



BRIGGS CENTER
FOR FAITH & ACTION



Solomon, a survivor of statelessness

2023 Mid-Year Report



Thank you.

We are extremely grateful for your generosity and willingness to help immigrant populations in DC find the resources and legal services they need to build vibrant and sustainable community.

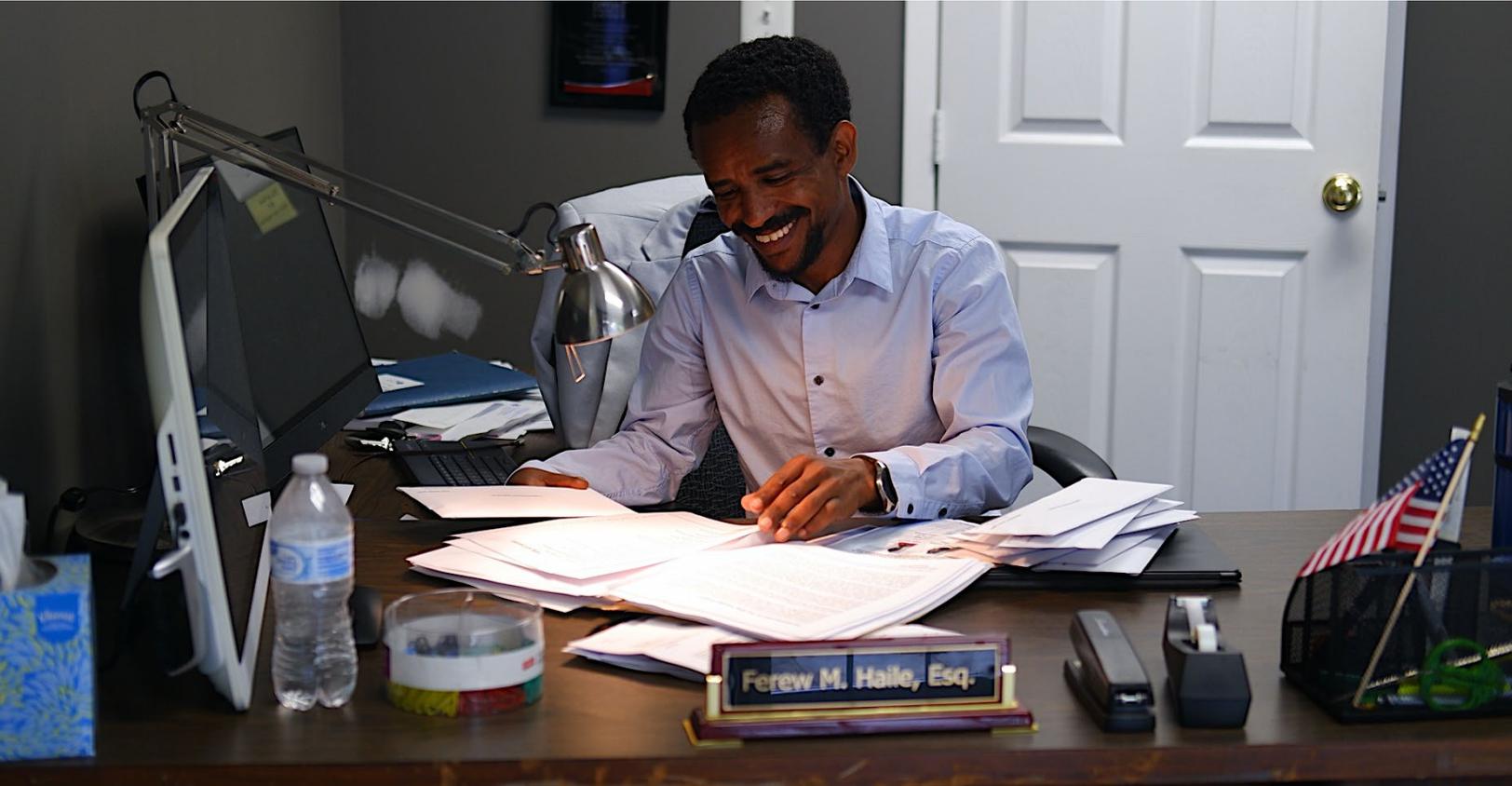
Thank you for giving families the chance to feel safe again and thank you for making learning more inclusive and accessible for the students we serve.



Hani's Story

"I filed asylum, and then asylum was denied initially. The green card goes through this process, and the Briggs Center provided so much support--even psychological support, legal support and everything, it makes me to be here now. I always bring my daughter here as you can see!"

"All those processes are for free. If I took this to another attorney, it would cost me a lot. I have all the legal support and everything for free. This is our whole family story."



Ferew Haile, director of the Briggs Center's immigration clinic, works with a network of attorneys, agencies, and community groups to offer free and reduced cost legal assistance to refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers.

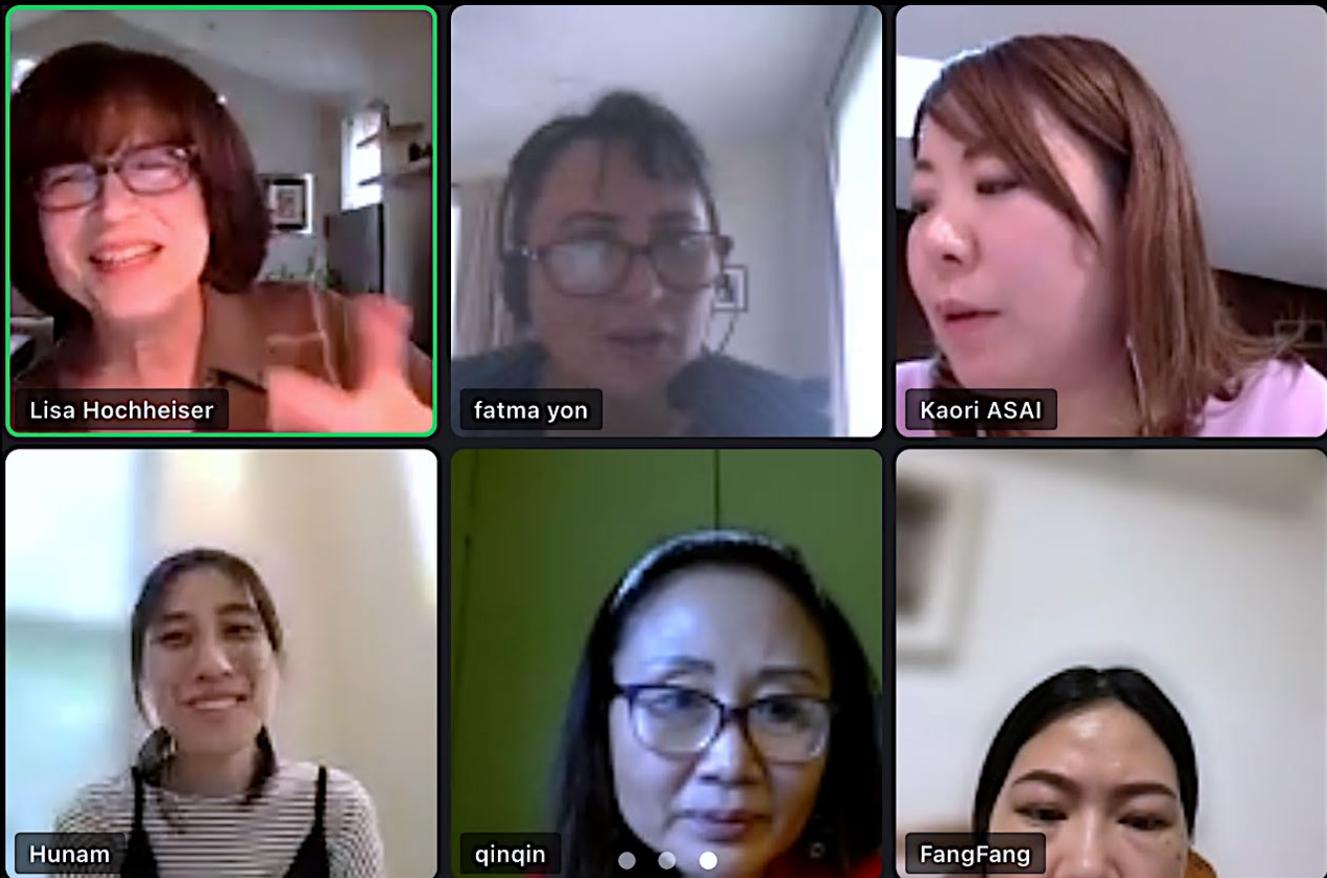
The Harvey Immigration Clinic, located at the Briggs Center, has made significant strides in assisting community members with the complex immigration process, including 40+ cases referred and managed in 2023, highlighting our integral role in assisting individuals and families with their immigration needs.

- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Webinars:** Our clinic successfully conducted four informative webinars, with a participation of 75 individuals, focusing on TPS and its requirements, particularly for Ethiopia. As a result, we have assisted 24 out of 32 filed cases in obtaining work permits, social security benefits, and driver's licenses.
- **Personalized Assistance:** We have been able to provide tailored support to clients, enhancing our effectiveness in guiding them through the immigration process.
- **Collaboration:** We have established a fruitful partnership with Catholic Charity, working closely together on various initiatives to better serve individuals in need of legal assistance.

Director of Immigration Services Ferew Haile (left) and Executive Director Tim Tutt (right) at the Briggs Center



2023 Highlights: Briggs Center's ESOL Program



Screenshot of ESOL class taught via Zoom

In 2023, our ESOL program at the Briggs Center has reached a milestone with over 720 ESOL students registering since the launch of online registration in 2020.

This impressive number reflects our commitment to providing English language learning opportunities to a diverse range of individuals, helping them overcome language and cultural barriers.

Teacher Support and Development: In response to feedback from our teachers, we are excited to introduce additional meetings and workshops, fostering a collaborative environment where ideas are shared and teaching skills are further enhanced. These initiatives will empower our dedicated teachers and contribute to the overall success of the program.



Looking Forward

- **Increased Case Load:** Our objective is to handle 100 active cases annually. Presently, we are managing 40-42 cases, and we aim to reach 200 cases by the end of this year.
- **Dedicated Family Support:** We recognize the specific challenges faced by families navigating the immigration system. To address this, we are working towards establishing a dedicated program to provide support for basic needs.
- **Community Sponsorship:** The recent introduction of a community sponsorship program by the Biden administration has sparked our interest. We plan to organize a webinar to inform interested individuals and groups about this program and encourage their participation.
- **Team Expansion:** Our team has grown from a single employee to five members, including a private attorney volunteer and three AU law school students who are preparing for the bar exam. This expanded team allows us to effectively handle various aspects of immigration law.
- **Engaging Learning Experiences:** Looking ahead, we are enthusiastic about organizing field trips for students, offering them practical opportunities to apply their language skills in real-life contexts. We also plan to facilitate at least one in-person meeting per semester, strengthening the bond between students and teachers.

Walk with us.

We remain committed to expanding our reach, forging partnerships, and making a positive impact in our community.

- **To make a financial contribution** to the Briggs Center, [donate here](#) or reach out to Tim Tutt at tim@briggscenter.org for more information on how to get involved.
- **Have a referral** for our refugee legal relief work? Email Ferew Haile at ferewhaile@briggscenter.org.
- **Want to teach ESOL or volunteer** with our holistic English learning program? Contact Marianna Dorn at marianna@briggscenter.org.



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