

Vermont Poverty Law Fellow 2022-2024: Immigration in Vermont

Quarters 1 and 2 Highlights

Maya Tsukazaki, the 2022-24 Vermont Poverty Law Fellow, has worked on a variety of projects and cases since joining Vermont Immigrant Assistance at Vermont Law and Graduate School as the eighth Vermont Poverty Law Fellow. Some examples and data:

Case Work

Types of Matters (since Q1)	Number
Asylum	4
VAWA/Crime Victims Immigration Relief	4
Special Immigrant Juveniles	8
Adjustment of Status (Permanent Residency)	5
Naturalization (Citizenship)	2
Limited Advice and Consultations	7
Total	30

Education and Capacity Building

- Expanding a pro bono project on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), including providing legal advice and support to several other Vermont attorneys pursuing special findings for SIJS in Vermont family and probate courts, as well as presenting a CLE at the YLD Mid-Winter Thaw in Montreal on immigration options for noncitizen children
- Providing basic education on immigration options to lay community advocates, including a session for the Vermont/NH Asylum Support Networks
- Speaking with and responding to questions from other Vermont lawyers, including housing, family, and poverty law attorneys, on intersections of their work with immigration law.

Community Outreach and Advocacy

- Meeting and collaborating with various groups around the state that are seeking to meet the needs of noncitizens, including the Vermont/New Hampshire Asylum Seekers Support Networks, Migrant Justice, Connecting Cultures at UVM, and other individuals from various offices at the state government, non-profits, and law firms.
- Participating in conversations with political leaders like Senator Peter Welch to discuss creative ways to meet the needs of asylum seekers and other noncitizens who live in Vermont.