



Emergency Legal Defense Team Recruitment

The most immediate steps you can take now to prepare your organization for an emergency is to develop your list of legal experts available for deportation defense and rapid legal response.

Lawyers and fully accredited representatives are critical to effective rapid response. Few community organizations have a lawyer or fully accredited representative on staff; even fewer have urgent access to a lawyer experienced in “Habeas” practice.

Organizations should follow the steps below to recruit their Emergency Legal Teams:

- 1) Start with: Do you have a list with names of lawyers you know?**
 - Immigration lawyers who are allies; From workshops, local AILA chapter, etc.
- 2) Call through that list of lawyers’ names to begin to ID who would be a part of your rapid response legal defense list**
- 3) Ask them the following questions:**
 - Do you do deportation defense cases?
 - Are you available for rapid response legal defense in the event of a raid or emergency?
 - If so, what is the best way to contact you(e.g, via the organization? Directly by the prospective client?)
 - What, if anything, do you charge for emergency response services?
 - What do you need in order to support rapid response?
 - o Retainer agreement, retainer money?
 - Do you have experience with “Habeas” practice in federal court?
 - What other attorneys do you recommend as candidates for emergency response duty?

If your organization has no such attorney candidates, connecting with the local AILA chapter could be a productive first step.

This is part of a broader work-up of NPNA's Rapid Legal Defense Guide, outlining what your organization can do when you hear of a possible arrest or raid. This includes reaching out to lawyers, congressional channels, consular channels and media.