CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Attorney of the Day Program presents

Observing Hearings in Immigration Court

A training for attorneys new to immigration law and interested in observing Immigration Court hearings, including a brief overview of asylum and procedures, immigration court proceedings, rules of and candor to the court, and observing particularly to help ensure the due process rights of asylum seekers are not violated

Tuesday
January 27, 2026

MCLE Registration: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Program: 10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Speaker

Malvina De La Canal
AOD Program Supervising Attorney, JDC

Moderator

Milli E. Atkinson
Director of the Immigration Legal Defense Program, JDC

A training for attorneys new to immigration law and interested in observing Immigration Court hearings, including a brief overview of asylum and procedures, immigration court proceedings, rules of and candor to the court, and observing particularly to help ensure the due process rights of asylum seekers are not violated. Prior to 2025, ICE followed a long-standing policy of respecting the bounds of the immigration court, conducting civil immigration arrests at immigration courts only in limited circumstances. This changed in 2025 when the current Administration revoked the existing guidance regarding civil immigration enforcement priorities, and in May 2025 began arresting asylum seekers who arrived at the immigration court to appear for their hearings. The AOD Program's court observation project was initiated whereby court observers played a large role in tracking and reporting arrests at the immigration court and documenting ICE practices. As a result of information gathered by court observers, a Northern District Court judge has ordered ICE to stop the practice of arresting asylum seekers at the immigration court. This training will provide detailed guidance on how to become an effective court observer and help ensure compliance with court orders around courthouse arrest and document other ICE practices that could be the grounds for future litigation.

Topics

- An intro to asylum in the U.S. and U.S. border procedures.
- The immigration court process
- Proper candor to the court, courtroom observation and support Observing hearings at EOIR San Francisco
- Reporting observations for data gathering and litigation purposes

MCLE 1.5 Hours

To receive MCLE credit, you must sign in during the designated MCLE registration period. This activity is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California. BASF is a certified provider. Provider #103

Registration is required.

Cost

FREE FOR ALL

VIEWING OPTIONS

Live Webcast available, register at www.sfbar.org

Webcast Recording will be available. Register separately on our online platform.

Special Requests:

People with disabilities should contact BASF regarding reasonable accommodations at events@ sfbar.org.

Register online: www.sfbar.org/calendar

Event Code M267233