**San Mateo County Immigrant Forum**

**January 18th, 2024, Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

**Welcome and Introductions: Carolina Salinas**

* **2024 forums to be held from 10:00am-12:00pm** virtually unless otherwise stated on the following dates: 2/15, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17, 11/21 and 12/19
* **Zoom link:** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/96586873538?pwd=cHVYdHlBVHRqaVpOOUM5VnFWODg2dz09>

**ILRC Legal Updates: Andrew Craycroft**

* **Alvcarez-Rodriguez v Garland**: No 21-411 --F.4th-- (9th Cir. Dec. 28, 2023). In this case, the plaintiff’s attorney requested an extension due to difficulties reaching her. The Board of Immigration Appeals denied the motion, vacated the hearing date, and ordered her removal. When she challenged these decisions, the BIA denied her motion to reopen, dismissed her appeal, and denied her motion to remand. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the BIA abused its discretion by failing to address her arguments that she was eligible for relief based on evidence that was unavailable at time of filing. The panel also held that the BIA abused its discretion by failing to properly evaluate whether she had established good cause for missing the deadlines. This ruling is positive for folks who have missed filing deadlines due to extraordinary circumstances or not having access to evidence.
* **Ms. L v. ICE: Settlement:** A settlement agreement was reached for families who were separated under the Trump administration’s immigration policies. Government will assist with reunification and give 3-year parole grants to effected individuals. The settlement will also provide a process for some additional family members to benefit from parole. Safety net services, some legal services (not full representation), and mental and physical health services will be provided to families. The settlement includes guidelines and limits for future separations.
* **Juvenile Docket MOU from EOIR**. A new MOU from EOIR establishes separate dockets for juveniles, which will facilitate coordination with nonprofits and include designated points of contact for juveniles to reach out to. The MOU encourages dismissal of removal in situations when juveniles are waiting for asylum interview. Under this MOU, in response to the first failure to appear from a child in immigration court, the ICE attorney will request a 30 day continuance to reverify address. This is an important safeguard against in absentia removal orders. The MOU also encourages child friendly courtroom procedures—explaining proceedings, allowing reliance on written statements, judge not wearing robes, not forcing child to sit in witness box, etc.

**Asylum Overview: Andrew Craycroft: Please see attached slides and recording.**

**USCIS Updates: Sai Phavisith**

* **Upcoming Virtual Presentations:**[**https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-local-engagements**](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/jkTACVO27pfNzpKqUGlMwk)
  + -How to Apply for Asylum 2/8 at 6 pm
  + How to Petition Relatives 2/15 at 6 pm
  + How to Apply for Temporary Protected Status 2/22at 6 pm
  + How to Become a U.S. Citizen 2/29 at 6 pm
* **USCIS Updates Policy Guidance for International Students:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance regarding the F and M student nonimmigrant classifications, including the agency’s role in adjudicating applications for employment authorization, change of status, extension of stay, and reinstatement of status for these students and their dependents in the United States. This guidance consolidates existing policy. USCIS expects that this will provide welcome clarity to international students and U.S. educational institutions on a wealth of topics, including eligibility requirements, school transfers, practical training, and on- and off-campus employment.

* **Implementation of a New Family Reunification Parole Process for Ecuador:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced implementation of a new family reunification parole (FRP) process for certain nationals of Ecuador. This process allows an eligible beneficiary to be considered for parole into the United States on a case-by-case basis while they wait for their family-based immigrant visa to become available. It is available by invitation only to certain petitioners with an approved Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, on behalf of an Ecuadorian beneficiary. On Nov. 17, 2023, the Department of State’s National Visa Center (NVC) will begin issuing invitations to certain U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident petitioners whose Form I-130 on behalf of an Ecuadorian beneficiary has been approved. After a petitioner receives an invitation, they can begin the FRP process by filing Form I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support, and requesting to be a supporter of the principal beneficiary and any derivative beneficiary spouse and children. These beneficiaries may then be considered for advance travel authorization to travel to the United States to be considered for a discretionary grant of parole.

* **USCIS Expands myProgress to Form I-485 and Form I-821:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced today that we are expanding myProgress (formerly known as personalized processing times) to Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, and Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. myProgress will initially only be available for family-based or Afghan special immigrant I-485 applicants. myProgress provides applicants with access, in their online account, to personalized estimates of their wait time for major milestones and actions on their case, including their final case decision. While estimates are based on case type and historical patterns, they are not a guarantee of timing, and cannot take into consideration all possible unique application processing factors.

* **USCIS Updates Guidance and Clarifies Policy on Family-Based Conditional Permanent Residence:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is updating guidance on family-based conditional permanent residence in its Policy Manual. The update consolidates and updates guidance on eligibility, filing, and adjudication for Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence. The update clarifies what noncitizens must do to change the basis of filing in cases of waivers based on battery or extreme cruelty. It also clarifies that if a noncitizen’s conditional permanent resident status is terminated for failing to timely file Form I-751, they may be eligible to adjust permanent resident status on a new basis. This is true even if USCIS issues a notice of termination of conditional permanent resident status before the noncitizen files Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

**Agency Updates:**

* **From the Office of Community Affairs:** MediCal has expanded to cover undocumented adults of all ages who meet other requirements. You can find multilingual outreach materials here**:** [**https://socialpresskit.com/get-medi-cal**](https://socialpresskit.com/get-medi-cal)

**Meeting Attendees:**

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|  | **NAME** | **ORGANIZATION** |
| **1** | *Andrew Craycroft* | *ILRC* |
| **2** | *Ari Garcia* | *Puente* |
| **3** | *Arlyn Gorriceta* | *JobTrain* |
| **4** | *Cara Galvis* | *JobTrain* |
| **5** | *Cristy Dieterich* | *SF DPH* |
| **6** | *Carolina Salinas* | *SMC OCA* |
| **7** | *Darci Barrera Jimenez* |  |
| **8** | *Emily Beach* | *REN Center* |
| **9** | *Huy Tran* | *SIREN* |
| **10** | *Karen Kilwien* | *Casey Family Program* |
| **11** | *Kathy Castro* | *JobTrain* |
| **12** | *Dr. Ka'Ryn Holder-Jackson* | *ACCEL* |
| **13** | *Laura Angel* | *BHRS Family Partner* |
| **14** | *Lori Sterling* | *SMC Family Heath Services* |
| **15** | *M. Hernandez* |  |
| **16** | *Maria Riascos* | *StarVista-CAPS* |
| **17** | *Marisol Durand* | *SSF Promotores* |
| **18** | *Mirna Botello Hardy* | *SMC Family Health Services* |
| **19** | *Natalie Meltzer* | *SMC CCS Program* |
| **20** | *Pili* |  |
| **21** | *Romina Kim* | *KARA* |
| **22** | *Sylvia Narrarro* | *LIBRE Project* |
| **23** | *Sai Phavisith* | *USCIS* |
| **24** | *Sayda Ceron* | *BHRS* |
| **25** | *Tatyana* |  |
| **26** | *Vanessa Castillo* | *CORA* |