

GAIN

GEORGIA ASYLUM AND
IMMIGRATION NETWORK

Impact Report 2019



GAIN's mission is to provide free immigration legal services to victims of crime and persecution

Our vision is safety, freedom, and opportunity for all.

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dearest Friends,

The year 2019 at GAIN was a year of gratitude, growth, and innovation. While our core services remain the same and, in fact, are growing, we've taken new approaches to represent and advocate for our clients in a deeper and responsive way.

New immigration policies and regulations impact our clients in a devastating way. Our clients' cases are more challenging and now require more legal work on the part of our staff and volunteer attorneys. We are educating the community about our clients' needs, and continuing to ensure that our clients feel safe and empowered while working with us.

While the legal landscape is certainly challenging, we are responsive to our clients' pleas for the legal representation they deserve. We've started new initiatives such as our Asylum Clinic and we are bringing community members together by creating and participating in more trainings, panels, and events.

We cannot do this work alone and are grateful for all of our community partners who work hand-in-hand with our Navigators to enable us to holistically meet our clients' needs. Our clients face immense, challenging issues and we do not serve them in a vacuum. We are so thankful to be in this fight together.

GAIN has been viewed as a leader in Atlanta for almost fifteen years for the legal services we provide. While our clients' needs are greater and our cases more challenging, we promise to be the beacon of hope to our clients and continue to pave the path for them to receive safety, freedom, and opportunity.



MONICA MODI KHANT

Executive Director



AMY McCULLOUGH

*Senior Chair,
GAIN Board of Directors*

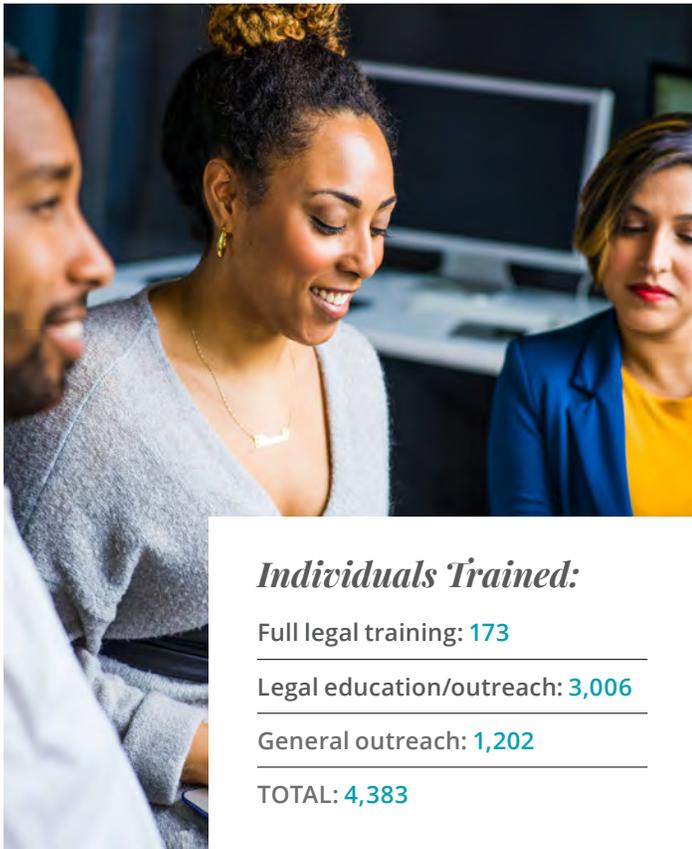
Two handwritten signatures in black ink, one on the left and one on the right, corresponding to the portraits above.

Inspired by our clients.

Powered by pro bono.

\$15 million in free legal services since 2005

Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN) has been fighting for safety, freedom, and opportunity for immigrant victims of crime and persecution since 2005. We offer free immigration legal services to asylum-seekers and immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes.



Individuals Trained:

- Full legal training: 173

- Legal education/outreach: 3,006

- General outreach: 1,202

- TOTAL: 4,383

2019 By the Numbers

628
clients served

1,235
active legal matters

570
families assisted with legal & social service needs

3,900
estimated number of donated pro bono hours in 2019

34,325
estimated number of pro bono hours delivered since 2005

Our Case Roadmap



intake & screening



consultation



client needs assessment



case placement



technical assistance



application review & submission



ongoing case support

Top 5	LANGUAGES SPOKEN	COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN
	Spanish, English, Arabic, French and Hindi	Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador



GAIN has improved our data collection efforts and made changes to the way we calculate our impact from previous years.

Emilia's Story



Emilia* was in her last year of medical school in Venezuela when she, and other medical students and staff, protested against government corruption and the horrific conditions in some Venezuelan hospitals. During one protest, Emilia and some of her fellow protesters were attacked by the police. Then, while she was visiting her uncle in the U.S., Emilia learned that the police came to her home in Venezuela in search of her, and she was forced to remain in the U.S. to seek refuge. Emilia was one of the first GAIN clients to receive help through GAIN's new Asylum Clinic, which was hosted by Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP in August 2019. With the support of her volunteer attorney and the GAIN staff, Emilia received access to critical legal expertise and to a medical professional whose expert affidavit helped strengthen and substantiate her claim. She has since obtained employment authorization, and is currently safe and awaiting a decision on her case.

**GAIN respects the privacy of our clients. Names and photos have been changed.*

"I cannot describe in words what GAIN has meant in my life. It gave me the opportunity to have a new beginning away from violence, persecution and risk of death for upholding my democratic values. Now I am witnessing how windows of opportunities are opening, which I could not have imagined before."

- GAIN client from Nicaragua



Our Asylum team, alongside our volunteer attorneys, maintained 390 active legal matters in 2019.

ABOUT OUR ASYLUM PROGRAM

GAIN recruits, trains, and mentors pro bono attorneys who work with our asylum clients. In 2019, GAIN expanded our asylum staff to better meet the increased needs of our clients. We offer ongoing technical assistance for our attorneys and advice and counsel sessions for our clients. For a small percentage of asylum cases, we provide direct representation.

GAIN was founded in 2005 as the Atlanta Bar Asylum Project to train and support pro bono attorneys in asylum cases. Our flagship Asylum program fulfills the critical need for access to legal representation for asylum-seekers in Georgia.

Under U.S. law, the terms “refugee” and “asylee” refer to individuals unable to return to their home country because of a “well-founded fear of persecution” due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. A refugee applies for relief outside of the U.S., while an asylee applies for relief within the U.S. While awaiting immigration status, asylees have difficulty accessing what others can, including social services, health insurance, affordable housing, and the right to a public attorney.

Types of Immigration Relief:

- Affirmative Asylum
- Defensive Asylum
- Board of Immigration Appeals
- 11th Circuit Court Appeals
- Employment authorization, adjustment of status, and consular processing

ASYLUM CLINICS

In 2019, GAIN held our first two Asylum Clinics at Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP and Troutman Sanders LLP, quickly preparing seven detailed applications for asylum which would normally have required a longer pro bono commitment. The program is poised to help more asylum-seekers in 2020 and beyond.

We created the Asylum Clinic program in response to an increasing need of immigration relief for asylum-seekers. In these half-day clinics, attorneys from our partnering law firms help GAIN clients prepare their I-589 petitions with GAIN’s experts on hand. The clinics focus on clients with affirmative asylum cases, who have a limited amount of time to file their claims with the USCIS asylum office. Our affirmative asylum clinic ensures asylum-seekers file their petitions on time and offers limited-scope opportunities for pro bono attorneys.



Miriam's Story



Miriam* is a Mexican national who came to the United States in 2005 to escape a violent relationship with the father of her two children. She met her abuser in 2008 through mutual friends. For a period of eight years, he mentally, physically, and sexually abused her. He drank daily, threatened Miriam with deportation, and used physical force to demonstrate his power and control over her. Due to a language barrier and her lack of immigration status, Miriam was always too afraid to report the abuse. But in July 2016, after her partner attacked her in front of her children, she called 911 and obtained a restraining order against her abuser. With the help of a volunteer attorney from Alston & Bird, Miriam successfully applied for a U-visa, obtained lawful work authorization, and is slowly but surely working to rebuild her life.

**GAIN respects the privacy of our clients. Names and photos have been changed.*

"I feel very grateful to GAIN. From the first moment that I had a difficult situation here in the United States, they decided to help me in my immigration process. Not only that, but I also received moral and emotional support from the staff."

- GAIN client from Costa Rica



Our Victims of Violence program has a success rate of over 99% in case outcomes, spanning nearly a decade since its inception in 2010.

ABOUT OUR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE PROGRAM

The Victims of Violence program follows the same model as our inaugural Asylum program, uniting recruitment, training, and mentorship of volunteer attorneys. The Victims of Violence program ensures that immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes have access to quality legal representation for their immigration matters.

Without immigration status, survivors are at risk of re-victimization, thereby making our work critical to their ability to remain safe and free from exploitation. By screening cases, placing them with trained volunteer attorneys, and providing advice and mentorship, GAIN sustains a mechanism for assisting hundreds of clients each year in this program - providing crucial access to otherwise unobtainable legal representation.

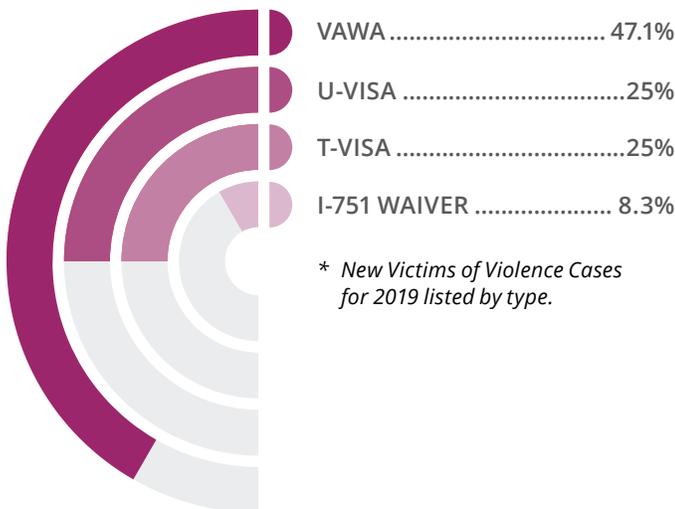
Types of Immigration Relief:

- T-visas
- U-visas
- VAWA Self-Petitions
- I-751 Battered Spouse Waivers
- Employment authorization, adjustment of status, and consular processing

Housing insecurity is one of the top concerns for GAIN clients. Many have been forced to suddenly flee their homes, and their lack of immigration status, often prevents them from having a proper ID or work authorization.

In 2019, GAIN partnered with Housing Plus, Inc., through the United Way of Greater Atlanta's Survivors United initiative, to provide rental and utility assistance to GAIN clients who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Thanks to our extensive network of community partners like Housing Plus, we are able to help our clients gain stability.

New Victims of Violence Cases in 2019



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

GAIN TAKES ON LABOR TRAFFICKING IN GEORGIA

Labor trafficking, or the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel someone into labor or services, is estimated to make up nearly two-thirds of human trafficking. Here in Georgia, labor trafficking is a prevalent form of abuse, from farm work to domestic servitude or hospitality. Victims can be difficult to identify, especially because their traffickers often use immigration status as a form of power and control.

In 2019, GAIN’s Director of Legal Services, Alpa Amin, worked with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force to host a roundtable discussion on labor trafficking. Events like these foster cross-sectional and collaborative discussions, and the roundtable brought together nearly 50 professionals from the government, academic, medical, and nonprofit communities to discuss actions to take in Georgia.

GAIN is committed to our continued efforts to serve overlooked and underserved group of human trafficking victims.



In May 2019, GAIN joined the Tapestri Farm Worker Outreach Program to visit several South Georgia farms in and around Tifton, GA—educating migrant workers about their rights and the dangers of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is the exploitation of someone for the purpose of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. The victims who seek GAIN’s services have been trafficked from around the world and include women, men, adults, and children. Some populations are at higher risk of human trafficking, including disconnected youth, undocumented immigrants, and victims of other crimes.

Labor Trafficking Clients Served by GAIN



OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Alianza Terapéutica Latina
American Immigration Lawyers Association,
Alabama-Georgia Chapter (AILA)
Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta
Bethany Christian Services
Caminar Latino
Care and Counseling Center of Georgia
Catholic Charities Atlanta
Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS)
The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)
Cherokee Family Violence Center
Day League, formerly DeKalb Rape Crisis Center
El Refugio
Physicians for Human Rights, Emory University Medical School
The Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta
Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Inc. (GAPABA)
The Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP)
The Haven - Valdosta
Helping Mamas
House of Globalization
Housing Plus, Inc.
Immigrant Families Together
Innovation Law Lab
Inspiritus, formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia
The International Rescue Committee (IRC) Atlanta
International Women's House
Jewish Family & Career Services (JF&CS)
The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.
Karibu Community Legacy (KCL)
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
Latin American Association (LAA)
Latino LinQ
liveSAFE Resources, Inc.
Mosaic Georgia, Inc.
New American Pathways
The New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta
Noor Family Services Corporation
Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV)
Raksha, Inc.
Refuge Coffee Co.
Ser Familia, Inc.
Southern Poverty Law Center
Tahirih Justice Center
Tapestri, Inc.
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs - City of Atlanta
Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence
Working Films
World Relief Atlanta
youthSpark

2019 GRANT FUNDERS

Anonymous
Atlanta Bar Foundation
The State of Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)
Georgia Bar Foundation
The Imlay Foundation
JM Family Fund
National Association of Asian American Professionals
(NAAAP) Atlanta Chapter
South Asian Bar Association (SABA) North America Foundation
UPS Foundation
Waterfall Foundation

COALITIONS

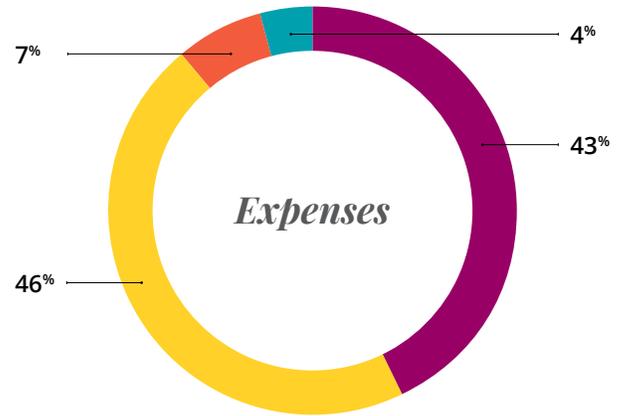
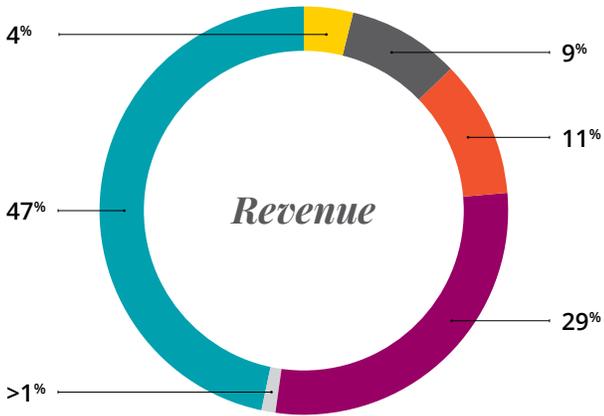
Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies (CRSA)
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV)
Georgia Immigration Law Working Group
Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force
Immigrant and Refugee Housing Coalition
Victim Legal Assistance Network (VLAN)

In 2005, GAIN was founded as the Atlanta Bar Asylum Project (ABAP). We remain longstanding and proud partners with the Atlanta Bar Association and continue our work for immigrants together. Many of GAIN's volunteer attorneys are Atlanta Bar Association members and we are honored by their commitment to service that makes our work possible.



In December 2019, the Atlanta Bar Association collected bilingual books and sent a very accomplished Santa Claus (Georgia Court of Appeals Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden) to give them as presents to our clients' children at our annual client holiday party.

GAIN FINANCIALS



- Annual Fund Donations
- Foundation Gifts
- Gala Net Income
- Government Grants
- Other Income
- Donated Legal Services

Total revenue without estimated financial equivalent of donated pro bono services: \$1,117,439.

- Asylum Program
- Victims of Violence Program
- Fundraising
- Management & General

The estimated financial equivalent of donated pro bono services is included in program expenses. Total expense without donated legal services: \$831,763.

*Unaudited financial numbers

*Unaudited financial numbers

"I support GAIN because it protects and empowers the most vulnerable people in our society – those most vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation, those persecuted for their political beliefs or sexual orientation, and those children who deserve protection, stability, and the support of their families."

- KRISTIE KLEIN, Senior Counsel, Southern Company and GAIN Board Member



3,900

estimated number of donated pro bono hours in 2019



\$975,000

estimated financial equivalent of donated pro bono services in 2019



\$400

average household donation given in 2019

GAIN LEADERSHIP

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Caroll & Weiss

Bobby Woo

King & Spalding



“GAIN plays a critical role in enabling immigrant victims of crime and persecution to start a new life and become productive members of the community. Helping GAIN further this goal as a GAIN volunteer attorney has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my legal career. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and training GAIN provided me so that I could help those truly in need. If you are looking for a lifetime memory to share with your family and for which you will always be proud, become a GAIN volunteer attorney.”

- TOM RAWLS, Entertainment Counsel (retired), AT&T and GAIN Board Member



GAIN
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IMMIGRATION NETWORK

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