

Rocky Mountain Survivors Center

Provision of Legal Services

April 16, 2008



Overview of RMSC

- ❑ Founded in 1996
- ❑ Served over 1,000 survivors since 2000, from from 53 countries
- ❑ March 31, 2008 snapshot:
 - 158 survivors served from Oct. 1, 2007 to Mar. 31, 2008
 - Top nationalities: Ethiopian, Eritrean, Sudanese, Togolese, Somali, Colombian
 - 54% male, 46% female, 50% single, 85% asylum-seekers
 - 60% Christian, 34% Muslim
- ❑ Services – legal, medical referrals, mental health therapy, social services, interpretation

2005 – 2008 Overview

- Network of 75 volunteer attorneys – includes attorneys from large and medium firms, solo practitioners, law professors, law students

- Average time spent on case 100 to 150 hours (students spend closer to 200 hours)
 - See: 
Microsoft Office
Word 97 - 2003 Document

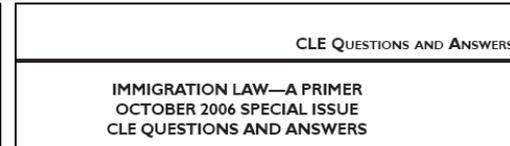
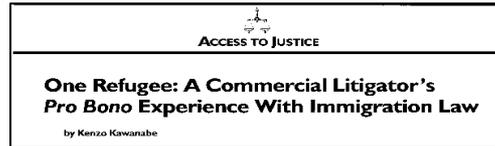
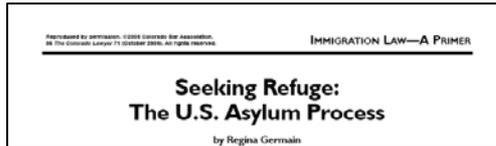
- Success rate – over 90% (after appeals closer to 100%)

Components of RMSC's Model

- Publicity about Program
- Recruitment
- Training
- Screening/Assignment
- Mentoring
- Legal Resources – Website
- Certificates / Awards
- Committee of Legal Advisors

Publicity

- Television
 - [9 News - Seeking Asylum Means Leaving Others Behind](#)
- Bar Journals & Website



- Newspapers
 - http://www.denverpost.com/ci_7536478?source=rss
 - See: 
Denver Post
- Immigration Lawyer Publications
 - See:  
Immigration Law Today - Pro Bono Pioneering Spirit
- Lists of Free Legal Services

Recruitment

- Publicity
- Presentations to Firms
- Law Students – Career Fairs,
Presentations at student events
 - [Northeastern Law Magazine](#)
 - See: 
Isla.pdf
- Listings on Web
 - [Colorado Bar Association - RMSC](#)
 - [American Bar Association - Pro Bono Opportunities](#)
- Recruiting Local AILA Members

Training

- Full-Day / In Person

- Monthly Breakfasts



Asylum Breakfast -
01/07



Asylum Breakfast -
03/07



Asylum Breakfast -
05/07



Asylum Breakfast -
10/07

- Library - videos / manuals

- Well-Founded Fear
- ABA Best Practices in Representing Asylum-Seekers
- Movies – “Chasing Freedom”

- Training Videos on website

- [RMSC - Training Videos](#)

Screening / Case Assignment

- Most important task of all
 - for reputation of program, and
 - continued volunteer base
- Screen out cases that have no basis in law
- Screen out cases with mandatory bars
- Refer for Additional Services with other agencies

Mentoring

- ❑ In-house Mentor – an in-house mentor who is knowledgeable about asylum law and procedures and is available on a daily basis to volunteers is key.
- ❑ Volunteer Mentors – Helpful on smaller issues, but harder to get a long term commitment and immediate response from

Legal Resources - Website

- The RMSC Legal website - Highlights
 - [Rocky Mountain Survivors Center - Legal](#)
- Links to Statute and Regulation
- Links to Policies and Procedures
- Basic Asylum Law Information
- Asylum Officer Basic Training Course (only available on our site)
- Coming soon – link to Immigration Court Practice Manual (effective July 1, 2008)
 - http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/OCIJPracManual/ocij_page1.htm

Other Legal Support

- Legal Research from Law Student Interns
- Recent Case Law, Policy Memos, Advocacy Efforts forwarded to attorneys
- Referrals for Mental Health / Medical Reports
- Interpretation / Translation Services
- conference rooms, copiers, other office supplies

Certificates / Awards

- Voice for Voiceless award

- See:



Felty - Certificate for Felty.pdf

- RMSC Volunteer of the Month Award

Litigation Fund

- ❑ This is on our wish list
- ❑ Changes under REAL ID Act require greater corroboration
- ❑ USICE conducting more forensic testing on documents
- ❑ Need for experts is growing
 - Medical
 - Country
 - Psychological
 - Document

Committee of Legal Advisors

- Members include:
 - Solo practitioner volunteer
 - Large firm pro bono coordinator
 - Public Defender
 - RMSC Board Member
- Hope to add –Gov't Rep / Academic
- Role – advice re: funding, improving outreach, new activities (e.g.delegation)

Not Limited to Legal Volunteers

- Use this model
 - Mental Health volunteers –
 - RMSC just started
 - Medical volunteers
- Tweak your model
 - Don't be afraid to try new things
 - Ask for feedback
 - Ask for advice from others in the field
 - Invite individuals from other disciplines to attend
 - Not expensive – RMSC's Legal Dept. – smallest budget of all disciplines. Our motto: Do more with less.