

Improving the quality of mandated representation throughout the 7th and 8th Judicial Districts.

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Funded by the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) to improve the quality of mandated representation. The WNY Immigration Assistance Center is a joint project of the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. (VLP) and The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, New York (LAS). The ILS funding is by contract with the County of Erie which has subcontracted with VLP and LAS.

WNY Immigration Assistance Center

237 Main Street, Suite 1000, Buffalo, NY 14203

# WNY Immigration Assistance Center

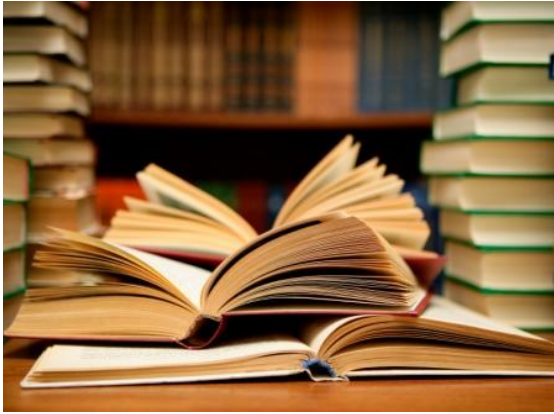
Providing legal support to attorneys who provide mandated representation to noncitizens in the 7th and 8th Judicial Districts of New York.



ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
**VOLUNTEER LAWYERS  
PROJECT, INC.**



The Legal Aid Society  
of ROCHESTER, NEW YORK



## Who We Are

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The Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc., in collaboration with The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, New York, has been awarded a grant from the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (through Erie County) to establish the Western New York Immigration Assistance Center.

## Why We Exist

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Changes to immigration laws have dramatically raised the stakes of a noncitizen's criminal conviction. Providing accurate legal advice for noncitizens accused of crimes has never been more important.

Deportation is an integral part — indeed, sometimes the most important part — of the penalty that may be imposed on noncitizen defendants who plead guilty to specified crimes.

As such, the Supreme Court ruling in *Padilla v. Kentucky*, 559 U.S. 356 (2010), now requires criminal defense attorneys to advise noncitizen clients as to the potential immigration consequences of a criminal conviction before taking a plea.

## Our Goal

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To provide training, technical assistance and other legal support to attorneys in the 7th and 8th Judicial Districts of New York who provide mandated representation to noncitizens in criminal and family court proceedings so they can fully advise their noncitizen clients as to the immigration consequences of their particular case.

## When to Call Us

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Representatives of criminal defendants should contact us as soon as possible following arraignment so that we can help you determine the immigration consequences of your client's plea.

With regard to mandated Family Court representation, please contact us anytime to discuss the possible consequences of an adverse finding or potential settlement.

We offer free CLE trainings. Call us to schedule one in your office or to find out about already scheduled dates.



## What You'll Need

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**Please have as much of the following information available as possible at the time of your initial contact:**

- Client's Name and Date of Birth
- Client's Country of Birth
- Client's Immigration Status
- Client's Date of Admission/Entry to U.S.
- Penal Law Section Charged
- Is there a Domestic Violence element involved?
- Penal Law Section in Plea Negotiation
- Prior History of Convictions
- Any Removal Proceeding pending?
- Any Family Court case pending?

## Contact Us

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