

The Bar Association of San Francisco's Lawyer Referral and Information Service Playing Central Coordinating Role for Unaccompanied Children in US Immigration Court

IMMIGRATION CASE COORDINATOR POSITION HAS BEEN ADDED

October 17, 2014 – San Francisco – San Francisco – The Bar Association of San Francisco's Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) has served the United States Immigration Court in San Francisco for over 25 years, administering the "Attorney of the Day" (AOD) program where two experienced immigration attorneys are calendared each day to assist respondents in removal proceedings at their initial court appearances. In July, LRIS quickly expanded its program to include the calendaring of eight AODs, nearly every day, for the court's newly created expedited dockets. These dockets prioritize the adjudication of thousands of recently arrived children and families fleeing Central America who are now in the Bay Area.

For the expedited dockets, LRIS has hired Adina Hemley-Bronstein, an immigration paralegal as its LRIS Immigration Case Coordinator. She will facilitate the AOD program and the coordination of all intake and referral activity from the expedited hearings, including case referrals for legal representation to nonprofit immigration organizations, pro bono attorneys and, for those who are not income eligible for pro bono services, to private-practice immigration attorneys.

Hemley-Bronstein is a graduate of Yale University and her experience includes work in immigration policy, border communities, consular processing, family-immigration petitions, U-Visa petitions, and affirmative asylum applications.

Under the Attorney of the Day program, and consistent with the model for a lawyer referral service, attorneys must meet experience qualifications to participate. Immigration attorneys who have been qualified volunteer on a pro bono basis to appear at the court's custody and non-custody dockets, and now the expedited dockets. The AODs conduct initial case screening and provide legal information to the respondents, along with referrals to nonprofit organizations that may be able to assist them on a pro bono basis, and otherwise serves as a "Friend of the Court."

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The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) is a nonprofit voluntary membership organization of over 8,000 attorneys, law students and legal professionals in the Bay Area. Founded in 1872, BASF is one of the largest and most dynamic metropolitan bar associations in the U.S., with a long and distinguished record of community action, public service and service to the legal profession.