



Weill Cornell Medicine Center for Human Rights

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In this Issue

- 2nd Annual Primary Care Innovation Symposium
- Student & Faculty Spotlight

Statistics

As of February 2019, the WCCHR has conducted **518** evaluations for **448** clients from **71** countries. **152** clients or **95%** of the cases that have been adjudicated have already been granted asylum or another form of relief.

Upcoming Events

- **WCCHR Spring Asylum Forensic Evaluation Training** on 3/16 for students and clinicians to learn how to conduct forensic medical evaluations and write legal affidavits for the refugee population we serve!
- **Educational Event with Emma's Torch** on Tuesday, March 19. Emma's Torch is a restaurant in Brooklyn, and a non-profit enterprise providing culinary training, ESL classes, and interview preparation to refugees and asylum seekers.
- **7th Annual Networking Luncheon** on 4/27. Details coming soon.

In the News

Dr. Joseph Shin, Co-Medical Director, and Anna Cai, Co-Executive Director, presented at the 2nd Annual Primary Care Innovation Symposium on Thursday, February 28 regarding human rights efforts at Weill Cornell Medicine. They shared broadly regarding several programs at Weill Cornell Medicine doing work in the field of health and human rights specifically highlighting the work WCCHR performs in the areas of service, education, and research. They talked with individuals attending the symposium who were interested in asylum health and encouraged both housestaff and faculty to get involved by attending the WCCHR upcoming training in order to participate in evaluations, research, and mentorship. Additionally, Dr. Shin was a speaker at the day long event, and presented on "The Experiences of Sex Trafficking Victims in Healthcare Settings." His talk focused on the significant gap not in getting sex trafficking victims to contact with healthcare, but instead, in the negative interactions that victims have once they get there. There is room for improvement to enhance care for victims that is trauma-informed and stigma-free, while reducing the great burden they face in threats to their own freedom and agency.



In the News

Shutdown pushes immigration court backlog to 830,000, but experts say that's only the beginning

By Kate Smith, February 19th, 2019

"Between 80,051 and 94,115 immigration hearings were canceled during the five-week government shutdown, according to a new report. Those cases will be added to the system's record-high backlog, which as of Feb. 1 was reported to be 829,608."

"According to the report, in 2018, between 20,000 and 25,000 new immigration cases were filed every month. But during the shutdown in January, that figure dropped to just under 5,600."

"Unless there was a dramatic drop in arrests and removal actions initiated by immigration authorities during the shutdown period, there appear to be a sizable number of new filings yet to be recorded and reflected in the court's workload"

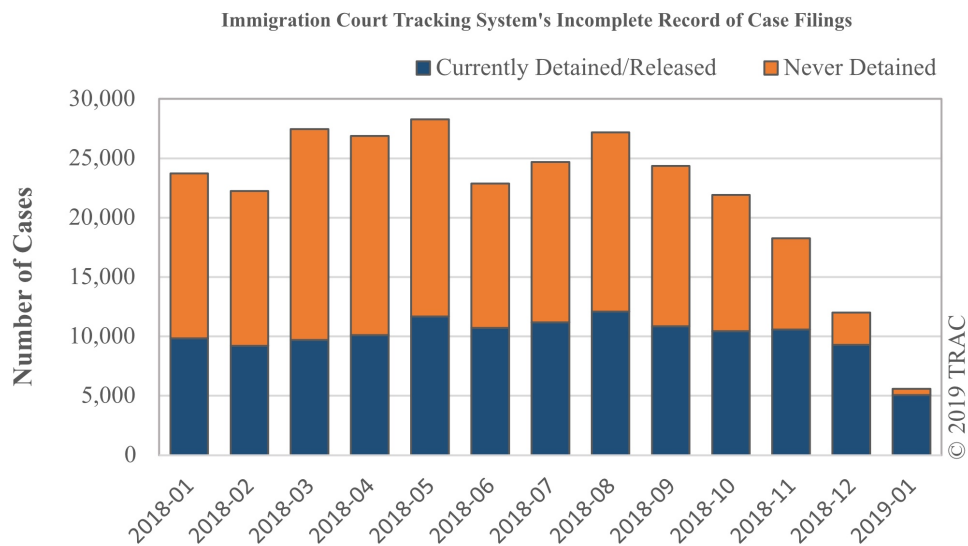


Image Source: Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse

Link to article: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-law-government-shutdown-pushes-case-backlog-up-2019-02-19/>

Spotlight on...

Karin Oh

Karin Oh is currently a first-year medical student and graduated from Vanderbilt in 2017. She is considering a subspecialty in internal medicine, such as gastroenterology or oncology. She was drawn to WCCHR after a shadowing experience with a patient who had fled his home country as a political prisoner and victim of torture. Hearing about the long-term impact of his experiences on his health inspired her to learn more about human rights in medicine through WCCHR. As a board member, she serves as an evaluation scheduler, scheduling asylum evaluations and gathering feedback from students and evaluators.



Dr. Whitney Lieb

Whitney Lieb, MD is a board certified, attending physician in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She completed a fellowship in Global Women's Health at the Icahn School of Medicine in which she focused on international residency training and health work force capacity. She is an active member of Physicians for Human Rights and a voluntary faculty member at the Mount Sinai Humans Rights Clinic and Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights, aiding victims of female genital mutilation, domestic violence and sex trafficking in their applications for asylum to the United States.

