



2023 ANNUAL ASYLUM & IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE

Presented by Federal Bar Association's
Immigration Law Section,
New York Law School,
Immigrant ARC,
& Safe Passage Project

ITINERARY

IN-PERSON &
ZOOM CONVENING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

[Register Here!](#)

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL NYLSASYLUMCONFERENCE@GMAIL.COM

Details below

[Registration Link](#)

Please refer to the key below to identify your track.

Day 1: Beginner Track

Day 1: Advanced Track

Day 2: One Track

Day 1: Friday, February 10, 2023

*Up to 8 Possible Hours of CLE Credit

Morning – Beginner Track

9:00 - 9:15 AM | Welcome, Basic Track

Location: W300

Speaker: Professor Lenni Benson, New York Law School, and Judge Amiena Khan (in her personal capacity for the Federal Bar Association)

9:20 – 11:00 AM | Asylum Basics (2 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice)

Location: W300

Learn from experienced advocates about the key requirements of qualifying for asylum protection.

Speakers: Lauren Wyatt, Emerson Argueta

Moderator: Immigration Judge Lori Adams (in her personal capacity awaiting EOIR authorization)

11:00 – 11:20 PM | Break -- Coffee/Tea provided

Location: Corridor

11:20 to 1:00 PM | Proving Nexus (2 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice)

Location: W300

This panel will provide an understanding of the requirements needed to establish that persecution or feared persecution is "on account of" one or more of the five protected grounds in the refugee definition: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Speakers: Raquiba Huq, Amelia Wilson, Gerard J. Mekjian

Moderator: Immigration Judge Amiena Khan (in her personal capacity awaiting EOIR authorization)

1:00 – 2:20 PM | Lunch on your own.

Afternoon – Beginner Track

2:20 – 4:00 PM | Basics on Bars and Alternatives to Asylum – Withholding, CAT & Prosecutorial Discretion (2 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice)

Location: W300

This panel will explore alternative forms of protection, review the elements of the statutes and explore why clients may seek the right to remain as an exercise of discretion.

Speakers: Pina Cirillo, Melinda Basaran

Moderator: Paul O'Dwyer

4:00 – 4:15 PM | Break -- Coffee/Tea provided

Location: corridor

4:20 – 6:00 PM | Best Practices: Preparing for the Asylum Interview and Trial Requirements (2 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice)

Location: W300

Learn from experienced advocates about the critical preparation necessary for affirmative and defensive asylum presentations. A panel of experienced attorneys will share practical and essential steps.

Speakers: Jessica Chanin (remote), Carolina Curbelo (remote), Estefani

Rodriguez, Representative from OPLA in her individual capacity

Moderators: Sue Roy

6:00 – 7:30 PM | Reception sponsored by Safe Passage Project and Immigrant ARC

Location: 5th Floor Hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and soft drinks

7:45 – 9:15 PM | *Las Abogadas* film

Location: Auditorium

A documentary about four women immigration attorneys serving migrants at the U.S. Mexico border during the pandemic. The narrative centers around the push-back policies of these four attorneys and refugee stories of their clients.

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Day 1: Friday, February 10, 2023

*Up to 7 Possible Hours of CLE Credit

Morning – Advanced Track

9:00 – 9:15 AM | Welcome, Advanced Track

Location: Auditorium

Speaker: Dean Anthony Crowell*, Desirée Hernandez, Deputy Director Safe Passage Project

9:20 - 11:00 AM | Representing Children Seeking Asylum (2 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice).

Location: Auditorium

An experienced panel will discuss guidance and case law about the special considerations for children applying for asylum protection.

Speakers: Ana Juneau, Stephanie Lopez

Moderator: Alexandra Rizio

11:00 – 11:20 PM | Break -- Coffee/Tea provided

Location: Corridor

11:20 to 1:00 PM | Current Issues in Particular Social Group (2 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice)

Location: Auditorium

Learn from expert practitioners about an ever-changing area of asylum law: based on persecution as a member of a particular social group. Panelists will discuss recent case law and advocacy strategy.

Speakers: Jodi Ziesemer, Tania Cohen

Moderator: Desirée Hernández

1:00 – 2:20 PM | Lunch on your own

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Afternoon – Advanced Track

2:20 – 4:00 PM | Best Practices in Using Experts (2 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice)

Location: Auditorium

This panel will explore the use of expert testimony at several stages in the asylum application process. The goal of the panel is to conceptualize the role and function of expert testimony in the asylum adjudication process. It also discusses recruiting experts and the drafting of the expert declaration, the difference between a specific and universal declaration, why submit at the affirmative asylum stage and how to refer to the expert testimony in memoranda or evidentiary summaries.

Speakers: Dave McConnell, Neela Chakravartula, Ludivine Van Der Heyden

Moderator: Judge Sarah Burr (retired)

4:00 – 4:15 PM | Break -- Coffee/Tea provided

4:20 – 6:00 PM | Ethics (2 hours of CLE Credit, Ethics)

Location: Auditorium

This panel will explore ethical considerations directly relevant to asylum law practice including the use of technology and a description of some recent prosecutions of attorneys for submitting false asylum petitions.

Speaker: Leon Fresco, Allegra Noonan, Jonathan Rebold (USANYS), David Felton (USANYS)

Moderator: Professor Lenni Benson

6:00 – 7:30 PM | Reception sponsored by Safe Passage Project and Immigrant ARC

Location: 5th Floor Hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and soft drinks

7:45 – 9:15 PM | *Las Abogadas* film

Location: Auditorium

A documentary about four women immigration attorneys serving migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border during the COVID-19 pandemic. The narrative centers around the push-back policies of these four attorneys and the refugee stories of their clients.

Introduction by Barbara Camacho and Professor Lenni Benson

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Day 2: Saturday, February 11, 2023

*Up to 5.5 Possible Hours of CLE Credit

Morning - One Track

9:00 – 10:15 AM | Race and the Border: Disparate Treatment or Intentional Discrimination (1 hour of CLE Credit, Professional Practice and Race and Inclusion)

Location: Auditorium

The panel will discuss the disparate treatment and intentional discrimination operating within the U.S./Mexican corridor.

Speakers: Tsion Gurmu, Ninaj Raoul, Andrew Bahena

Moderator: Claire Thomas

10:15 – 10:30 AM | Break – Coffee/Tea provided

Location: Corridor

10:30 – 12:00 PM | Exploring Imputed Political Opinion (1.5 hours of CLE Credit, Professional Practice)

Location: Auditorium

Panelists will discuss the evolving areas of imputed political opinion claims, including asserting feminism and assertion of bodily autonomy as an imputed political opinion.

Speakers: Heather Axford, Stephanie Cordero, Dave Wilkins

Moderator: Lauren Anselowitz

12:00 – 1:15 PM | Lunch on your own

Afternoon - One Track

1:15 – 2:45 PM | Post Order Practice (1.5 CLE Professional Practice)

Location: Auditorium

Strategies for executed and unexecuted orders, motions to reopen, reinstated orders, evaluating asylum, withholding, CAT relief in the post order context. Motions for *in absentia* cases will be addressed.

Speakers: Melissa Chua, Paige Austin

Moderator: Jodi Ziesemer

2:45 – 3:00 PM | Break – Coffee/Tea

Location: Corridor

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3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Best Practices before the Asylum Office (1.5 CLE Professional Practice)

Location: Auditorium

This panel's topics will include goals of having experienced Asylum Officers train the audience, e.g., format of submissions, evidence, use of translators, how to update files and making requests for reconsideration. Listen to representatives from the Newark and New York Asylum Offices.

Moderator: Camille Mackler,

Speakers: Newark and New York Asylum Offices (remote)

4:30 – 4:35 PM | Closing Remarks and Thank You

Speaker: Kate Goettel, Federal Bar Association Chair of the FBA Immigration Law Section

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM | *Las Abogadas film* (reprise)

Location: Auditorium

A documentary about four women immigration attorneys serving migrants at the U.S. Mexico border during the pandemic. The narrative centers around the push- back policies of these four attorneys and refugee stories of their clients.

Introduction by Barbara Camacho and Professor Lenni Benson

[Registration Link](#)

Immigrant ARC is hosting the conference registration and materials on behalf of the co-sponsors. This link will take you to the pricing and registration site. Attendance In person is limited due to COVID restrictions. Zoom tickets are unlimited. Please register soon.

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