advocating for Trafficked Unaccompanied Children: Updates and Advanced T Visa Strategies (Auditorium)
• Providing Holistic Supportive Programming for Unaccompanied Children (Room 314)
• Unaccompanied Children, the Child Welfare System, and Applying a Child Welfare Perspective to Immigration Law (Room 316)
AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Thursday, September 14, 2:00–3:30 pm continued

3:30–4:00 pm
• Pro Bono Best Practices: Building Partnerships and Providing for the Legal Needs of UAC (ROOM 317)

4:00–5:30 pm
• Break

• Working with Undocumented Family Members in UAC Cases (AUDITORIUM)

• Asylum-Free Zones: Litigating to Win (ROOM 314)

• Collaborating to Advance Children’s Safety: How Child Advocates and Children’s Counsel Protect Children’s Rights (ROOM 316)

• Obstacles to Asylum: Contending with Bars to Protection-Based Relief (ROOM 317)

6:00–8:00 pm
• Optional dinner at El Tiempo Cantina (pre-registration required)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00–9:00 am
• Breakfast (PROVIDED IN ATRIUM, 1ST FLOOR)

9:00–10:30 am
• The Realities of Repatriation and Conditions in Mexico and Central America (AUDITORIUM)

• Developing Best Practices to Respond to SIJS RFEs and NOIDs (ROOM 314)

• Migrant Children, Youth, and Parents with Children Entering the U.S.: Their Incarceration, Community Alternatives to Incarceration, and Options for Legal Services and Trauma Informed Care (ROOM 316)

• Current Trends in Government Efforts to Strip Unaccompanied Child Determinations and Target Sponsors for Enforcement (ROOM 317)

10:30–11:30 am
• Best Practices in Representing Unaccompanied Children in Family Court (AUDITORIUM)

• Interviewing Child Clients: Best Practices for Working Effectively with Trauma Survivors, LGBT Youth, and Interpreters (ROOM 314)

• Developing an Effective Pro Bono Appellate Project (ROOM 316)

• Transforming the Court for the Child (ROOM 317)

11:30 am–12:30 pm
• Creative Advocacy for Kids in Secure and Staff Secure Custody / Flores v. Sessions: How to Use the 9th Circuit Decision in Advocacy Efforts (AUDITORIUM)

• Litigating in Dark Times: Reopening In Absentia Removal Orders and Protecting Your Clients’ Rights via Motions to Suppress, Terminate, and Exclude Evidence (ROOM 314)

• Meeting the Challenge: Lessons Learned from Management of Growing UC Legal Programs (ROOM 316)

• What Would an Ideal System for Unaccompanied Children Look Like? (ROOM 317)

12:30–1:30 pm
• Closing plenary and lunch to go (AUDITORIUM)
NOTES

Drawing by KIND client in New York depicting all hands coming together.