



IMMIGRATION LEGAL CORPS HABEAS PROJECT

The ACLU of Alaska seeks pro bono attorneys to join the Immigration Legal Corps (ILC) and provide limited representation for detained non-citizens who are eligible for habeas relief in federal court before being transported out of state.

Immigration enforcement in Alaska has increased nearly fivefold over the past year. Alaskans detained by ICE are held only briefly in Alaska before being flown to an ICE detention center in Tacoma, Washington, thousands of miles away from family members, support systems, and legal counsel.

Immigrants who are detained because of their immigration status have the right to challenge their detention if they believe the government lacks legal authority to detain them. Habeas relief in these civil proceedings is available regardless of citizenship or immigration status. If the court finds the detention is unlawful, it can order immediate release or a bond hearing, potentially allowing people to remain in Alaska while their immigration case proceeds.

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS FOR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

- Be an attorney in good standing of any state bar.
- Be admitted to the federal court in Alaska or willing to apply for admission/pro hac vice status.
- Be able to provide immediate and focused assistance to individuals. Each case requires approximately 30 hours of work or more, at a moment's notice. ICE is often detaining individuals on Fridays, requiring immediate Friday afternoon and weekend work, and preparation for a hearing before a federal district court judge early the week following.
- No experience in immigration or habeas law required (you will be provided with trainings and resources).
- This will be a limited representation agreement. You will not be expected to represent clients in their underlying immigration case.

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers will provide critical legal services to non-citizen Alaskans and help close the access-to-justice gap for an underserved and vulnerable population.

Participation in the ILC will count towards an individual's annual pro bono service as encouraged by ARPC 6.1. Volunteers will also be covered by the ACLU of Alaska's malpractice insurance during the course of their volunteer duties. Volunteers who complete certain ILC training may earn AK CLE credits.

Alternatively, attorneys may apply to join the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel to be assigned habeas cases by the Federal Public Defender Offices and receive compensation for their time representing indigent non-citizens.

To register your interest, please contact Almarina Sosa at asosa@acluak.org by September 11, 2026.