

# Human Rights First

## Discrimination, Detention, and Deportation: Immigration & Refugees

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/blog/2017-pro-bono-stars-houston>

### Public Facing Advocacy Writing

Work With Asylum Seekers

If you are seeking asylum, we can help

Areas of Focus

Current Initiatives

By [Hardy Vieux](#)

As part of the American Bar Associations Celebrate Pro Bono Week, we are recognizing individuals with outstanding dedication to pro bono service as Pro Bono Stars. Today we highlight Sarah Grossnickle and Daniel Mayerfeld from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Jason Beesinger from Joyce + McFarland LLP (J+M).

Sarah Grossnickle, Jason Beesinger, and Daniel Mayerfeld represent two Syrian men who fled persecution. Abdul\* fled Syria after a lifetime of persecution for his and his fathers political beliefs. After being detained, interrogated, and beaten by Syrian security forces multiple times, Abdul came to the United States hoping to win asylum and become a physician.

Omar\* fled Syria to avoid forcible conscription in the Syrian army. He witnessed family members killed because they refused to commit crimes against humanity. After he was given one month to join the army voluntarily or be forced to, Omar came to the United States seeking asylum.

Sarah, Jason, and Daniel took both cases in 2015 and have worked diligently ever since to win asylum for their clients. In addition to the asylum cases, the team won Temporary Protected Status for Omar and submitted an application for Abdul. Even after Jason left Skadden for J+M, he continued as co-counsel on the cases. The team has been incredibly proactive, engaged with their clients, and enthusiastic in their pursuit of relief for Abdul and Omar.

Thanks to the team from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and J+M, Omar and Abdul have a chance to live peacefully in the United States without the fear of deportation to a country where they could be imprisoned, tortured, killed, or forced to commit heinous crimes.

Sarah also recently helped us lead and staff a pro se asylum workshop for adults with children, where volunteer attorneys helped families fill out their asylum applications.

Human Rights First is grateful for the work of dedicated pro bono teams like Sarah, Jason, and Daniel.

\*Names changed to protect identity

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Joint Letter to President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas & AG Garland on Title 42

Letter

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5 Ways To Help Migrant Parents And Children At The Border

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5th Circuit Amicus Brief in State of Texas, State of Missouri v Biden: HRF Opposes MPP on the Merits

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A life in safety would not mean anything if my children were not here with me: Joys and Trauma Persist for Refugees Separated from Their Families

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A Second Chance for Detained Asylum Seekers in Jennings v. Rodriguez

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A Sign of Desperation: Syrian Refugees are Selling Their Organs

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A Sordid Scheme: The Trump Administrations Illegal Return of Asylum Seekers to Mexico

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A Year After Del Rio, Haitian Asylum Seekers Expelled Under Title 42 Are Still Suffering

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A Year of Horrors: The Trump Administrations Illegal Returns of Asylum Seekers to Danger in Mexico

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