

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
PRO BONO PARTNERS



**Katherine,
SIJS Client**

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

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.

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