



Addressing Systemic Racism in Immigration Enforcement

Available

Project Title

Addressing Systemic Racism in Immigration Enforcement

Scope of Work

We are proposing two opportunities for LFAA law firms and attorneys to potentially engage with BAJI's legal team, including 1) our most recent Haiti FOIA litigation and 2) our ICE FOIA litigation which is key part of BAJI's larger race data initiative.

Timing

Jurisdiction

Federal

Contact Information

Please contact Valentine Brown (VBrown@duanemorris.com) and Marianne Staniunas (Marianne.Staniunas@ropesgray.com) if you are interested in taking on this matter.

Description

The Black Alliance for Just Immigration ("BAJI") fights for the rights of Black migrants and African Americans through legal advocacy, research, policy, organizing, and narrative building to improve the conditions of Black communities by advancing racial justice and migrant rights. BAJI's legal team works to combat the criminalization and deportation of Black immigrant communities through a powerful three-pronged approach, which includes direct legal representation, impact litigation, and legal training in communities facing removal.

BAJI seeks assistance with the following:

1. **Haiti FOIA Litigation:** BAJI, along with the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, filed two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The FOIA requests are addressed to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and seek access to a range of records dealing with the mistreatment of Haitian asylum seekers.

2. **Race Data Collection Initiative:** BAJI has developed a memorandum detailing its request to the DHS to start recording race data in connection with different enforcement decisions and actions.

BAJI and the American Immigration Council (“the Council”) also filed a FOIA lawsuit in the District Court for the Eastern District of New York, with assistance from Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, pressing for records about the mistreatment of Black migrants in detention, and attempting to obtain data points on solitary confinement, medical neglect, barriers to accessing counsel, lack of food, clothing and basic necessities.

Subtasks (0)