WHAT IS SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS (SIJS)?

A status granted to a immigrant minor who has been a victim of abuse, neglect, or abandonment by a parent. Pro Bono attorneys obtain custody orders for immigrant children to enable them to apply for SIJS and thereby receive lawful permanent resident status.

MECKLENBURG
ACCESS TO JUSTICE
CAMPAIGN

PRO BONO EXPECTATIONS:

Before: The Advocacy Center staff determines eligibility for SIJS.
During: Obtain custody order from district court documenting abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Represent children in district court to obtain necessary order for SIJS.
After: Some client contact and paperwork required. Many attorneys finish their pro bono involvement after obtaining custody order.
Time: About 10 hours

PRO BONO IMPACT:

Taking on an SIJS case is an opportunity to impact a immigrant child's story and participate in meaningful work. Engaging and participating in these cases provides support to the Charlotte immigrant community.

TRAINING + SUPPORT

We offer trainings to attorneys outside of their practice area. We also provide a tool kit with the necessary materials to take the case. The Advocacy Center staff provide ongoing assistance. Co-counsel is welcome and encouraged!

WHY SIJS WORK?

"Through this work, you provide a child that has experienced severe trauma with a new start. As an immigrant myself, I know first-hand the opportunities that come with the privilege of living in the United States and having a pathway to citizenship." -Heryka Knoespel, McGuireWoods, LLP

Katherine,
SIJS Client

YOU WOULD ENJOY SIJS IF:

- Gaining court experience interests you.
- You are impassioned by issues that affect the Charlotte immigrant community.
- You are interested in learning about immigration law.
- You want to volunteer but have limited or inconsistent time to do so.