

MULTICULTURAL LEGAL SERVICES

WHAT WE DO

The Multicultural Legal Services Department provides free family and immigration law services to immigrant survivors of human rights abuses. Our staff consists of highly trained attorneys and legal professionals who aid and empower refugees and survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Our services include:

- Legal consultations
- Representation in divorce, custody, child support and protective order hearings
- Preparation of immigration petitions, including but not limited to VAWA, U Nonimmigrant, T Nonimmigrant, removal of conditional residence, DACA, citizenship and adjustment petitions

WHO WE SUPPORT

Economists at Colgate University found that while legal representation is the service to which fewest women have access, it is also the most critical service that contributes to a decline of domestic violence. Without access to legal services that help clients obtain protective orders, divorce decrees, custody/child support orders, or immigration benefits, victims are impeded in their ability to leave an abusive relationship. Mosaic's Legal Department gives our clients the counsel they need to live confident, successful and independent lives.

ELIGIBILITY

The Legal Department serves individuals born outside of the United States who are victims of persecution, crime and/or human trafficking. Services are prioritized for low-income individuals and/or individuals who do not have access to private counsel.

COST OF SERVICES

Mosaic provides legal assistance to all clients free of charge.

HOW TO GIVE HELP OR GET HELP

GIVE HELP: Our Legal Department welcomes the support of pro bono attorneys, law students and other volunteers. Opportunities are tailored to volunteers' interests and availability. To get involved, contact our Legal Program Director, Meijken Westenskow.

GET HELP: To find out if you qualify for legal aid, contact our Legal Program Director at:

Meijken Westenskow
Legal Program Director
214-821-5393 ext. 239
meijkenw@mosaicsservices.org

SURVIVOR STORY

Elena, a student from Brazil, was forced to end her education after her husband became increasingly jealous and controlling about her activities away from home. He prohibited Elena from working, studying, or communicating with her friends and family. Elena's life continued to become more difficult after she became pregnant with her first child. Elena's pregnancy did not deter her husband from hurting her; instead, he initiated a pattern of physical and emotional abuse. Elena contemplated fleeing with her son, but her husband threatened her with deportation and assured her that, because he was a United States citizen, he would be awarded sole custody of their child.

Like many clients, Elena came to Mosaic terrified of pursuing a child support and custody suit against her husband. Yet, with the help of Mosaic's Legal Department, Elena was awarded primary custody of her son and her husband was not allowed to see the child without supervision. During the divorce proceedings, Elena's immigration petition was approved, giving her not only legal status in the United States, but also the empowerment to seek a better life for her family.

