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Penn State Law's Center for Immigrants' Rights and Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center release a toolkit LPR cancellation of removal

As part of its mission to promote a modernized immigration system through representation of immigrant advocacy organizations, Penn State Law's Center for Immigrants' Rights has teamed up with the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC) on various projects ranging from individual casework to policy-focused papers. Located less than a mile from York County Prison, PIRC has become the leading source of legal support to immigrants detained by the Department of Homeland Security in Pennsylvania.

Today, the Center and PIRC released a toolkit for practitioners on cancellation of removal for lawful permanent residents (LPR), a form of relief available to certain lawful permanent residents (green card holders) facing removal.

Under the supervision of the Center's director, Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, law students Modesta Salmeron and Rosalind Newsholme reviewed and researched legal standards, practice advisories, and other material pertaining to LPR Cancellation of Removal, which included collecting and analyzing information from attorneys and advocates. The toolkit includes: 1) a summary of the statutory elements of LPR Cancellation of Removal; 2) sample exhibit lists, legal memos, and checklists; 3) litigation tips and strategies from practitioners across the country; and 4) a digest of dozens of relevant cases from the Board of Immigration Appeals and federal courts.

"As a nonprofit legal service provider delivering pro bono legal services for a growing number of lawful permanent residents and other noncitizens in detention, PIRC tries to recruit volunteer attorneys to increase access to counsel. The toolkit is a significant enticement for new practitioners to learn about immigration removal defenses and accept cases pro bono. By expanding PIRC's capacity to recruit attorneys, the Center's work will have a direct impact on expanding pro bono legal services to people in detention," said Megan Bremer, managing attorney of PIRC.

"Working with Professor Wadhia, stakeholders, and my co-counsel on putting together the LPR Cancellation of Removal Toolkit was not only rewarding but also the best training I've gotten in immigration defense for an aspiring immigrants' rights attorney," said Salmeron.

"In one semester, the students did a tremendous job in producing a toolkit that serves as a comprehensive and practical resource not only for attorneys at PIRC, but NGO and private

attorneys handling LPR cancellation cases on a regular or pro bono basis,” said Wadhia, clinical professor and director of Penn State Law's Center for Immigrants' Rights.

To review a public version of the toolkit, see http://www.law.psu.edu/_file/Immigrants/LPR-Toolkit_Public_E-Version.pdf