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STUDIES

*Protecting Refugees • Advancing Human Rights*

## Recorded CGRS Trainings 2020

This is a list of CGRS webinars recorded in 2020. The law and policies were up to date at the time of the recording, but the asylum landscape has been dynamic and some of the information may have changed. CGRS recommends that advocates confirm that policies referred to are still in place and check the status of litigation referenced in the trainings. Trainings eligible for California MCLE self-study credit are specified.

## Table of Contents

<b>Asylum During COVID-19</b>	<b>1</b>
Asylum Protection During the COVID-19 Pandemic	1
<b>Asylum Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
Overview to Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and Convention Against Torture Protection	1
MCLE Self-Study: Overview of Substantive Asylum Law	1
MCLE Self-Study: Alternatives to Asylum Based on Fear of Return	1
<b>Asylum Policy</b>	<b>2</b>
MCLE Self Study: Preparing for the Implementation of the New, Mammoth Asylum Rule	2
MCLE Self-Study: Updates on Restrictive Asylum Policies & Claims Impacted by Matter of A-B-	2
Attack on the U.S. Asylum System: FAQs on the Proposed Asylum Rule	2
<b>Children’s Asylum Claims</b>	<b>2</b>
Witness Preparation, Direct Examination & Trial Advocacy in Children’s Fear-of-Return Claims	2
Children’s Asylum Claims	3
Country Conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras for Asylum Claims Based on Harm to Children	3
Representing Children Impacted by the Third-Country Transit Bar: Legal Strategies and Practical Considerations	3
Seeking Asylum in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic	3
Best Practices and Recent Developments in Children’s Fear-of-Return Claims	3
<b>Declaration Writing</b>	<b>4</b>
Framing Your Client's Narrative: How to Write an Effective Asylum Declaration	4
<b>Employment Authorization for Asylum Applicants</b>	<b>4</b>
The New Asylum EAD Rules: Practice Tips & Litigation Updates	4
New Restrictions on Employment Authorization for Asylum Applicants: Implications and Strategies	4
<b>Family-Based Claims</b>	<b>5</b>
Matter of L-E-A- Practice Advisory Preview	5
<b><i>Matter of A-B-</i></b>	<b>5</b>
Matter of A-B-: Litigation & Strategy Update	5
<b>Southern Border Policies</b>	<b>5</b>
MCLE Self-Study: Exclusionary Asylum Policies	5
The Third Country Transit Bar: Litigation Update and Strategies for Advocates	5
Preparing Advocates for Trump’s War on Asylum at the Southern Border: A Deep Dive Into the Third Country Asylum Transit Bar	6
<b>Trauma and Credibility in Asylum Cases</b>	<b>6</b>
MCLE Self Study: The Impact of Trauma on Asylum Seekers	6

## Asylum During COVID-19

### **Asylum Protection During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

June 18, 2020

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration has sought to curtail asylum protection in the United States. The administration has used the pandemic as a pretext to further restricting access to asylum. This webinar recording provides an update on key policies impacting asylum seekers and strategies to consider to mitigate pandemic-related challenges in representation. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## Asylum Overview

### **Overview to Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and Convention Against Torture Protection**

September 22, 2020

This presentation from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the Bay Area's Fall 2020 Asylum Seminar provides an overview of the elements of asylum, and the main differences between asylum, withholding of removal, and the Convention Against Torture. It also addresses bars to asylum and some practical considerations, like credibility and corroboration of claims. To access slides and a recording of this presentation, please fill out [this form](#).

### **MCLE Self-Study: Overview of Substantive Asylum Law**

February 26, 2020

This recorded training module, produced for the Pro Bono Training Institute, provides an overview of substantive asylum law, through an introduction to asylum and discussion of the basic elements of an asylum claim. Practitioners will learn to issue spot relevant legal questions and facts in an asylum claim, and how to identify additional requirements for asylum. This training offers California Self-Study MCLE credit upon completion. To access this training, [click here](#).

### **MCLE Self-Study: Alternatives to Asylum Based on Fear of Return**

February 26, 2020

This recorded training module, produced for the Pro Bono Training Institute, presents alternative forms of relief to asylum in fear-of-return cases. The training informs advocates about asylum, withholding of removal, and Convention Against Torture protection, and compares the legal standards and benefits of each. This training offers California Self-Study MCLE credit upon completion. To access this training, [click here](#).

### **MCLE Self-Study: Overview of Asylum Procedure**

February 26, 2020

This recorded training module, produced for the Pro Bono Training Institute, provides an overview of the procedural steps involved in an asylum case. The training describes the roles of different government agencies involved in the asylum process, compares affirmative and defensive asylum proceedings, and describes the processes and standards for fear screenings in summary removal proceedings. This training offers California Self-Study MCLE credit upon completion. To access this training, [click here](#).

## Asylum Policy

### **MCLE Self Study: Preparing for the Implementation of the New, Mammoth Asylum Rule**

December 18, 2020

This webinar discusses the [joint final rule](#) published by DHS and DOJ on December 11, 2020. This new rule is a sweeping overhaul of the procedural and substantive standards used in our asylum process, and is set to take effect on January 11, 2021. The webinar focuses on changes to the substantive standards used in the adjudication of asylum claims. It provides an overview of the rule's contents and offer initial strategy recommendations for advocates as well as discuss the rule's potential future with the incoming Biden-Harris administration. This webinar provides 1 General California MCLE self-study credit. A password to obtain your MCLE certificate is provided during the webinar recording. Links to the MCLE certificate as well as evaluation form are provided on the last slide of the PowerPoint. To access slides and a recording of this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

### **MCLE Self-Study: Updates on Restrictive Asylum Policies & Claims Impacted by Matter of A-B-**

November 16, 2020

This webinar provides an overview of restrictive policies impacting individuals seeking asylum in the United States, including an update on any relevant litigation. The webinar discusses key Attorney General decisions seeking to limit protection for individuals who fear gang and domestic violence by private actors as well as recent decisions from the courts of appeals. Interactive case scenarios are utilized to highlight potential strategies that can be used to overcome the challenges implicated by these policies and decisions. This webinar provides 2 General California MCLE self-study credits. A password to obtain your MCLE certificate is provided during the webinar recording. Links to the MCLE certificate as well as evaluation form are provided on the last slide of the PowerPoint. To access slides and a recording of this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

### **Attack on the U.S. Asylum System: FAQs on the Proposed Asylum Rule**

July 9, 2020

This webinar recording focuses on the administration's June 15, 2020 proposed rule, which seeks to limit meaningful protection for vulnerable migrants and severely restrict access to the U.S. asylum system. The webinar discusses the following:

- What does the proposed rule say?
- How would the proposed rule impact asylum seekers?
- How can you advocate against the proposed rule?

To access slides and a recording of this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## Children's Asylum Claims

### **Witness Preparation, Direct Examination & Trial Advocacy in Children's Fear-of-Return Claims**

October 29, 2020

This webinar, produced for the Vera Unaccompanied Minors Technical Assistance program covers trial advocacy skills in children's claims involving asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture before the immigration court. Specifically, the webinar focuses on witness preparation and conducting a direct examination of a child client. It also discusses strategies for trial advocacy, including oral arguments before the immigration judge. To access slides and a recording of this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## **Children's Asylum Claims**

October 27, 2020

This webinar, produced for the Vera Unaccompanied Children's Program, covers children's asylum claims. In conjunction with CGRS' forthcoming Children's Asylum Manual, this webinar provides an overview of the key case and policy updates impacting children's asylum claims. It also discusses strategies in children's asylum claims. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## **Country Conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras for Asylum Claims Based on Harm to Children**

September 10, 2020

This webinar focuses on overview of the historical backdrop and existing cultural norms involving conditions for children in these three Central American countries. The content of this training is informed by CGRS's fact-finding investigations to the region and work with experts throughout the years documenting root causes and conditions for children. Using interactive case scenarios, presenters highlight important aspects to consider when using country conditions as evidence in asylum cases. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## **Representing Children Impacted by the Third-Country Transit Bar: Legal Strategies and Practical Considerations**

June 26, 2020

This webinar, produced for the Vera Unaccompanied Minors Technical Assistance program, discusses the Transit Bar's impact on children, strategies for challenging the validity of the Transit Bar as applied to children, as well as special considerations for demonstrating that a child asylum seeker meets exceptions to the bar under the regulation. The presenters also address frequently asked questions about the bar and highlight some best practices for working with children to gather relevant facts and evidence. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## **Seeking Asylum in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

June 24, 2020

This webinar, produced for the Vera Unaccompanied Children's Program, provides an update on asylum policies and litigation updates in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This webinar will address the following:

- Key policies seeking to limit asylum protection in the United States
- Litigation challenging policies intended to curtail access to asylum
- Impact of COVID-19 and pandemic responses to the U.S. asylum system
- International guidance addressing asylum protection during the pandemic

To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## **Best Practices and Recent Developments in Children's Fear-of-Return Claims**

May 15, 2020

This webinar, produced for the Vera Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Children, takes into account how the Trump administration has implemented a series of policies and legal decisions aimed at highly curtailing access to and eligibility for fear-of-return claims. At the same time, the current pandemic has made working with clients and government agencies far more difficult, meaning that practitioners who work with child asylum seekers are faced with a new series of hurdles.

Advocates, however, are coming up with creative strategies to meet the needs of migrant children in these challenging times. To enable practitioners to effectively screen for eligibility and work with child asylum seekers, this webinar will discuss:

- The basic legal and procedural elements of asylum and related forms of relief
- Recent legal and policy developments applicable to children
- Best practices for interviewing child asylum seekers
- Practical considerations for conducting screenings remotely

To access slides and a recording of this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## Declaration Writing

### **Framing Your Client's Narrative: How to Write an Effective Asylum Declaration**

May 22, 2020

This training, originally presented at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the Bay Area's Spring 2020 Asylum Seminar, provides an overview of writing effective declarations in asylum cases. The presentation equips practitioners with the nuts and bolts for writing a compelling declaration that demonstrates a client's eligibility for asylum through discussing the objective of a declaration, what types of information are helpful to include, advice for framing a client's narrative, and the process of drafting a declaration. To access slides and a recording of this presentation, please fill out [this form](#).

## Employment Authorization for Asylum Applicants

### **The New Asylum EAD Rules: Practice Tips & Litigation Updates**

September 17, 2020

In June 2020, two new rules regarding Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) were issued, leading to new restrictions on EAD eligibility for asylum seekers and increased processing times for EAD applications. This webinar, produced for the Immigration Advocates Network, provides practitioners with an overview of the policy changes, practice pointers, and updates on litigation currently challenging the new rules. To access slides and a recording of this webinar, visit the [IAN website here](#). Please note that you will need to become an IAN member to access a recording of this webinar.

### **New Restrictions on Employment Authorization for Asylum Applicants: Implications and Strategies**

July 23, 2020

On June 26, 2020, the Trump Administration issued a final rule which will deprive numerous asylum seekers of work authorization while their cases are being adjudicated. Among other changes, the rule drastically increases the amount of time asylum seekers will have to wait to apply for an employment authorization document (EAD), creates expansive bars to EADs, and restricts EAD eligibility for those who appeal their asylum cases to the courts of appeals. This webinar will provide an overview of the rule's various provisions and discuss their implications using case examples. The presenters will also highlight practice pointers for advocates working with impacted asylum seekers. To access slides and recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## Family-Based Claims

### **Matter of L-E-A- Practice Advisory Preview**

February 6, 2020

This webinar recording provides an overview of Matter of L-E-A-, including the current state of the law for family-based claims, analysis of particular social groups formulations (PSGs), and strategies for addressing Matter of L-E-A- in immigration court and on appeals. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## *Matter of A-B-*

### **Matter of A-B-: Litigation & Strategy Update**

November 9, 2020

This webinar discusses how adjudicators are currently responding to *Matter of A-B-* and strategies for effective presentation of claims. The webinar includes an overview of adjudication observations at the AO/IJ/BIA level, based on information shared by advocates, as well as *A-B-*'s reception in the courts of appeals. The majority of the webinar is spent discussing strategic considerations for practitioners in light of the current legal landscape, focusing on social group articulations in domestic violence cases as well as nexus and state protection arguments. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## Southern Border Policies

### **MCLE Self-Study: Exclusionary Asylum Policies**

August 11, 2020

This recorded training module, produced for the Pro Bono Training Institute, discusses recent policies which seek to curtail asylum at the southern U.S. border. The training provides an overview of the policies, including metering, forced return to Mexico ("Migrant Protection Protocols"), the Entry Bar, the Transit Bar, Asylum Cooperative Agreements, and expulsions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, the training instructs advocates on how to identify whether an asylum seeker's claim is relevant under each policy. This training offers California Self-Study MCLE credit upon completion. To access this training, [click here](#).

### **The Third Country Transit Bar: Litigation Update and Strategies for Advocates**

July 22, 2020

The Third Country Transit Bar (Transit Bar) is a regulatory bar to asylum for individuals who transit a third country before reaching the southern U.S. border without having applied for and received a denial of protection in at least one transit country. Two different courts have recently found the Transit Bar invalid, but litigation remains ongoing. This webinar will provide an overview of the Transit Bar, address the status of litigation challenges, and highlight potential strategies for representing asylum seekers who have been or may be subject to the bar. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

## **Preparing Advocates for Trump’s War on Asylum at the Southern Border: A Deep Dive Into the Third Country Asylum Transit Bar**

March 30, 2020

This webinar recording provides a detailed discussion of the Third Country Asylum Transit Bar (Transit Bar), a regulatory bar to asylum for individuals who transit a third country before reaching the United States, and do not apply for protection in at least one transit country. CGRS attorneys provide a substantive explanation of the Transit Bar and how it applies at different stages of adjudication. We also summarize legal challenges that have been raised against the validity and application of the Transit Bar and highlight practical considerations for advocates representing clients subject thereto. To access slides and a recording from this webinar, please fill out [this form](#).

### **Trauma and Credibility in Asylum Cases**

#### **MCLE Self Study: The Impact of Trauma on Asylum Seekers**

February 26, 2020

This recorded training module, produced for the Pro Bono Training Institute, discusses the role of credibility and how trauma can impact asylum seekers. The training helps practitioners understand how to identify factors that may contribute to credibility issues, and best practices when advocating for traumatized clients. This training offers California Self-Study MCLE credit upon completion. To access this training, [click here](#).