

*Justice With
Compassion*

SAN DIEGO, CA

November 2017

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**Casa Cornelia's
Mission**



**Casa Cornelia
Law Center**

Fall Newsletter



Volunteer Attorney Spotlight

William P. Keith, Esq. - Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne

In June 2014 William P. Keith, Esq. (Bill) agreed to represent a detained client applying for asylum. His client fled his Latin American country of origin after being threatened for speaking out against the government. Unbeknownst to Bill when he took the case, the legal journey with his client would take over three long years with numerous hearings. There were administrative complications with the case, and the client had no family in the United States in addition to lacking stable housing and transportation for most of the three years after he was released from detention. Yet the client remained resolute in his claim to asylum, and Bill never wavered. Finally in November 2017,



Casa Cornelia Law Center is a public interest law firm providing quality *pro bono* legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations. The Center has a primary commitment to the indigent within the immigrant community in southern California. Casa Cornelia strives to educate others regarding the impact of immigration law and policy on society and the public good.

Bill successfully won the asylum case. Bill's client and Casa Cornelia's legal team were most grateful that he persevered. Bill was patient with his client, firm with opposing counsel and a true advocate before the immigration judge. What Bill did was spectacular, and in his zealous advocacy for his client, he serves as an example for us all. Thank you, Bill, for ensuring that your client can begin a new life, free from fear of persecution, here in the U.S.

Giving Tuesday 2017 - Thank You!



You did it! Thank you for [helping raise \\$15,005 for our mission](#) of Justice with Compassion this Tuesday. Our donors were inspired by the resilience of our clients, as well as the dollar-for-dollar match of \$7,500 given by a generous benefactor. In addition to financial support, we were moved by the incredible moral support apparent in these words of encouragement that we received:

"The work of Casa Cornelia is needed more than ever. Thank you for all your hard work."

-Roberta Gottfried

"Thank you for all you do at CCLC to welcome the stranger every day."

-Sr. Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ

"It has never been more crucial in these turbulent times that we support the Casa Cornelia Law Center."

Anonymous

"I'm honored to support the life-changing results that Casa Cornelia provides for its clients."

Regis Worley

"Let's help this great cause!"

Jimmy Tabb

"Thank you for standing with our most vulnerable."

Rosalia Salinas

"For all the volunteers who make Casa Cornelia's work possible!"

Rebekah Braswell

"Thanks to all the volunteer and staff attorneys for their hard work for the needy."
Jesse Sun

Like Father, Like Son

Gary Perl, Managing Partner of the San Diego, California office of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP, is a dedicated supporter of Casa Cornelia. Through his leadership and encouragement of Fragomen attorneys in their volunteerism, he has changed the lives of Casa Cornelia clients. Fragomen attorneys began screening unaccompanied children regularly at Casa Cornelia's offices in January 2015 - sometimes even twice a week!



Given Gary's commitment to serving immigrant victims



of human and civil rights violations, we were not surprised to learn that his son, Greg Perl, is following his footsteps in New York! Greg owns and is managing partner of his own immigration law firm, Perl Law. Like his father, he is concerned about access to justice for indigent immigrant clients. Earlier this month, he was named the Safe Passage Project's Volunteer Attorney of the Month! Referring to his volunteer work with children and asylum seekers, Greg said: "They are in such a vulnerable position... My client did not have either parent in the United States to care for him. I cannot imagine what it would feel like to move to a foreign country at such a young age without parents."

We are very moved by this father-son volunteerism. Both Gary and Greg are contributing to providing quality legal services to the most vulnerable, which is central to the mission of Casa Cornelia. Thank you, Gary and Greg Perl, for making the world a better place!

A Special Contribution of Time and Talent

Philanthropy can be described in terms of time, talent, or treasure. Ben Lopez, a UC San Diego graduate, came to Casa Cornelia on May 1 as a volunteer and has assisted with several important projects within the Victims of Crime Program. He volunteered his time and talent in a significant way, as he was here full time, Monday through Thursday, and was always willing to provide a helping hand wherever needed. Ben helped to organize the Victims of Crime case list and with preparations for Cornelia's annual Toy Shop event in December. He also added details of our Victims of Crime clients into our case management system and helped with U Visa certification requests, both of which are critical to the program. Moreover, Ben helped with essential Spanish translations that were necessary in the provision of quality legal services to Casa Cornelia's clients. Ben is leaving on November 30 for a new career at Amazon! Thank you for the many gifts and talents you have shared with Casa Cornelia, Ben.



Cornelia's Toy Shop



On Saturday, December 16, Casa Cornelia will host its annual Cornelia's Toy Shop event. On that day, our clients will join us to select toys for their beloved children. We are still busy collecting unwrapped new toys for all ages, infants to 17 year olds. We did not forget the hard working mothers, and will have gifts for them as well!

Help us by donating a toy, a gift for a teenager or for a mom, a gift card, or wrapping paper!

Drop them off anytime, 9am - 4pm, Monday - Friday at Casa Cornelia's office. Please email Courtney Brown at CBrown@CasaCornelia.org for more information.

Our event is successful each year due to the many individuals, law firms, professional associations, parishes, and community organizations who donate gifts to make this day possible. Our clients are always so grateful for this Toy Shop day which makes their families' holidays a little brighter as they work hard to rebuild their lives.

VIT Corner



To our Volunteer Interpreters and Translators,

What a wonderful thing that you do. Your generous sharing of your language talents is greatly appreciated and valued. You helped our clients with their access to justice and their 2017 immigration hurdles! A special "Thank you" to all the volunteer interpreters who made the loving sacrifice and completed assignments at the USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) Anaheim office. This is a special entire day commitment. This year we had an unprecedented 63 asylum interviews!

We look forward to working with all of you next year.

With gratitude,

Artemisa Valle, VIT Program Coordinator
Sandra Cuellar, Children's Program (Non-detained), Legal Assistant
Karen Anchondo, Children's Program (Detained), Legal Assistant
Cecilia Lopez, Victims of Crime Program, Legal Assistant
Gabriela Guzman, Asylum Program, Legal Assistant
Ana Jerez, Translation Projects Coordinator

For more information about Volunteer Opportunities, [click here](#).

*Thank
You!*



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