

## LEGAL TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Meeting Via Zoom



### STRATEGIC LEGAL TEAM GOALS

- To increase awareness of legal rights and issues affecting the Hispanic community.
- To serve as a referral source for Hispanic community members and service providers seeking legal help.
- To educate HA board and members about legal rights and issues affecting the Hispanic community.

Attendance: Jessica Wallace, Yenli Gaytan, Dylan Lingerfelt, Tricia Ravenhorst, Carmen Ogles, Abdalis Toro & Milena Barroso

Staff: Cesar Salas, Jonathan Valadez, Sarai Melendez, & Debbra Alvarado

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Stay engaged with HA!

- Hispanic Alliance Phone Number: **864-256-0760**
- HA Websites: (English) <https://www.hispanicalliancesc.com/> and (Español) <https://www.alianzahispanasc.com/>
- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/HispanicAllianceSC>
- Instagram: <https://instagram.com/hispanicalliancesc/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hispanicalliance>
- Email: [communityinfo@hispanicalliancesc.com](mailto:communityinfo@hispanicalliancesc.com)

#### HA Meeting Schedule & Updates

- The Community Teams have a new schedule for 2023. Please visit <https://hispanicalliancesc.com/teams> to learn about the new schedule and register for upcoming meetings.
  - **FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**
    - **FINANCIAL STABILITY**- Wednesday, February 15th at 12PM
    - **EDUCATION**- Thursday, February 16th at 4PM
    - **HEALTH**- Friday, February 17th at 12PM
- **Network** - **The second Wednesday of the month at 12:30PM**
  - Please visit <https://hispanicalliancesc.com/ha-network> for upcoming meetings and registration links.

#### Announcements

- **SC Appleseed, in collaboration with SCACED and Village Engage**, have published a statewide map of community banks and credit unions that do provide affordable small dollar loans. These loans, found across our state, do not charge the interest rates of these predatory lenders and have affordable terms. To see the list of local banks providing affordable small dollar loans please visit <https://bit.ly/3wM4OyY>.

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- **AHAM** scholarship application is now open until March 15th. The applicants must be a senior in a high school located in 1 of the 9 counties in the Upstate: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenwood, Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, and Union. The scholarship is available to US Citizens, Residents and DACA students. For more information please visit <https://www.ahamsc.org/aham-scholarship-requirements>.
- Bannister, Wyatt & Stalvey, LLC is collecting gently used men's suits to donate to schools. If you have a suit to donate, contact Yenli Gaytan at [yenlig08@gmail.com](mailto:yenlig08@gmail.com).

### Resources

- **The South Carolina Immigrant Victim Coalition (SCIVC)** is a collaborative network of partners – including immigrant communities, victim service providers, healthcare and legal professionals, and law enforcement agencies – committed to working together to better serve immigrant victims of crime through the promotion of culturally and linguistically competent resources. The statewide coalition is dedicated to ensuring that immigrant crime victims have meaningful access to justice and available services, benefits and resources. Reach out to Tricia Ravenhorst for more information at [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org).
- **The South Carolina Judicial Branch Court Interpreter Certification Program** is hosting a Two-Day Workshop This two-day workshop will be facilitated by Mr. Javier Castillo, Jr., a federally-certified court interpreter. Topics covered include Rules of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters, Rule 511, court interpreting modes and skills, the justice system structure and procedure, legal terminology, self-study aids, and techniques to improve interpreting skills. For cost, information and registration please visit <https://castillolanguageservices.com/sc-orientation-march-2023>.

### Legal Updates

- DHS has announced processes through which nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, and their immediate family members, may request to come to the United States in a safe and orderly way. Qualified beneficiaries who are outside the United States and lack U.S. entry documents may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for advanced authorization to travel and a temporary period of parole for up to two years for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. To participate, eligible beneficiaries must:
  - Have a supporter in the United States;
  - Undergo and clear robust security vetting;
  - Meet other eligibility criteria; and
  - Warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.

For more information visit <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>.

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### Group Discussion

- Meeting Schedule
  - The legal team will meet every other month starting in February. Our meetings will continue to meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 12pm.
    - Click [here](#) to see current schedule
- Update HA Legal Resources Handout
  - Expand knowledge on attorneys outside of immigration
    - Requests we receive the most outside of immigration: workers comp, housing (issues with landlord, living conditions), estate planning, employee & labor attorneys
      - List of contacts/attorneys to reach out for more information:
        - Martin Watson at Greenville Human Relation Commissions for housing resources/attorneys. Most request: dealing with landlords.
      - Isabella Martinez at Brian Martin Law Firm - she does real estate/business law/state planning; new to SC
      - Laura and Al Martin; Martin & Martin - Laura does immigration and Al does worker's comp. Majority of their clients are Hispanic
      - Dan Quinones - personal injury
      - Guest and Brady LLC for workers comp and housing issues
      - Gus Suarez, Ogletree - employment for businesses
      - Matt Kappell - criminal defense; aviation law
      - Damaris Daughtry Perez - she is GAL & may help with Medicaid? (also an attorney)
      - Chace Campbell: estate planning and speaks Spanish
    - Next steps: The legal team leadership will conduct research on everyone mentioned to see who is a good fit for our referral list.
- KYR request from Palmetto High School in Williamston, SC
  - PHS has reached out to ask if an attorney would be willing to meet with their parents to discuss immigration status, student visa status, work authorization, etc.
    - Based on conversation with the team, Debbra will follow up with to get an idea on how many parents they are expecting
    - Could this be done through Zoom?