



PAIR Project

PAIR Abstracts – May 2022

1. NEGV (Guatemala) Defensive. DOE: 05/30/2021. One Year Deadline: 05/29/2021.

Client is a thirty-six-year-old woman from Guatemala who fled her home country due to death threats from gang members who killed her father. Client lived near her father and had a close relationship with him. Her father sold cattle and livestock and owned a family ranch. In 2017, Client arrived at the family ranch to find her father brutally murdered. She reported the crime to the police but they did not investigate or take action. Soon after, the same gang members started to threaten Client. They surveilled her and threatened to kill her if she did not leave. Client fled to Mexico with her young son. While in Mexico, Client received a number of phone calls from the same gang, warning her that they would come to Mexico and kidnap her son if she did not pay a large extortion fee. The threats continued, unabated by the complaint Client filed with the Mexican police. Client made the decision to enter the United States to seek safety for her and her young child.

2. 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.

3. JRC (Haiti) Defensive. DOE: 08/23/2021. One Year Deadline: 08/22/2022.

Client is a 31-year-old man from Haiti who fears returning to his home country because he is gay. Since he was 15 years old, Client has been bullied, daily, in school and on the streets for being gay. In 2015, Client was shot on his way home from university by a stranger who called him a gay slur, while a crowd of men used that same slur and egged that stranger on. Following

two surgeries, Client went to the police station to file a complaint. When he explained to a police officer what had happened, there was no follow-up or subsequent appointment. After having been shot and recovered at the hospital, Client felt like he was not safe and could not be protected while walking outside on the streets. Client lived temporarily in the Dominican Republic and Chile before fleeing to the United States. If Client were to return to Haiti, he would be confined to the only place where he felt comfortable or safe: inside his own home. If he were to leave his house, he would face the same violence and bullying that he had experienced for more than a decade. No matter where he went or how he dressed, Client would be attacked. No one, including the authorities, could protect him.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. SDS. Honduras. 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.

7. LGG. El Salvador. 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.

8. 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.

9. FPE (Honduras). Affirmative. DOE: 08/24/2020. One Year Deadline: 08/23/2021. 589 Timely-filed by PAIR

Client is a forty-one-year-old Honduran woman who fears returning to her home country as a result of suffering a lifetime of domestic violence at the hands of her husband. Client has been with her husband since she was 15 years old (he was 28 years old). Throughout their relationship, Client has endured physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse by her husband. Her husband is possessive and monitored her closely. He was also physically, mentally, and emotionally abusive to his and Client's daughters. She did not report him to the police due to the combination of a culture that enables domestic violence and the threats she faced from her husband about what he would do to their daughters if she ever reported the abuse. Client and her youngest daughter have traveled to the United States on a few occasions because Client's youngest daughter receives medical treatment at a hospital in Boston for a rare medical condition. While on Client's most recent trip to the United States, she saw a poster about domestic violence and felt compelled to finally begin speaking about the domestic violence. She informed one of the staff at the hospital who connected her with domestic violence support and eventually to PAIR. Client wishes to be granted protection in the United States so that she and her daughter never have to return to Honduras where she fears her husband will continue to harm her and even kill her.

10. VG (Guatemala) Defensive. DOE: 08/26/2021. One Year Deadline: 08/25/2022

Client is a twenty-nine-year-old woman from Guatemala who fled for her life to the United States. Despite relocating within Guatemala several times throughout her life, she has suffered severe attacks from men on multiple occasions and does not feel safe anywhere in her home country anymore. From a young age, Client was abused by her step-father. She was kidnapped, raped and tortured by him. In later years, she was shot at by men who said they were attacking her on behalf of her step-father. Her step-father is a drug trafficker and is part of a large and powerful cartel. Client was also abused by her former partner after he found out she is a lesbian. On one instance, he pushed Client down a set of stairs outside of her home, knocking her unconscious. She woke up in the hospital with a fractured nose, stitches across her face, and having had 5 teeth knocked out. Two years later, he called Client's mother to threaten Client's life. Fearing both her step-father and his associates, and her former partner, Client fled to the United States. Client believes her daughter, who is currently in Guatemala, is also in danger and would like to bring her to the US.

11. MOG (Cuba) Defensive. DOE: 09/04/2021. One Year Deadline: 09/03/2022

Client is a thirty-one-year-old woman from Cuba who came to the United States after fleeing political persecution in Cuba. Client specifically feared retaliation from the Cuban government following her participation in a protest. Her participation was a non-violent expression of her frustration with the Cuban government. While Client has never been physically hurt by the Cuban government, she endured intense psychological harm as a result of constant fear and surveillance. Client would not be safe if forced to return to Cuba. She imagines that she would likely be removed from her job or home and put into prison. Client does not have anyone in Cuba that can protect her or anywhere to go where she will be safe. Further, Client does not feel as though she would be safe in Mexico or other countries because of their collaboration with or indifference to the Cuban government. Client feels safe and comfortable in the United States, as though it is the home that she never had and is therefore seeking political asylum to stay.

12. 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.

13. LYPR (Cuba) Defensive. DOE: 08/25/2021. One Year Deadline: 08/24/2022.

Client is a thirty-eight-year-old man from Cuba who fled his home country due to political persecution and racism. Client was frequently targeted and harassed by the police for expressing his political opinion and for his skin color. The police beat him and imprisoned him several times on false charges. On one instance, Client was stopped and identified by the police although he was not doing anything illegal. He shouted “down with Communism” in front of the police, which led the police to beat him and throw him into jail again, on false charges of assaulting a police officer. At this time, Client felt that the police were never going to stop harassing him because of his past criminal record and his race and skin color. He felt that each time he got out of prison, he would be again targeted by the police and put back in prison on false charges. Client does not want to go back to Cuba, a country he had attempted to leave since he was 19 years ago. He cannot live a normal and safe life in Cuba. He had been a target of the police due to his criminal background and political expressions. Things are even worse for Client because of his skin color. There is nowhere in Cuba he can safely live.

14. KS (Belarus) Defensive. DOE: 10/15/2021. One Year Deadline: 10/14/2022. MCH: August 5, 2022 at 10 AM, IJ Cade

Client is a thirty-year-old man from Belarus who fled his home country due to political persecution. Client was an administrator of a popular local social media news feed that provided updates to pro-democracy protestors. He regularly attended large political marches which denounced the authoritarian president, and was beaten on multiple occasions by police while attending these protests. One day, while leaving his apartment to go to work, police were waiting for Client. Police beat him, then detained and tortured him for two weeks on charges of administering the social media channel and flying a protest flag in his home. Police hinted that they had been surveilling Client’s phone and threatened his family members. Upon release, Client fled the country and made his way to the United States. Client believes fervently in democracy and knows he cannot safely return to Belarus.