



September 10, 2021

RE: Emergency Humanitarian Parole Applications

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northern California Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association is writing this letter in support of the local Afghan community and their family members abroad who urgently need to be relocated to the United States.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. The Northern California Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, which services the majority of Northern California counties, currently has more than 1,000 members and is AILA's fifth largest chapter. Member attorneys represent tens of thousands of families, U.S. businesses, foreign students, researchers, entertainers and asylum seekers.

As a chapter and as legal professionals, we will do our utmost to welcome and support all newly arriving Afghans. As an association that advocates for justice and fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, our chapter is dedicated to ensuring that our membership of more than a thousand immigration attorneys is equipped to assist Afghans who arrive through humanitarian parole and other means, through pro bono efforts, workshops, CLE opportunities for attorneys, and advocacy. Many of our members have already taken on representation of Afghan individuals and many more have expressed their desire to volunteer their time to assisting individuals from Afghanistan. The Northern California Chapter of AILA will continue in its efforts to offer support and encourage its membership to assist recently arrived Afghans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Lawrence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Helen Lawrence
Chapter Chair
The Northern California Chapter Board
American Immigration Lawyers Association