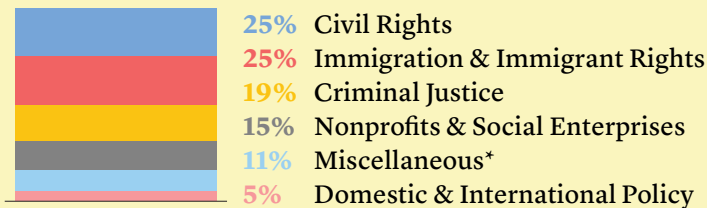


Pro Bono in Focus: Criminal Justice & Immigration

Pro Bono in Focus highlights select areas of Cleary's robust pro bono practice. Each newsletter will cover recent initiatives in which our lawyers, nonprofit partners, and clients are engaged. To learn more about Cleary's pro bono practice, [click here](#).

2017 Cleary Pro Bono: U.S. Snapshot

84,000+ Hours



*Veterans Work, Disaster Relief, Family Law, Special Education, and Housing

594 Active Matters

261 Matters Opened in 2017 Alone

Assisted Clients from **20+ Countries**



Criminal Justice: New Project Focuses on New York State Sealing Law



In October 2017, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo [signed a law](#) permitting people convicted of a crime in New York State or released from jail more than a decade ago to request to have up to two eligible convictions, including no more than one felony, sealed from public view. The new law gives New York one of the most expansive record-closing options in the country.

These types of laws are critical as technology has made it dramatically easier and cheaper for potential employers, landlords, and educational institutions to access even very old criminal records. Moreover, a criminal record in New York can prevent someone from getting a license needed to become – among other things – a home health care aide or a barber.

Partnering with [The Legal Action Center](#), a nonprofit that fights discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and [The Bronx Defenders](#), a nonprofit that provides innovative, holistic, and client-centered services to indigent people of the Bronx, Cleary attorneys will represent individuals in filing motions to seal eligible convictions under the new law.

This project dovetails with a pro bono project that Cleary started in 2011 after New York [became the first state](#) to permit the vacatur of prostitution-related convictions that were a result of having been a victim of human trafficking. Since 2011, Cleary has represented more than 35 individuals seeking this relief and has helped to develop the law favorably for survivors in New York State and around the country.

Immigration: The DACA Case Study



Immigration work in the form of direct representation of indigent individuals and impact litigation on behalf of immigrants represents more than 25 percent of all the pro bono hours billed by Cleary’s U.S. offices last year. Our efforts with respect to the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program illustrate our multifaceted work on behalf of vulnerable immigrants.

DACA was created by the Obama administration [in 2012](#). It allowed certain undocumented people brought to the U.S. as children before 2007 to legally live and work in the U.S. [Approximately 800,000 young people](#) applied for and received DACA.

On September 5, 2017, the Trump administration announced that it was rescinding DACA. Cleary filed an amicus brief in the Eastern District of New York on behalf of legal services organizations struggling to meet the short deadline imposed for DACA renewals. The firm also assisted [The Legal Aid Society](#) in appealing the government’s refusal to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request related to its handling of DACA renewals.

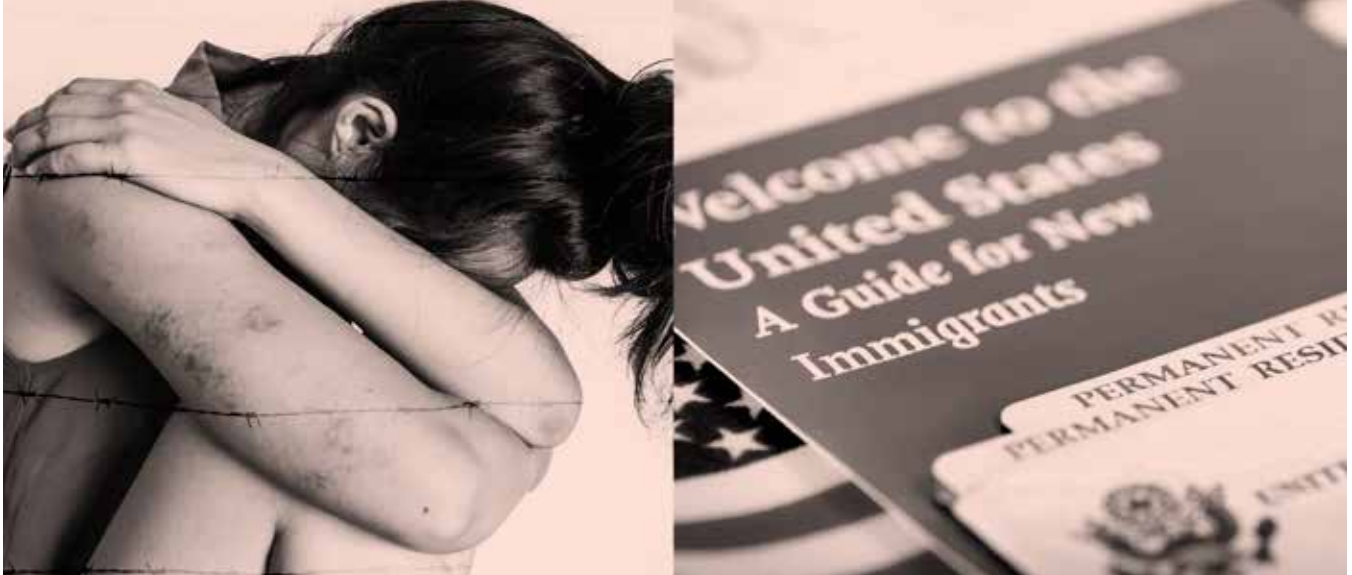
At the same time, a federal judge [issued a nationwide injunction](#) in [one of the lawsuits pending in California](#), ordering the Trump administration to resume accepting DACA renewal applications. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it would comply with the court’s order and begin

processing DACA renewal applications. However, the U.S. Department of Justice appealed the court’s decision to the Ninth Circuit and sought direct review before the U.S. Supreme Court. On February 26, the Court declined review and the case remains pending in the Ninth Circuit.

Given the uncertainty around DACA’s future, Cleary quickly organized two DACA renewal clinics for clients of [Sanctuary for Families](#), a nonprofit dedicated to the safety, healing, and self-determination of victims of domestic violence and trafficking through comprehensive services. Together, attorneys from Cleary and Goldman Sachs filed DACA renewal applications for 16 people, including students, parents of U.S. citizen children, and home and business owners – some of whom have lived in the U.S. since they were infants.

We were proud to help challenge the DACA rescission and to assist these individuals who, as President Obama noted when announcing the DACA program, are “Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper.”

Synergies Between Criminal Justice and Immigration: **Spotlight on Ms. O**



Ms. O is a perfect example of how Cleary was able to help a sex-trafficking survivor from Mexico erase the burden of her criminal convictions and secure immigration relief.

In 2000, at the age of 14, Ms. O met her trafficker while working at a factory in Mexico. Ms. O's trafficker brought her to [Tenancingo, a town that was \(and remains\) synonymous with sex trafficking](#), and lured her into the United States. Here, he used a combination of threats, deception, and violence to force Ms. O to engage in prostitution on a daily basis. He confiscated all of Ms. O's earnings, rendering her financially dependent on him, and subjected her to extreme physical and psychological abuse.

After several years, Ms. O was finally able to escape her trafficker. Although Ms. O did her best to move on from her ordeal, she remained saddled with a criminal record from the forced prostitution and lived in fear of being deported to Mexico if apprehended by U.S. immigration officials.

We began representing Ms. O in 2015 and have helped her (a) report her trafficking to federal authorities, who began an investigation into her trafficker and his family; (b) vacate her prostitution convictions in Brooklyn and Manhattan from the time she was under the control of her trafficker; and (c) secure a T Visa (a special immigration remedy for human trafficking victims). We have also connected Ms. O with mental health counselors specialized in treating trafficking survivors. We are currently assisting Ms. O in applying for a green card for her and her husband so that they may live safely in the United States with their three U.S. citizen children.



clearygottlieb.com

Founded in 1946 by lawyers committed to legal excellence, internationalism, and diversity, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is a leading international law firm with approximately 1,200 lawyers around the world. The firm has 16 closely integrated offices in New York, Washington, D.C., Paris, Brussels, London, Moscow, Frankfurt, Cologne, Rome, Milan, Hong Kong, Beijing, Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Abu Dhabi, and Seoul.

Under the rules of certain jurisdictions, this may constitute Attorney Advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Throughout this brochure, "Cleary Gottlieb" and the "firm" refer to Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP and its affiliated entities in certain jurisdictions, and the term "offices" includes offices of those affiliated entities.