

# Jadeja & Cimone, LLP

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS AT LAW

## Attorneys

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Free Legal Assistance Provided to Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

Jadeja & Cimone, LLP, a respected New York-based immigration law firm, has partnered with the Safe Passage Project at New York Law School to help provide free legal assistance to hundreds of unaccompanied, indigent immigrant children recently arrived to New York City and Long Island.

Raj Jadeja & Kathryn Cimone, the immigration firm's sole Partners, recently found themselves at the front line of a humanitarian crisis when more than 70,000 unaccompanied minors surged across the US-Mexico border to escape the violence and poverty of their home towns in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. While their law firm represents hundreds of these children before immigration court in a *pro bono* or "*low-bono*" capacity, it became obvious to Mr. Jadeja and Ms. Cimone that many more children were left without adequate legal representation against deportation.

A recent study by Syracuse University's TRAC Project found that more than three-quarters of unaccompanied minors lack legal representation in deportation proceedings. Roughly 85% of those children without a lawyer get deported, compared with only 15% of those benefitting from legal representation. When deported, these children are expelled to environments that are often highly dangerous, sometimes fatally so.

As such, Mr. Jadeja and Ms. Cimone felt compelled to devote all possible resources toward protecting more children from being returned to the dangerous conditions found in their home countries. Through the partnership, Jadeja & Cimone will sponsor a Safe Passage *Justice AmeriCorps Legal Fellow* - a recent law graduate providing free, full-time representation to unaccompanied minors in deportation proceedings - by providing the fellow with office space, technical resources, and professional mentoring. Mr. Jadeja & Ms. Cimone have also made a direct donation of \$25,000 to cover the *Fellow's* cost of living. In sponsoring this *Fellow*, Mr. Jadeja and Ms. Cimone hope to positively impact the lives of hundreds of children in distress.

Dean Anthony Crowell from New York Law School said, "We are proud of the Safe Passage Project and grateful to the donation that allows one of our recent graduates to enter this field which serves the most vulnerable."

The sponsorship will be announced by Lenni Benson, Director of the Safe Passage Project and Professor at New York Law School, on the evening of February 10, 2015.

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For further information on the sponsorship between the Safe Passage Project and Jadeja & Cimone, please contact Tom Tortorici at [ttortorici@jnlawgroup.com](mailto:ttortorici@jnlawgroup.com) or (516) 414-0080.

## About The Safe Passage Project

The Safe Passage Project, a registered 501c3 not-for-profit, was created at New York Law School to address the unmet legal needs of indigent immigrant youth living in New York by providing these indigent immigrant youth with basic advice and assistance. Safe Passage works with volunteer attorneys to provide representation for unaccompanied minors in immigration court. It provides training, resources, and mentoring to volunteer attorneys regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile ("SIJ") status as well as other possible alternatives for children.

## About Jadeja & Cimone, LLP

Jadeja & Cimone, LLP is an immigration law practice based in Hempstead, NY, specializing in deportation/removal defense and family-based immigration. The firm provides honest, competent, and aggressive counsel and has a well-established record of success. As such, the firm has earned a strong reputation among New York's immigrant community, as well as across the various institutions within which it advocates for its clients.

The firm is a mission-driven organization motivated by the humanitarian nature of its work: protecting individuals from harm, keeping families together, advocating for the rights of marginalized and disenfranchised communities. The firm represents a significant portion of its clients in a low/pro-bono capacity, and as described in this release is a contributing partner to the Safe Passage Project in New York City. Finally, the firm maintains established relationships with providers of mental health, educational, and social services, which it leverages to provide its clients with the comprehensive support that they need.