



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2022

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The Center for Migration Studies of New York Releases Report on Charitable Legal Capacity Available to Low-income Undocumented Immigrants Living in the United States

New York, NY – The Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) released a new report, [*Charitable Legal Immigration Programs and the US Undocumented Population: A Study in Access to Justice in an Era of Political Dysfunction*](#), which examines the charitable legal capacity available to low-income immigrants on a national, state, and sub-state level. CMS will host a [webinar](#) on **October 25 at 2pm ET** with the report's co-authors, **Donald Kerwin** and **Evin Millet**, who will discuss the key findings and policy recommendations with the following experts in the field:

- **Steven Lang**, Program Director of the Office of Legal Access Programs, US Department of Justice Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR)
- **Rodrigo Camarena**, Director, Immigrant Advocates Network (IAN)
- **Anna Gallagher**, Executive Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)

CMS Publications and Events Manager, **Melissa Katsoris**, will moderate the discussion. Register for the webinar [here](#).

The report compiles data on charitable immigration programs and their legal professionals from several data sources, including the US Department of Justice, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), and the Immigrant Advocates Network (IAN).

The report includes the following topline findings:

- There are 1,413 undocumented persons in the United States for every charitable legal professional;
- From CMS' dataset of 1,803 charitable legal programs, 54 percent of these programs and 59 percent of their legal professionals are located in seven states: California, Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and Georgia;
- There is far less legal capacity than the national average in Alabama, Hawaii, Kansas, Georgia, New Jersey, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, and Arizona; and
- The United States' 15 largest metropolitan areas are home to 54.5 percent of the US undocumented population, but only 51 percent of the nation's charitable legal professionals.

The report describes the importance of charitable immigration legal programs to immigrants, families, and communities, and examines charitable legal capacity relative to immigrants' need. It does so by comparing the legal capacity of 1,803 charitable legal programs and their 7,322 legal professionals with the US undocumented population by state and the 15 largest metropolitan areas and counties. The paper's findings argue for the expansion and growth of charitable immigration legal programs for low-income immigrants throughout the country, but particularly in places with less capacity or with increased need. Congress, states, localities, private foundations, and charitable agencies should commit to expanding these programs and harmonize their data fields and collection practices to improve needs assessments and legal capacity.

The report, *Charitable Legal Immigration Programs and the US Undocumented Population: A Study in Access to Justice in an Era of Political Dysfunction*, by **Donald Kerwin** and **Evin Millet**, is now available [here](#).

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) is a New York-based educational institute devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities, and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants, refugees, and newcomers. For more information, please visit www.cmsny.org.



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WHO:

Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS)

WHAT:

CMS will host a webinar and discussion of the latest CMS report, [*Charitable Legal Immigration Programs and the US Undocumented Population: A Study in Access to Justice in an Era of Political Dysfunction*](#) by **Donald Kerwin** and **Evin Millet**. The report examines the charitable legal capacity available to low-income immigrants on a national, state, and sub-state level. CMS compiled data on charitable immigration programs and their legal professionals from several data sources, including the US Department of Justice, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), and the Immigrant Advocates Network (IAN).

CMS Publications and Events Manager, **Melissa Katsoris**, will moderate the discussion. The report's co-authors, **Donald Kerwin** and **Evin Millet**, will share key findings and policy recommendations. The webinar will also include discussion and remarks about the report from the following experts:

- **Steven Lang**, Program Director of the Office of Legal Access Programs, US Department of Justice Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR)
- **Rodrigo Camarena**, Director, Immigrant Advocates Network (IAN)
- **Anna Gallagher**, Executive Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)

WHEN:

October 25, 2022 | 2pm - 3pm (ET)

WHERE:

Virtual. Register with Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1erCpvDATZmvTh8TAwJT7Q

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