

SPRING
2022

Lawyers for Good Government

The DEFENDER

We coordinate large scale pro bono programs to ensure that all levels of government – national, state, and local – protect human rights and provide equal justice under the law.



2.1K

attorney
volunteers

from 78 law firms
and 41 companies

75K

Ukrainian
nationals
in the U.S.

TPS FOR UKRAINE PRO BONO CLINIC

L4GG has launched the TPS for Ukraine Pro Bono Clinic, a remote pro se clinic to provide legal assistance in applying for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukrainian Nationals in the US. TPS is a form of immigration relief offered to foreign nationals in the United States whose home countries are considered unsafe, and provides the right to live and work in the United States for a temporary period. To apply for this new form of temporary relief, eligible Ukrainian nationals must fill out a lengthy immigration application form known as an I-821.

Our new clinic will provide Ukrainian nationals with free lawyers to assist them in the immigration application process. We have recruited more than 2,200 pro bono attorneys from 78 law firms and 41 companies to participate. We are now remotely training and mobilizing these volunteers and they will begin assisting clients directly in late April.

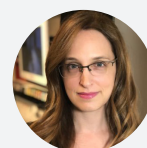
This TPS for Ukraine Pro Bono Clinic is a great example of how L4GG specializes in quickly launching and scaling pro bono projects when legal needs emerge during crises.

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

The beginning of 2022 has proven the value of community. From a European war creating a new wave of refugees to an unprecedented level of state legislative attacks on issues such as voting and reproductive rights, it is clear that we as a community need to stand united to protect human rights and fight for equal justice.

That's why we continue to show up where we're needed, when we're needed. For example, when Russia invaded Ukraine, we were able to quickly mobilize a new response program to help Ukrainian nationals in the U.S. apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) thanks to our incredible network of supporters and volunteers. We're also producing key research and analysis on state level policies contributing to racial disparities, like our new report on corporal punishment in public schools, which is still legal in 19 states. We're fighting climate change by getting new infrastructure funds into communities that need them the most. And we're continuing to stand steadfast to defend the rights of asylum seekers at our southern border.

I hope you'll feel as proud as I do when you read this newsletter. We couldn't do this work without supporters like you, and I can't wait to see what else we'll accomplish together.



– Traci

Lucifora

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

When the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) passed Congress in late 2021, L4GG began building a nationwide Decarbonization and Climate Resiliency Funding Clinic to provide legal assistance to municipal leaders on how to secure funding for new climate projects from this once-in-a-lifetime investment. After working with 42+ cities in 24 states on clean energy, we know that local governments and communities will need legal assistance in order to receive, use, and implement the new funding.

We are now partnering with World Resources Institute (WRI) and a group of intrepid volunteers from Davis Wright Tremaine to conduct research, develop materials, and train both local leaders and state administrators on IIJA funds and its equity provisions to assist disadvantaged communities. We're collaborating with coalition partners like NRDC, EarthJustice, WRI, RMI, SSDN, and many others to track the guidance, create training materials, and provide direct assistance that ensures the new \$550 billion of new funding goes where it's needed most.

This effort will have a long lasting impact on the policies surrounding equity funding and the use of infrastructure dollars for climate projects.

\$550 B

in funds from IIJA. 40% of funds
go to disadvantaged communities.



2.5M lbs.

of CO₂ is removed from the
atmosphere for each solar project

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

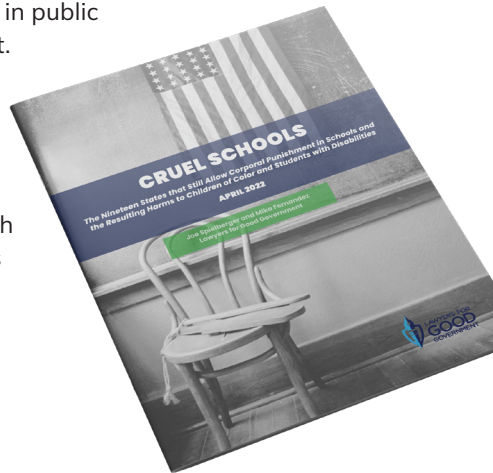
Did you know that:

- nineteen states still allow corporal punishment in public schools?
- corporal punishment may include striking a student by hand, choking them, hitting them with a baseball bat, or subjecting them to electric shock?
- each state that uses corporal punishment in public schools disproportionately uses this form of state-sanctioned violence against at least one marginalized community, like Black students or students with disabilities?

If you weren't aware that this abusive practice with racist roots was still active, you wouldn't be alone. L4GG released a new report documenting the impact of corporal punishment in public schools, and what governments can do to stop it.

The report was written with the assistance of more than a dozen pro bono volunteers, and thanks to their efforts we can now bolster advocacy efforts to end this harmful practice. We'll work directly with state legislators and with our grassroots partners working in the 19 states identified in the report.

You can access the report at L4GG.org/CorporalPunishmentReport.



INVEST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL JUSTICE

Support our critical work on immigrants' rights, climate change, racial justice, and other emergent legal issues. We count on your donations, large or small, one-time or monthly. L4GG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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PROJECT CORAZON PREPARES FOR END OF TITLE 42

Since March of 2020, the U.S. Southern border has been closed to most asylum seekers, as border officials have been using a policy called Title 42 to immediately expel asylum seekers back to Mexico or their home countries without giving them a chance to seek asylum.

Seeking asylum is a human right and a right under U.S. and international law. That's why Project Corazon has been focused on securing humanitarian parole for particularly vulnerable asylum seekers, such as individuals with medical or psychological conditions, pregnant women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and third-language speakers. Since March 2020, we've assisted more than 3,200 asylum seekers at the border.

We are now preparing for the end of Title 42 on May 23, 2022, when the Biden Administration will begin to process asylum seekers at the border once more. While we don't yet know what the process will look like, we remain committed to fighting to protect the rights of asylum seekers in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond throughout this process.

Staff Attorney Jessica Riley was recently featured in the [New York Times](#) and later on CNN's [A New Day](#) addressing the detrimental impact of Title 42 on millions of people seeking safety. You can see Jessica's full segment by [clicking here](#).

