

Department Name	Immigration Assistance Center
Account(s)	A1173

Department Function
The Immigration Assistance Center operates within Region 3 of the Indigent Legal Services Network, encompassing 14 North Eastern New York counties. This office is charged with ensuring attorneys in Region 3 who are assigned to represent a noncitizen client in a criminal court or family court proceeding will have access to the training, advice, and support needed to assist their client in making informed choices regarding any adverse immigration consequences that may arise in compliance with the requirements established in Padilla. In addition, this office will assist Judges, prosecutors, and other law enforcement agencies so that all parties are aware of the potential immigration consequences. This office also facilitates periodic needs assessments of providers to determine each county's ability to provide competent legal advice, access to immigration expertise, training, cultural support, and language services. It will also organize and develop Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs to address any need. This office will assist indigent legal service providers within Region #3 to develop best practices and effective attorney protocol (i.e., screening and intake procedures) to ensure that each provider has an immigration service plan that provides a systematic approach to representing noncitizen clients and remains compliant with Padilla.

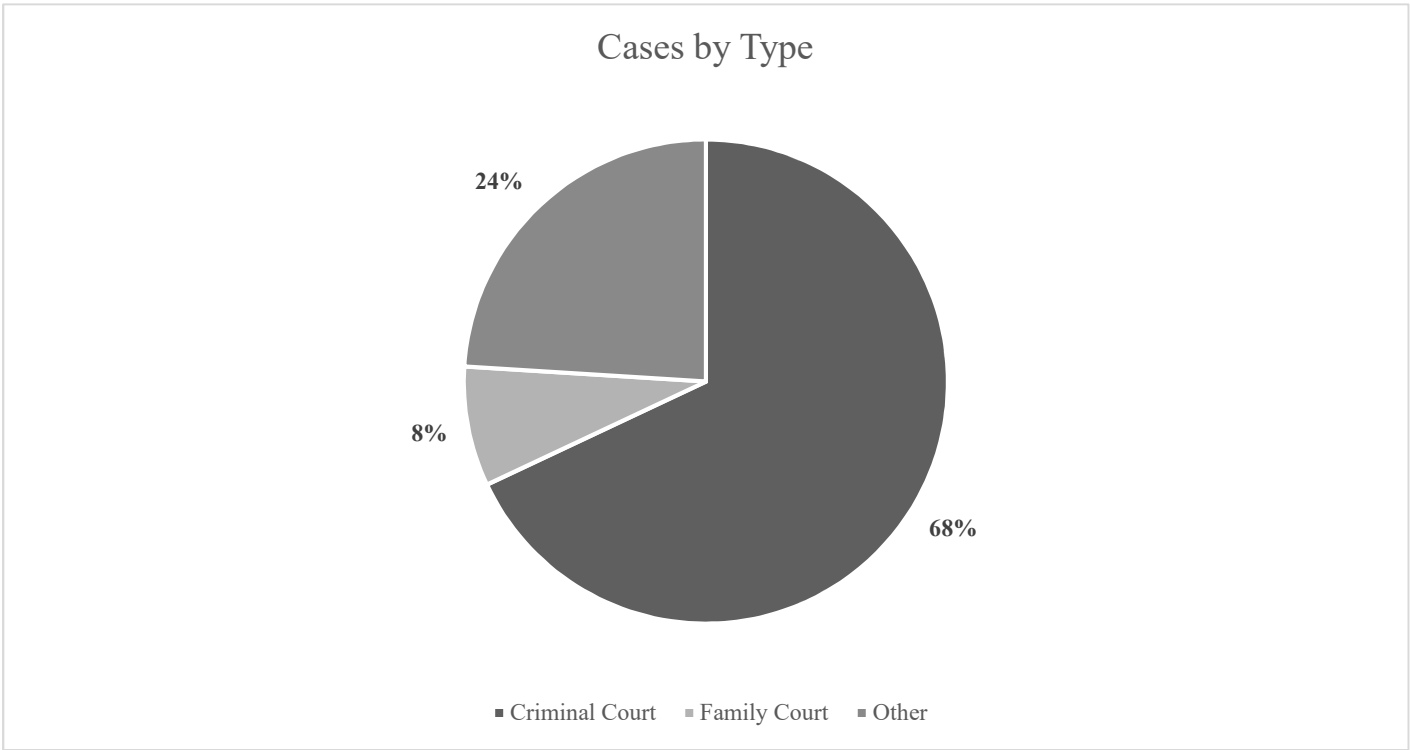
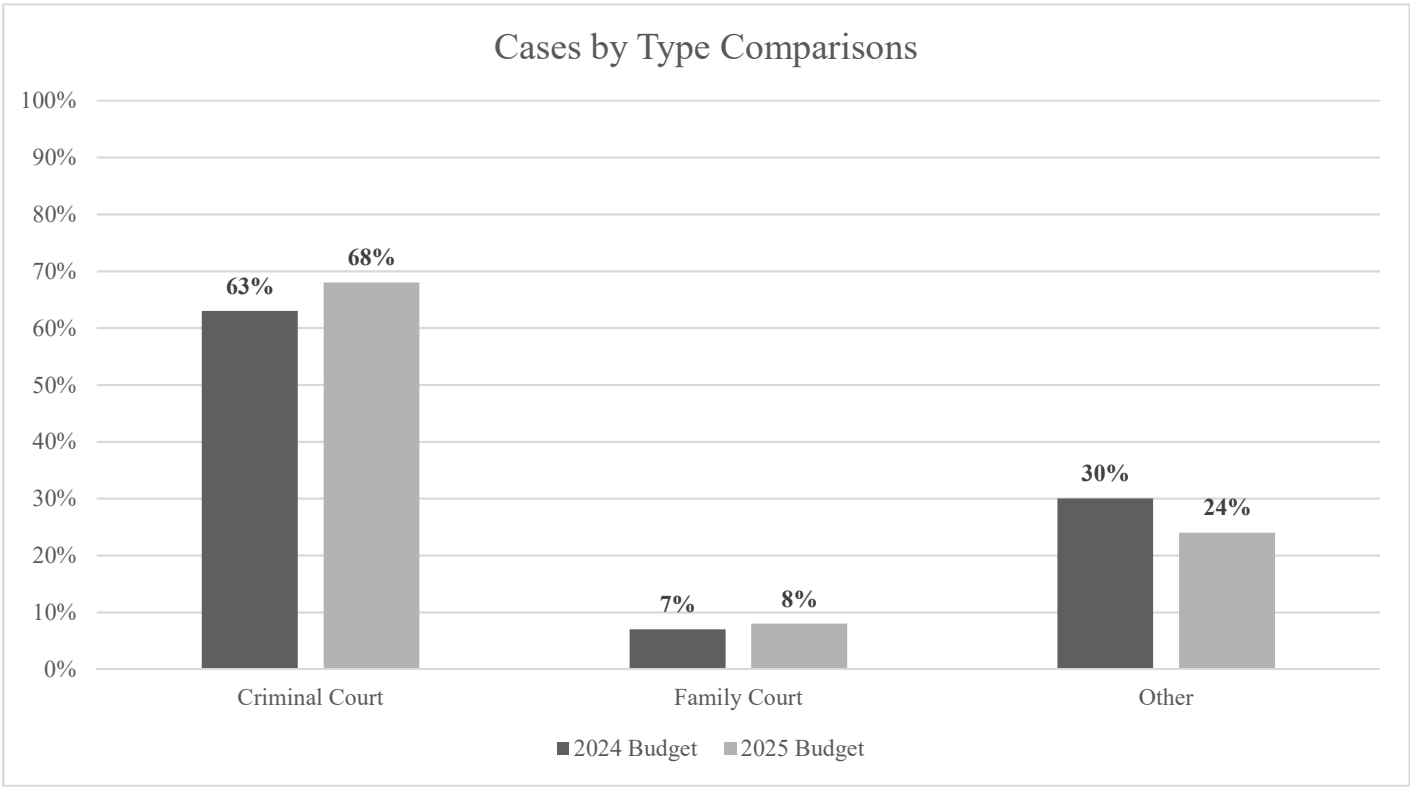
Current Year Highlights
• Advocated for access to legal representation of migrants. • Identified regional resources for the Department of Social Services and the Bureau of Refugee Services. • Assisted several hundred individuals from more than 100 different countries. • Conducted multiple training sessions and appearances at community and legal forums. • Aided the defense of valid constitutional claims to vacate prior criminal convictions, preventing the noncitizen's removal from the United States. • Identified victims of crime such as human trafficking and connected these individuals to services, and assisted them with navigating the pathway to lawful status. • Provided judicial training and training for court-mandated attorneys throughout Region 3. • Connected migrants with immigration resources.

Next Year Projects
• Continuing to develop a community outreach plan to assist with referral for immigration services. • Continuing to develop a pro bono network that specializes in Immigration Law and encompasses auxiliary service providers. • Equity within Immigration Law. • Advocacy work. • Mental health resources for attorneys.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/Immigration
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Programmatic Highlights



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