

IMMIGRATION BULLETIN: DECEMBER 24, 2018-JANUARY 15, 2019

Government Shutdown results in some naturalization oath ceremony cancellations and suspension of nondetained immigration court case processing: immigration attorneys are reporting that naturalization oath ceremonies are being cancelled as a result of the partial government shutdown. Full schedule for oath ceremonies for the coming months can be found here: <http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/Naturalization-Schedule.pdf> Also, only detained immigration court cases are moving forward—meaning that all nondetained immigration court case hearings are cancelled during the shutdown. Stories below: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/shutdown-stalls-immigration-courts-already-facing-a-tremendous-backlog-of-cases>
<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/shutdown-nearly-shuts-u-s-immigration-courts-deportations-continue-n954826>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/government-shutdown-could-cancel-more-than-100000-immigration-hearings-study-finds-2019-01-14/>

John Keller joins Minnesota Attorney General's Office: Longtime executive director of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, John Keller, is joining the Attorney General's Office as chief deputy. For the many who have worked with him it is very exciting to consider the insight on immigrant and refugee issues that that he will bring to the AGs office. More information on ILCM's website: <https://www.ilcm.org/latest-news/john-keller-named-mn-chief-deputy-attorney-general/>

What is the real border crisis and why do we need that wall again?: Tear gas again was used at the border earlier this month: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/01/world/americas/migrants-border-tear-gas.html>. Also, below are a couple of news stories about Minnesota attorneys and law students who have worked with asylum seekers at or close to the border, including:

Hamline law students who worked with asylum seekers in detention in Texas:

<http://www.fox9.com/news/back-from-the-border-hamline-law-students-discuss-winter-break-working-with-refugees>

Minnesota immigration attorneys who worked to assist asylum seekers enter the US at the border—the attorneys quoted in this article do an excellent job at explaining what is really happening at the border and how Customs and Border protection agents are operating in violation of law, in front of attorneys and members of Congress:

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/01/09/two-minnesota-attorneys-trip-to-the-border-captures-18-hour-standoff-with-officials>

Juxtaposing these stories with the President's speech on the need for a border wall is interesting: <https://www.nbcnews.com/video/watch-the-full-nbc-news-special-report-on-trump-s-immigration-speech-1422346307716>

Proposed Asylum final rule comment period ends: The American Immigration Council submitted the following comment on the federal government's final rule barring individuals who enter the US without inspection from qualifying for asylum. Note that this rule has not gone into effect because it is the subject of federal litigation. <http://americanimmigrationcouncil.org/content/comments-opposing-proposed-regulation-barring-asylum-those-entering-between-us-ports-entry>

Attempted asylum restrictions defeated in federal court: In a recent federal court decision, Grace v. Sessions, Washington DC Federal Judge Emmett Till permanently enjoined the U.S. government from continuing the new policies, restricting asylum claims by victims of domestic and gang violence, which were announced in the summer of 2018 by former Attorney General Sessions, and followed his decision on the same subject in Matter of A-B-. Judge Till demanded the return of immigrants named in the case who he said were unlawfully deported. <https://www.law.com/nationallawjournal/2018/12/19/judge-emmet-sullivan-just-wrecked-trumps-new-asylum-restrictions/?slreturn=20190015065346>

Haitian TPS trial—Saget v. Trump: The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild sued to prevent termination of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians in the US. The trial, which began on January 7, 2019, alleges that the government violated the law in the way it ended TPS and that its decision to end it was premeditated, and motivated by racial animus. More information here: http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/pr/2019_0107_press-tps-haiti.html General information about TPS/DED can be found here: <https://cliniclegal.org/tps>

Anti-Sanctuary Measure proposed in Minnesota State Legislature: SF80, a new bill introduced in the MN State Senate on January 10, would withhold funding to communities that are identified as sanctuary cities. According to the language of the measure, Minneapolis would qualify as a sanctuary city. Although this bill is unlikely to become law, it may be very useful to conduct outreach within the communities represented by the authors of this bill, <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=sf0080&version=latest&session=ls91&ssn=1&y=2019&format=pdf>

Possible DED (Deferred Enforced Departure) Lawsuit: African Communities Together in NY is seeking plaintiffs for a possible lawsuit regarding Liberian DED. which is ending in March. Contact information is here: ACT's organizer Sadatu Mamah-Trawill at sadatu@africans.us or 347-746-2281 x 402. General information about TPS/DED can be found here: <https://cliniclegal.org/tps> A good overview on TPS/DED including detailed definitions of these two types of legal presence in the US and the impacts of termination can be found here: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS20844.pdf>

Fears of Repatriation in the Southeast Asian Community Part 2: Members of the Southeast Asian community in Minnesota are mobilizing to raise awareness of the federal government's negotiations with Laos, Vietnam and Burma to ultimately deport individuals in the US from those countries who have outstanding removal orders. <http://www.startribune.com/twin-cities-community-leaders-call-for-end-to-deportations-of-vietnam-war-era-refugees/503289892/> A worthwhile documentary to elucidate why it would be an incredible wrong for the United States to deport Vietnam war refugees can be found on PBS: <https://www.pbs.org/video/americas-secret-war-minnesota-remembers-vietnam-yfvkds/> People fearful of being subjected to persecution should not be removed to their home country—this concept is called nonrefoulement and a quick overview of the United Nations note on this subject can be found here: <https://www.unhcr.org/excom/scip/3ae68ccd10/note-non-refoulement-submitted-high-commissioner.html>

Community Connections Conference-February 2: The Community Connections Conference, an annual free conference meant to build connections and foster collaboration between community, neighborhoods and government, focusing on best practices for community engagement. will take place on February 2nd from 8AM-4PM. New this year will be workshops on naturalization and hot topics in immigration, with participation by local nonprofit organizations Advocates for Human Rights, Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Mid Minnesota Legal Aid and Volunteer Lawyers Network. These organizations will also participate in legal consultations throughout the day in the areas of immigration, housing and family law. More information about the conference can be found here: <http://www.minneapolis.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference>

Continuing Legal Education Opportunity: There's still time to register for the upcoming "Immigrants Among Us" CLE on **Friday, January 18, 2019**, organized by the MSBA's Immigration Law Section. The panel will feature Judge Sophia Y. Vuelo from the Ramsey County District Court, Inchan Hwang from Stinson Leonard Street and Maya Salah from Ballard Spahr. Registration will include **lunch** and **1.5 Elimination of Bias** credits! You can register online [HERE](#) or contact Kayla Erbach at (612) 278-6325 or kerbach@mnbar.org

Please do not hesitate to contact me for questions about these stories or other immigration issues that you all encounter in your work, and thank you!