



415 Michigan Ave NE, Suite 200 \* Washington, DC, 20017 \* 202-635-5810 \* [national@cliniclegal.org](mailto:national@cliniclegal.org)

For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Williams, Public Affairs Officer  
202-635-5810 or <mailto:mwilliams@cliniclegal.org>

## **CLINIC Presents Award to Outstanding Immigration Program at Annual Convening**

**Washington, DC** – The **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.** (CLINIC) will present its 2<sup>nd</sup> Lily Gutierrez Memorial Award to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT during CLINIC’s Annual Convening to be held May 19-21 in New Orleans, LA.

The Lily Gutierrez Memorial Award was established to recognize the contributions of longtime CLINIC Board member and former regional director Lily Gutierrez. The award confers a monetary grant to a CLINIC affiliate that has demonstrated outstanding services to immigrants within its first two years of existence. Catholic Charities will accept the award in New Orleans on Thursday, May 20.

“CLINIC’s goal is to expand access to affordable legal services for immigrants. Catholic Charities of Hartford has demonstrated a commitment to and understanding of this mission,” said Jeff Chenoweth, director of CLINIC’s Center for Citizenship and Immigrant Communities, which works with nonprofit immigration programs to enhance and increase their service capacity.

Established in 2008, the immigration program of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford was selected for its outstanding program management as well as the services it offers to low income and vulnerable immigrants. In addition, the program successfully earned accreditation from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) for two staff members to allow them to lawfully provide legal assistance to immigrants. Additionally, the program has also achieved certification as a BIA recognized agency.

“This program has worked strategically since it was established to steadily increase the services that are available to immigrants in its community. It provides ESL classes, assistance with citizenship applications and family petitions. Additionally, it has opened a second office to better serve the nearby New Haven community,” said Chenoweth.

In addition to the Lily Gutierrez Memorial Award, CLINIC will also present its annual BIA Pro Bono Project Award to the Clinical Legal Studies Program at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. CLINIC will also give special recognition to Atlantic Philanthropies and the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus for their support to the advancement of CLINIC’s work as major and sustaining funders. Awards will also be presented to CLINIC and affiliate staff who has served more than five, 10, or 15 years in the immigration field.

-END-

*CLINIC is the nation’s largest network of nonprofit immigration programs. It supports more than 185 immigration programs located in 48 states. It advocates for humane and just immigration policy.*