



# Refugee Law Office

Legal Aid Ontario's Refugee Law Office provides legal assistance to refugee claimants and immigrants who are eligible for legal aid. It also provides important support to lawyers, legal clinics and community groups. Its staff of lawyers, paralegals and support staff specialize in immigration and refugee law.

## Support for refugees and immigrants

Refugee Law Office staff help clients prepare claims for refugee status at refugee determination hearings before the Immigration and Refugee Board. They are experienced in human rights work and refugee advocacy. They understand the many hardships that refugees and their families face.

In addition, they can communicate with refugees from all over the world. In addition to English and French, its staff also speak Farsi (Persian), Azari, Turkish, Spanish, Korean, Amharic, Tigrigna, Arabic and Somali. They will arrange for interpreters and translate documents for clients if required.

## Support for refugees and immigrants

Among their services, they:

- complete all the necessary government paperwork, including "Port of Entry" or "Inland" forms and the "Personal Information Form"
- prepare for hearings
- represent refugees at the Immigration and Refugee Board
- help refugees seek judicial review of the Immigration and Refugee Board's decision if the hearing is not successful
- provide representation at detention reviews for detainees held on immigration matters at the Immigration Holding Centre and some GTA jails
- conduct judicial reviews and stay motions before the Federal Court

## Support for lawyers, clinics and the community groups

In addition to providing legal information and services such as detention work and specialty cases, Refugee Law Office staff share research, provide expert advice on complex cases and mentor young lawyers.

They also speak to community groups about issues affecting refugees and procedures in refugee determination and share information about LAO services and new developments in refugee and immigration law.

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## For more information

For more information on this topic contact [media@lao.on.ca](mailto:media@lao.on.ca)