



Black & Latino Association

Immigration Clinic

A network of Cadwalader attorneys and staff helping marginalized and vulnerable immigrants obtain legal status through various forms of relief, including asylum applications, naturalization clinics, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status proceedings and U nonimmigrant visa applications.

Leadership Committee



Jason Halper

Partner

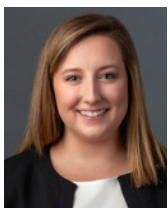
jason.halper@cwt.com



Victor Celis

Associate

victor.celis@cwt.com



Hannah Kaufman

Associate

hannah.kaufman@cwt.com



Candelario Saldana

Associate

candelario.saldana@cwt.com

In 2015, members of Cadwalader's Black & Latino Association launched the Clinic to increase awareness and engagement on pro bono immigration cases across the Firm. Today, the CBLA continues to oversee the expanded initiative, which provides our attorneys with the training and legal resources needed to act as staunch advocates for their pro bono clients, many of whom face political and other forms of discrimination in their countries of origin.

To accomplish its goals, the Clinic represents a collaboration amongst Litigation Group Chair Jason Halper, who serves as the Clinic's supervising partner, the firm's Pro Bono and Diversity & Inclusion leadership teams, and other participating partners and associates who regularly evaluate the Clinic's mission, strategy and organizational structure.

Recognizing strength in numbers, the Clinic's ecosystem also includes a large network of external partners, such as in-house legal departments and non-profit legal services providers, who coordinate with Cadwalader attorneys on a range of matters to help adults and children attain safety and stability in the U.S.

For attorneys who consider the immigration debate as a key civil rights issue of our time, the Clinic provides a platform through which they can work toward positive change and brighter futures on behalf of their pro bono clients.

“We’ve designed the Clinic to emphasize communication and information-sharing so that our attorneys feel confident and capable taking on this important work.”

Jason Halper | Partner



Pro Bono Partner Organizations

Carolina Migrant Network

Catholic Charities DC

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

City Bar Justice Center

Her Justice

Human Rights First

Immigration Equality

Kids In Need of Defense

Legal Services NYC

New York Legal Assistance Group

Safe Passage Project

Sanctuary for Families

Tahirih Justice Center

The Latin American Coalition

The Legal Aid Society



“

Cadwalader’s pro bono commitment is genuine and generous, and supported at the highest levels of our management. I am so proud of CBLA’s Immigration Clinic, which is needed now more than ever.

”

Ellen Holloman | Partner Sponsor, Cadwalader Black & Latino Association

Making a Difference

In July 2020, Cadwalader lawyers secured asylum for a 34-year old gay, HIV-positive man from Ghana referred by Immigration Equality. Our client attempted to keep his sexual orientation hidden during his childhood in Ghana, where homosexuality is considered a crime. Knowing the potential for violence would only increase as he reached adulthood, our client left Ghana when he was 17 and came to live in New York. Upon learning of his sexual orientation, his father and family members threatened to harm and disown him. Soon after, our client was diagnosed with HIV and this increased his fear of returning to Ghana. The grant of asylum was a crucial victory for our client, and he now has the chance to live his life in safety and with dignity in the United States.

A partner in our Charlotte office secured an important victory for a pro bono client from Mexico referred by Carolina Migrant Network. In early 2020, we partnered with an attorney from one of our corporate clients to co-represent an immigrant father of two. Our pro bono client had been illegally picked up off the streets in Charlotte by ICE, and detained at the Stewart Detention Center in Georgia, far away from his family and any support network. Due to complications in the case and restrictions resulting from COVID-19, we had to file two motions with the immigration court and appear in two telephonic hearings on behalf of the client. The team was able to convince the immigration court judge to grant a bond to our client, who was able to return home to be with his family while he fights deportation.

A partner in our Washington office secured asylum nunc pro tunc for two daughters of an asylee from Benin who became a naturalized U.S. citizen. As derivative asylees without green cards, the daughters lost their asylum status when their father became a naturalized citizen. With guidance from Human Rights First, our partner represented the daughters during interviews at the Arlington, Virginia asylum office and worked with the office until asylum was granted to each client. The nunc pro tunc grant enabled them to immediately apply for green cards and reestablished their own path to naturalization.

For more information related to our pro bono programs, please contact:

Annie Mohan, Manager of Pro Bono and CSR | +1 212 504 6665 | annie.mohan@cwt.com