



CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.

How to Obtain BIA Recognition and Accreditation

ECDC's 18th National Conference Friday, May 4th, 2012

Michelle Sardone
Field Support Coordinator
Center for Citizenship & Immigrant Communities

CLINIC's Capacity Building Goals

- Expand the number of charitable legal immigration programs
 - Members (Catholic organizations)
 - Subscribers (Non-Catholic, non-profit immigration service organizations)
- Increase services
- Improve services

CLINIC's Capacity Building Activities

- Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) agency recognition & staff accreditation
- Immigration Program Management training
- Management webinars
- Consultations with Field Support Coordinators

Capacity Building Activities, cont'd

- Project management
- Flow through funding
- Link members and subscribers to CLINIC services
- Prepare programs for significant immigration changes

Today's Agenda

- Reasons for BIA Recognition and Accreditation
- Steps to applying for BIA Recognition
- Requirements for BIA Accreditation
- Training Opportunities
- Resources
- Proposed Changes to BIA R&A

Why get BIA Recognition and Accreditation?

- Strengthen program/ensure better client services
- Ensure quality of immigration advice
- Authorize accredited staff to practice within USCIS and/or Immigration Court
- Create more affordable legal services in community
- Lower staffing costs
- Its FREE!

Are there any limitations to BIA R&A?

- Rep can only practice for agency where he/she received accreditation (accreditation does not travel)
- Rep must work under auspices of that recognized agency
- Rep cannot practice in local, county, state or federal courts other than immigration courts and BIA

What do you need to show for BIA Recognition?

- Non-profit agency?
- Nominal fees?
- Knowledge and experience with immigration law?
- Immigration resources at its disposal?
- Access to support of an immigration attorney or fully accredited rep on staff or via phone or e-mail (Matter of EAC)

What is BIA Accreditation?

- For employees or volunteers of a BIA recognized agency with knowledge and training of immigration law
- Partial or Full Accreditation
- Accreditation is for 3 years, renewable
- Must show good moral character
- Terminates if individual leaves agency

What do you need to show for BIA Accreditation?

- Applying for accreditation
 - Who can apply for accreditation?
 - How much and what kind of training/experience do individuals need before applying?
- Renewing accreditation
 - What do you need to show when renewing accreditation?

Training Opportunities

- Check Immigration Advocates Network for trainings around the country:
<http://immigrationadvocates.org>
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center 40-hr training www.ilrc.org
- CLINIC trainings www.cliniclegal.org
- Don't forget about webinars

Resources

- CLINIC's Managing an Immigration Program Manual (Ch 4 is on BIA R&A)
- Step by Step Application Guide
- BIA Decisions
- Law Library Resources
- Sample Applications
- All resources are available at:
<http://cliniclegal.org/resources/toolkit-bia-recognition-accreditation>

Proposed Changes

- EOIR held two meetings on proposed amendments to BIA R&A in March 2012
- Comments were due by March 19, 2012
- CLINIC's comments
- New regulations should be posted for comment soon
- Final regulations could be in place by the end of this year

Possible Changes for BIA Recognition

- Required documentation to establish eligibility for recognition
- Fraud prevention
- Nominal fees
- Withdrawal of recognition
- Definition of “low-income”

Possible Changes for BIA Accreditation

- Required training for accredited representatives
- Fraud prevention
- Adequate supervision

Questions?



CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.

www.cliniclegal.org

415 Michigan Ave., NE

Suite 200

Washington, DC 20017

202-635-2556

national@cliniclegal.org



twitter.com/cliniclegal



facebook.com/cliniclegal

