

**Forum for Advocates from Historically Marginalized Communities Working in Immigration Legal Services Organizations and Optional Trauma-Informed, Accessible Chair-Yoga**

- Do you identify as being from a historically underrepresented community and work at an immigration legal services organization?
- Have you experienced issues with colleagues and clients, including from members of your own community, because of your identity and would appreciate support on how to handle these situations?

If you answered yes to these questions, consider attending this forum to share your lived experiences.

The Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS) has received an Infrastructure and Innovation Grant from the California Access to Justice Commission to identify and create resources to better support non-attorney and attorney staff from historically underrepresented communities at immigration legal services organizations. Through small and full group discussion, we will be holding space to allow individuals with lived experience working in this field to share the following:

- What workplace challenges do you face due to your perceived or actual identity in a marginalized community?
- What could your organization or the broader movement do to support you in navigating these challenges?
- What resources would be helpful to support you in handling these challenges?

The forum will conclude with optional trauma-informed chair yoga accessible to most.

<b>Facilitators:</b>	Christine Lin, CGRS Director of Training & Technical Assistance Arwa Zakir Kakavand, CGRS Senior Staff Attorney, Training & Technical Assistance
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, September 26, 2023
<b>Time:</b>	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (registration, 1:00-1:15 p.m.; forum begins promptly at 1:15 p.m.; optional Chair Yoga begins at 3:30 p.m.)
<b>Location:</b>	Casa Cornelia Law Center, 525 B St, San Diego, CA 92101, Conference Rooms 18-1, 18-2, 18-3
<b>RSVP:</b>	<a href="https://forms.gle/pfXmpH8CtAEqCt4V6">https://forms.gle/pfXmpH8CtAEqCt4V6</a>

There will be no virtual option for this forum. To encourage participants to share freely, the in-person forum will not be recorded.

**Christine Lin** is a Taiwanese American attorney and currently serves as CGRS Director of Training & Technical Assistance. In her work as an immigration attorney, she has lived experience confronting racial and gender stereotypes from clients and colleagues. For example, clients she has represented have preferred to have “the white man” as their lawyer or questioned her competence because they heard “Asian women are weak and submissive.” Since she felt unprepared to navigate these workplace challenges when she was a new attorney, she is committed to seeking input from other impacted individuals to develop resources and create better support structures in legal services organizations.

Christine approaches direct representation with a trauma-informed lens. She is a founding member of the Immigrant Health Equity and Legal Partnerships (ImmHELP), a medical-legal collaboration of attorneys and health professionals.

Before joining CGRS, Christine was Legal Director at Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre, an associate at a private immigration law firm, and an Attorney Advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review. She holds her J.D. from American University Washington College of Law, Master of International Affairs from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, and A.B. from Dartmouth College.

**Arwa Zakir Kakavand** is a South-Asian American attorney and currently serves as a Senior Staff Attorney for the Training & Technical Assistance Program at CGRS. She is committed to creating a brave, collaborative, and supportive space to further dialogue and action with individuals who have experienced racial and gender stereotyping from clients and colleagues. As a woman attorney of color, she has been impacted by micro-and macro-aggressions regarding her professional competency.

Arwa’s work focuses on CGRS’s training and technical assistant programs, including trainings, resource development, and providing technical assistance support and mentorship in the representation of asylum seekers. Arwa is also a certified trauma-informed yoga and meditation guide committed to honoring the roots of yoga and making it accessible to ALL.

Prior to joining CGRS, Arwa worked at Casa Cornelia Law Center, where she managed the Litigation Program; mentored and trained pro bono attorneys; and handled a caseload of defensive and affirmative asylum cases and appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals. She was also an associate at a class action settlement firm in New York, and a women and migration rights fellow at the International Federation for Human Rights in Paris, France. She holds a J.D. from Seton Hall University Law School, and bachelor’s degree from Saint John’s University.