

## Representing Asylum Seekers in Immigration Detention – A Guide for New Practitioners and Pro Bono Volunteers



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**ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE**

November 13, 2025

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**AVAILABLE MEDIA TYPES**

Video & Audio MP3

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### REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand seminar was originally presented as a live webcast on November 13, 2025, in Seattle, WA. If you attended the live webcast and reported CLE credits, you cannot also report credits from watching or listening to this recording if repeated within your three year reporting period.

### DESCRIPTION

This program is intended to introduce new practitioners and prospective pro bono volunteers interested in representing clients in Immigration Detention. This program will not give you all the answers but will guide you to important resources available to assist you to feel confident to take your first removal defense case.

### AGENDA

**1 Welcome and Opening Remarks [Not for Credit]**

Stephen will provide an introduction to new practitioners and prospective pro bono volunteers interested in representing clients in Immigration Detention, specifically at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) in Tacoma.

*Stephen A. Weisbrod – Weisbrod Matteis & Copley PLLC, Seattle, WA*

**2 Working with Clients in Immigration Detention**

In this session you will get an overview of NWIPC. Learn about the agencies and their roles at NWIPC. You will also discover the challenges involved in detention, access to clients, technical support available, as well as local organizations involved with NWIPC.

*William Schwarz – Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Tacoma, WA*

**3 Introduction to Immigration Court Procedure**

Learn about the role of Immigration Judges as non-AIJ adjudicators as well as the role of DHS as prosecutors. You will also learn about the timeline for removal proceedings, the record of proceedings, the online system for filings, and the Immigration Court Practice Manual.

*Georgina Olazcon Mozo – University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA*

*Agenda continues on the next page.*

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### 4 Asylum Law in Removal Proceedings

This session will teach you about the eligibility requirements for asylum, how to identify a nexus, and prove persecution. You will also learn about the pitfalls and bars to asylum. This session will also highlight valuable sources for research and other resources.

*Kelsie McKee-Hector – Attorney at Law, Seattle, WA*

*William Schwarz – Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Tacoma, WA*

### 5 Ethical Obligations When Representing Individuals in Immigration Detention

Get tips on working with clients under high levels of stress and anxiety. You will learn about your ethical obligations to your client including best practices for navigating potential language and cultural barriers. You will learn how to identify mental health issues and provide compassionate representation.

*Kristin Kyrka – Higuera & Vanderhoef PLLC, Seattle, WA*

*Andrea Lino – Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Tacoma, WA*

### 6 Closing Remarks and Q&A [Not for Credit]

*Diyora Ismailova – Diyora Law Office PLLC, Renton, WA*

*William Schwarz – Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Tacoma, WA*

*Stephen A. Weisbrod – Weisbrod Matteis & Copley PLLC, Seattle, WA*