Tips for Gathering Material for Higher Education Amicus Briefs in the DACA Litigation

Anecdotes about DACA recipients are most useful if they contain the following information:

- Information about students’ lives before college, including their country of origin and childhoods in the United States. It is especially helpful to be able to highlight students’ achievements prior to enrolling in college and any obstacles that they have overcome.

- Direct quotes from the students.

- Concrete examples of contributions that the students have made to campus communities and/or other academic and extracurricular achievements.

- Information about the students’ career goals and how they will be affected if DACA is rescinded.

Note: Before including a DACA recipient’s story in an amicus brief it is important to obtain the student’s consent.

According to lawyers who have been involved in drafting DACA amicus briefs, the following are areas where additional stories would be most useful:

- Stories that highlight how DACA has allowed students to take advantage of paid internship and study abroad programs.

- Stories about DACA alumni’s post-graduation accomplishments, especially in areas outside of immigration, like science, health sciences, the arts, teaching, business, engineering, technology, etc. And, relatedly, statements concerning the impact that DACA rescission will have on alumni’s ability to achieve their career goals and/or further education.

- Stories about DACA recipients who did not grow up California, New York, or Texas.

- Stories about DACA recipients who immigrated to the United States from African, Asian and European countries.

- Concrete examples of how universities have supported DACA students and/or relied on the DACA program.