

Asylum Program Cases:

JKGE (Colombia) Affirmative. DOE: 04/16/2019. Over One Year Deadline.

Client is a thirty-seven-year-old man from Colombia who fears returning to his home country because he is gay and HIV positive. Client has always felt like an outsider due to his sexuality and described feeling mental and psychological persecution, including from his own family. For several years, Client was working in Colombia in a Catholic school as a theological scholar. Once the school found out that Client was gay, they did not renew his contract and was not allowed to be at the school because he was regarded as a bad influence. He was unable to secure employment elsewhere in his field because of his sexual orientation. Client also reports difficulty accessing proper medical care and is fearful of being forced to return to Colombia.

LAMG (Guatemala) Affirmative. DOE: 10/4/2014 – Over One Year Deadline.

Client is a twenty-nine-year-old woman from Guatemala who identifies as transgender. She has known since she was young that she identified as a woman, but she was unable to openly express this, due to the pervasive hostility against LGBTQ+ individuals, not only in her town, but in the entire country of Guatemala. Client knows that the police in Guatemala are very corrupt, and that any time a transgender person was beaten or targeted in the town, the police would ignore the incident and refuse to investigate. Afraid for her safety, believing that she would be physically beaten or killed if she lived openly as a woman, Client fled to the United States. Client could not safely live openly as a transgender person in Guatemala and needs refuge in the United States.

LEG (Guatemala) Defensive. DOE: approx. 01/04/2019. Over One Year Deadline. **MCH: 12/28/2023 at 1:30PM with Judge Jalelian.**

Client is a twenty-one-year-old woman from Guatemala who fears returning to her home country as a result of having endured years of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of the father of her children. Client met the father of her children when she was 13 years old. When Client became pregnant with their second child, the abuse from the father of her children towards her escalated further. He abused her daily and threatened to kill her and harm their children if she ever told anyone about the abuse. Client believes the father of her children is capable of killing her and as there are very few protections for women experiencing domestic violence in Guatemala, there would be little to deter him. On one occasion, Client reported the violence she experienced to authorities. The father of her children was arrested and held for two to three hours and then released. The only consequence of this report was that his treatment of her became even worse. Finally, when Client was about one to two months pregnant with their third child, she decided she needed to flee the relationship. The father of her child had beat her so badly on this occasion that she began bleeding as a result of a hit to the stomach. She almost lost the baby and required hospitalization. Furthermore, Client did not feel comfortable leaving her children around their father, especially her daughter, for fear that he may sexually abuse her in addition to the verbal abuse he inflicted upon her and the other children. Client's daughter also expressed fear of her father to Client. Shortly after almost losing her third child as a result of the severe beating she endured, Client fled to the United States with her children. Client has survived years of violence and would like to seek asylum in the United States so that she can rebuild her life in safety.

LRC (Ecuador) Defensive. DOE: 06/02/2021. One Year Deadline: 06/01/2022

Client is a twenty-eight-year-old woman from Ecuador who fled her home country due to physical attacks and death threats made against her by her partner's uncle due to her sexual orientation. Client believes that she would have been killed had she not left Ecuador. After seeing them kissing, her partner's uncle started to harass them. On one occasion, the uncle and three male cousins took Client and her partner to a nearby river, beat them, and gang-raped Client. The police did nothing against the uncle and failed to take Client's report. Client believes that her partner's uncle is very connected with the local police department in Ecuador. Since Client left Ecuador, the uncle has visited Client's family several times asking for her whereabouts and threatening that he would kill her if he saw her again. Client cannot live safely or freely in Ecuador and is in need of refuge in the United States.

TMK (Kenya) Affirmative. DOE: 12/13/2019. Filed: February 2020

Client is a forty-eight-year-old woman from Kenya who fears returning to her home country because of targeted harm by an illegal religious sect who intensely persecuted her due to her identity as a Christian and her rejection of restrictive, traditional gender norms. The sect rejects Westernization and Christianity and are known for extortion and extreme violence. After rejecting the sect's recruitment efforts, Client was brutally attacked by members of this sect on several occasions, including beatings, gang rape, genital mutilation, and death threats. Client believes that the illegal religious sect targeted her due to her religious beliefs and does not believe that the government can or will protect her. She believes that if she were to return to Kenya she would be tortured or killed.

Justice for Immigrant Families Cases:

SDS. Defensive (UC asylum and SIJS). DOE: 01/31/2019. Next hearing: March 22, 2022 at 8:30 AM, IJ Feder

Client is a 19 year old young woman from Honduras who fled to the United States after struggling with abuse she suffered in her home country and her family receiving threats from threats. Client had a father who was never present in her life. She started to work at the age of 12 in a store because her family did not have enough money. When she was around 13 years old, a cousin attempted to sexually assault Client. Client told her mother, but her mother never reported it to the police. This and a combination of threats her family was receiving made Client realize she had to flee Honduras. Client had a hard life when she first arrived in the United States: she was first placed by ORR with her sister and her sister's abusive partner. The partner would threaten her and kick her out of the house. Client fled her sister's house and came to Massachusetts where she was forced to move constantly. Client is now working with a young mother's program in Chelsea (as she is expecting her first child) and hopes to live safely in the United States with her child. Client may be eligible for SIJS based on the neglect and abuse of her mother and abandonment of her father, as well as asylum.

LGG. Defensive (UC asylum and SIJS). DOE: 06/15/2019; Next hearing: August 22, 2022 at 1:30 PM, IJ O'Sullivan

Client is a 19 year old young woman from El Salvador who fled to the United States because of her fear of the MS-13 gang and because there was no one to care for her in El Salvador. Client's father abandoned her at a young age and was never present in her life. When her mother left for the United States, Client moved in with her elderly grandmother. Client lived in an area that was controlled by MS-13. Her aunt was dating a member of MS-13 which scared the Client. This fear in addition to the fact that her grandmother could no longer care for her led to the Client making the journey to the United States even though she was 7 months pregnant. Client gave birth to her baby in the United States. She is currently enrolled in high school and is enjoying being able to go to school and live with her baby in the United States without fear. Client may be eligible for SIJS based on the abandonment of her father, as well as asylum.

JAHF. Affirmative (SIJS). DOB:5/30/2001.

Client is a 20 year old young woman from Colombia who arrived in the United States alone as a 17 year old. Client lived briefly with her mother but then moved out afterwards and has been living on her own for about three years. Client's father has never been present in her life and has not provided for her. Client is a self sufficient young woman who graduated from high school in Colombia and has been working to support herself ever since. Client hopes to be able to stay in the United States safely and live out her dreams. Client speaks Spanish and English. Client may be eligible for SIJS based on the abandonment of her father. **Please note that Client ages out of SIJS eligibility on 5/30/2022, so case would have to be completed and filed with USCIS by then.**