



Federal Criminal and Civil Trafficking Cases Involving Legal Visas

Foreign-born human trafficking victims frequently enter the United States with legal visas, eager to work in legitimate jobs. The widely-held belief that all trafficking victims enter the country without documentation is simply false. In fact, in a large number of federal criminal and civil trafficking cases, victims have legal contracts to work as seasonal agricultural workers, seasonal tourism-industry workers, domestic workers, au pairs, and even highly-skilled workers. Instead, the workers discover that their employer-sponsored visas render them vulnerable to traffickers. Unscrupulous employers threaten foreign workers with revocation of their employment sponsorship, blacklisting, or even deportation to coerce the workers into forced labor or services. Workers often owe considerable debts to their employer or recruitment agents to repay exorbitant recruitment fees. Traffickers sometimes threaten workers that they will owe thousands of dollars if they “abscond.” In other cases, traffickers threaten family members in the country of origin. The workers feel trapped, believing that they have no choice but to continue working in exploitative conditions, often for far less pay than promised, if any.

The tables below list criminal and civil cases with at least one charge or claim under the federal human trafficking statutes, Chapter 77 of Title 18. These lists may not be exhaustive, as not all cases reference the underlying visa category. If you are aware of additional human trafficking civil or criminal cases involving legal visas, please contact The Human Trafficking Legal Center at info@htlegalcenter.org.

Federal Criminal Trafficking Cases Involving Legal Visas (2009-2020)

Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
US v. Zhong et al.	1:16-cr-00614	E.D.N.Y.	labor	A-2/G-2
US v. Homoud et al.	5:15-cr-00391	W.D. Tex.	labor	A-3
US v. Penzato et al.	3:12-cr-00089	N.D. Cal.	labor	A-3
US v. Tolan	1:11-cr-00526	E.D. Va.	labor	A-3
US v. Alvarado McTague et al.	5:14-cr-00055	W.D. Va.	labor	B-1
US v. Edwards et al.	8:11-cr-00316	D. Md.	labor	B-1
US v. Terechina	2:10-cr-00088	S.D. Oh.	labor	B-1
US v. Babb et al.	1:09-cr-00520	N.D. Ga.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Ding	4:09-cr-00573	N.D. Cal.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Huang	0:16-cr-00263	D. Minn.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Kartan et al.	2:16-cr-00217	E.D. Cal.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Khan et al.	4:18-cr-00119	E.D. Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Martinez Vasquez et al	2:19-cr-00112	E.D. Cal.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Mulembwe	4:17-cr-00191	E.D. Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Petrohai	1:10-cr-00693	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Cros-Toure et al.	4:18-cr-00230	N.D. Tex.	labor	B-2
US v. Nsobundu et al.	4:16-cr-00089	S.D. Tex.	labor	B-2
US v. Toure et al.	4:18-mj-00268	N.D. Tex.	labor	B-2
US v. Yannai et al.	1:10-cr-00594	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2
US v. Alstatt et al.	8:10-cr-00420	D. Neb.	labor	DV
US v. Jumroon	3:18-cr-00036	D. Or.	labor	E-2
US v. Jumroon	3:18-cr-00255	D. Or.	labor	E-2

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
US v. Chang	1:11-cr-00067	E.D.N.Y.	labor	F-1
US v. Miller	4:14-cr-00409	D.S.C.	labor	F-1
US v. Sukhtipyaroge	0:17-cr-00208	D. Minn.	labor	F-1
US v. Kalu et al.	1:12-cr-00106	D. Colo.	labor	H-1B
US v. Cabrera et al.	0:15-cr-00190	D. Minn.	labor	H-2A
US v. Ceneus	1:10-cr-00027	N.D. Fla.	labor	H-2A
US v. Garcia et al.	2:19-cr-00096	E.D. Wis.	labor	H-2A
US v. Orian	1:10-cr-00576	D. Haw.	labor	H-2A
US v. Sou	1:09-cr-00345	D. Haw.	labor	H-2A
US v. Askarkhodjaev	4:09-cr-00143	W.D. Mo.	labor	H-2B
US v. Baldonado	9:10-cr-80057	S.D. Fla.	labor	H-2B
US v. Manuel et al.	9:10-cr-80057	S.D. Fla.	labor	H-2B
US v. Villanueva et al.	2:17-cr-0592	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
US v. Campbell	1:10-cr-00026	N.D. Ill.	labor/sex	J-1
US v. Cooper	1:16-cr-20345	S.D. Fla.	sex	J-1
US v. Hunaity	1:18-cr-00723	D.N.J.	labor	Type Unknown

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Ayapponey v. Kunikiraman	1:08-cv-04133	N.D.Ill.	labor	A-3
Bhardwaj v. Dayal	1:11-cv-04170	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Butigan v. Al-Malki	1:13-cv-00514	E.D.Va.	labor	A-3
Doe v. Khobragade	1:18-cv-11134	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Doe v. Penzato	3:10-cv-05154	N.D.Cal.	labor	A-3
Doe v. Siddig	1:10-cv-01256	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Gurung v. Malhotra	1:10-cv-05086	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Hussain v. Shaukat	1:16-cv-00322	E.D.Va.	labor	A-3
Jeganathan v. Krishnan	1:16-cv-06784	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Judavar v. Al Mannai	1:11-cv-00625	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Kunamwene v. Mwoombola et al	1:19-cv-01957	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Lipenga v. Kambalame	8:14-cv-03980	D.Md.	labor	A-3

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Maysaroh v. American Arab Communications, LLC	1:13-cv-01743 (later 1:14-cv-00866)	D.D.C. (transferred to E.D.Va.)	labor	A-3
Mazengo v. Mzengi	1:07-cv-00756	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Oluoch v. Orina	1:14-cv-421 (prev: 11-cv-3117)	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Pattaiso v. Alahmad	1:14-cv-00041	M.D.Pa.	labor	A-3
Rana v. Islam	1:14-cv-1993	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Sabbithi v. Al Saleh	1:07-cv-115	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Tekle v. Al Saud	1:18-cv-00211	E.D. Va.	labor	A-3
Villarreal v. Tenorio	8:11-cv-2147	D.Md.	labor	A-3
Waru v. Madhvani	1:05-cv-00662	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Leo v. Al Naser	1:08-cv-01263	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Arma v. Prakoso	8:14-cv-03113	D.Md.	labor	B-1
Avila v. Espinel	1:19-cv-08385	N.D.Ill.	labor	B-1
Bolocon v. Sermoneta	1:16-cv-00521	S.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1

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C.G.B. v. Santa Lucia	2:15-cv-03401	D.N.J.	labor	B-1
Dumapias v. Haybyrne	1:20-cv-00297	E.D.Va.	labor	B-1
Edwards v. Edwards	8:12-cv-03761	D.Md.	labor	B-1
Eusebio v. Assaf	1:11-cv-00811	N.D.Ill.	labor	B-1
Fernandes v. Hayes	6:11-cv-00137	W.D.Tex.	labor	B-1
Garnica v. Edwards	1:13-cv-3943	S.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Jose v. Joshua et al	2:19-cv-04583	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Llanto v. Esmail	1:17-cv-01159	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Midjan v. Chan	3:07-cv-01977	N.D.Cal.	labor	B-1
Moratal v. Nolasco	1:10-cv-06008	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Muchira v. Al-Rawaf	14-cv-00770 (number on appeal: 15-2198)	E.D.Va.	labor	B-1
Mugambiwa v. Chiweshe	1:17-cv-02541	D. Md.	labor	B-1
Roncesvalles v. Gulec	0:19-cv-60495	S.D.Fla.	labor	B-1
Samirah v. Sabhnani	2:08-cv-2970	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1

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Sandigan v. Al-Emadi	1:15-cv-01691	E.D.Va.	labor	B-1
Suarez v. Scudder	2:18-cv-05777	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Dlamini v. Babb	1:13-cv-02699	N.D. Ga.	labor	B-1/B-2
DSouza v. Lobo	2:09-cv-00410	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
Mahammad v. Prosoft Technology Group	1:18-cv-08173	N.D.Ill.	labor	B-1/B-2
Mbome v. Njie	4:18-cv-00597	N.D.Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
Nassali v. Kamyra	8:19-cv-02444	D.Md.	labor	B-1/B-2
Sulastri v. Halsey	2:12-cv-3538	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
Treadway v. Otero	2:19-cv-00244	S.D.Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
Cruz v. Toliver	5:04-cv-231	W.D.Ky.	labor	B-2
Daniel v. Madumere	4:19-cv-01945	S.D.Tex.	labor	B-2
Doe v. Pletin	2:18-cv-06974	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2
Does v. Chang	3:08-cv-2189	N.D.Tex.	labor	B-2
Hara v. Mak	2:13-cv-02924	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2
Lagayan v. Odeh	1:15-cv-01953	D.D.C.	labor	B-2
Lunkes v. Yannai	1:12-cv-00630	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2

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Wang v. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, LLC	1:18-cv-00030	N.M.I.	labor	B-2
Adem v. Queen of Sheba, LLC	1:16-cv-00078	N.D.Ind.	labor	DV
Alabado v. French Concepts, Inc.	2:15-cv-02830	C.D.Cal.	labor	E-2
Reabroy v. Typhoon!, Inc.	3:08-cv-01178	D.Or., 9th Circuit	labor	E-2
Treemeth v. Typhoon!, Inc.	3:12-cv-00882	D.Or.	labor	E-2
Baricuatro v. Industrial Personnel and Management Services, Inc.	2:11-cv-02777	E.D.La.	labor	E-2 or B-1/OCS
Baldia v. RN Express Staffing Registry, LLC	1:19-cv-11268	S.D.N.Y.	labor	EB-1/EB-2/EB-3
New York State Nurses Association v. Albany Medical Center	1:19-cv-01265	N.D.N.Y.	labor	EB-1/EB-2/EB-3
Salem v. Michigan State University	1:19-cv-00220	W.D.Mich.	labor	F-1
Sun v. Xu	2:19-cv-02242	C.D.Ill.	labor/sex	F-1
Baoanan v. Baja	1:08-cv-05692	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Barjo v. Cherian	8:18-cv-01587	D.Md.	labor	G-5
Carazani v. Zegarra	1:12-cv-00107	D.D.C.	labor	G-5

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Chere v. Taye	2:04-cv-06264	D.N.J.	labor	G-5
Cruz v. Maypa	1:13-cv-00862	E.D.Va.	labor	G-5
Doe v. Amal	1:12-cv-1359	E.D.Va.	labor	G-5
Doe v. Zinsou	1:19-cv-07025	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Elat v. Ngoubene	8:11-cv-2931	D.Md.	labor	G-5
Kiwanuka v. Bakilana	1:10-cv-01336	D.D.C.	labor	G-5
Laamime v. Abouzaid	1:13-cv-00793	E.D.Va.	labor	G-5
Nabong v. Paddayuman	1:17-cv-00400	D.D.C.	labor	G-5
Ouedraogo v. Bonkougou	1:15-cv-01345	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Rios Fun v. Pulgar	2:13-cv-03679	D.N.J.	labor	G-5
Sakala v. Milunga	8:16-cv-00790	D.Md.	labor	G-5
Sulaiman v. Laram	1:16-cv-08182	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Tamang v. Mehra	1:17-cv-00370	E.D. Va.	labor	G-5
Access Therapies v. Mendoza	1:13-cv-01317	S.D.Ind.	labor	H-1B

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Agbo v. MCB Clinical Research Centers	1:19-cv-02064	D.Colo.	labor	H-1B
Aguirre v. Best Care Agency, Inc.	2:10-cv-5914	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Amerineni v. Maruthi Technologies, LLC	3:11-cv-03548	N.D.Tex.	labor	H-1B
Bernal v. Rana	1:15-cv-00889	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Calumba v. Massey	1:13-cv-08936	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Cruz v. Management Health Systems, LLC	9:19-cv-81601	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-1B
Delos Reyes v. Abundant Nursing	1:19-cv-02596	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Guan v. Ran	1:17-cv-00332	E.D.Va.	labor	H-1B
Javier v. Beck	1:13-cv-02926	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Macias v. Monterrey Concrete	3:19-cv-00830	E.D.Va.	labor	H-1B
Magbojos v. Grandison Management	1:18-cv-03520	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Mallannagari v. GSS America, Inc.	1:09-cv-1352	N.D.Ill.	labor	H-1B
Mallela v. Cogent Infotech Corp.	2:19-cv-01658	W.D.Pa.	labor	H-1B
Mojsilovic v. University of Oklahoma	5:14-cv-00886	W.D.Ok.	labor	H-1B

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Nunag-Tanedo v. East Baton Rouge Parish School Board	8:10-cv-01172	C.D.Cal.	labor	H-1B
Panwar v. Access Therapies, Inc.	1:12-cv-00619	S.D.Ind.	labor	H-1B
Ramakapeta v. Marlabs	2:10-cv-04650	D.N.J.	labor	H-1B
Saiyed v. Archon	2:14-cv-06862 (transferred to New Jersey - 2:16-cv-09530)	E.D.N.Y. (transferred to D.N.J.)	labor	H-1B
Saraswat v. Jayaraman et al	1:15-cv-04680	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Singh v. Ling Technologies	1:11-cv-00844	E.D.Va.	labor	H-1B
Tuburan v. Massey	1:12-cv-08561	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Ajiatas-Solval v. Cisco	1:14-cv-00197	M.D.Ga.	labor	H-2A
Alcaraz v. RC Orchards LLC	1:19-cv-03192	E.D.Wash.	labor	H-2A
Alvarado-Flores v. Garcia-Pineda	5:17-cv-00369	E.D.N.C.	labor	H-2A
Antonio-Morales v. Bimbos Best Produce, Inc.	2:08-cv-05105	E.D.La.	labor	H-2A

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Aquino v. Peroulis	1:13-cv-00418	D.Colo.	labor	H-2A
Arauco-Lapo v. Wentz	2:18-cv-00095	D.Or.	labor	H-2A
Arreguin v. Sanchez	2:18-cv-00133	S.D.Ga.	labor	H-2A
Asanok v. Million Express Manpower, Inc.	5:07-cv-00048	E.D.N.C.	labor	H-2A
Barriga-Bermudez v. Gutierrez-Tapia	8:15-cv-01171	M.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Bernal v. Coleman	1:18-cv-00088	W.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A
Caballero v. All Nation Staffing, LLC	0:14-cv-61497	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Camayo v. Peroulis and Sons Sheep, Inc.	1:10-cv-00772 (consolidated with 1:11-cv-01132)	D.Colo.	labor	H-2A
Catalan v. Vermillion	1:06-cv-01043	D.Colo.	labor	H-2A
Cortez-Romero v. Corp	2:20-cv-014058	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Cruz-Cruz v. McKenzie Farms	5:15-cv-00157	E.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A

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Cuarenta-Ramos v. Odom	4:09-cv-368	E.D.Ark.	labor	H-2A
Gonzalez Leiva v. Clute	4:19-cv-00087	N.D.Ind.	labor	H-2A
Gutierrez-Morales v. Planck	5:15-cv-00158	E.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A
Huerta v. L.T.West, Inc.	6:11-cv-01589	W.D.La.	labor	H-2A
Janse van Rensburg et al v. Hood et al	3:19-cv-00008	E.D.Ark.	labor	H-2A
Luna-Duarte v. Mejia	1:16-cv-00108	W.D.N.C.	labor	H-2A
Murray v. Altendorf Transport	2:10-cv-00103	D.N.D.	labor	H-2A
Ovando v. Barajas	5:19-cv-00464	N.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Perez v. Huerta Farms, Inc.	1:18-cv-16255	D.N.J.	labor	H-2A
Rosas v. Sarbanand Farms	2:18-cv-00112	W.D. Wash.	labor	H-2A
Ruiz v. Fernandez	2:11-cv-03088	E.D.Wash.	labor	H-2A
Sanchez v. Williams	5:10-cv-0117	E.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A
Suarez v. Chavez	2:16-cv-04785	C.D.Cal.	labor	H-2A
Trevino-Villarreal v. Garcia	6:08-cv-00031	N.D.Tex.	labor	H-2A
West et al v. Butikofer	2:19-cv-01039	N.D.Iowa	labor	H-2A

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Zevallos v. Stamatakis	2:17-cv-00253	D.Utah	labor	H-2A
Abraham v. Singh	2:04-cv-00044	E.D.La.	labor	H-2B
Achari v. Signal International, LLC	2:13-cv-06218	E.D.La.	labor	H-2B
Adia v. Grandeur Management, Inc.	1:17-cv-09349	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Aguilar v. Imperial Nurseries	3:07-cv-193	D.Conn.	labor	H-2B
Alarcon v. Holloway	2:15-cv-03095	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Alvarado v. Skelton	3:16-cv-03030	M.D.Tenn.	labor	H-2B
Antigo v. Lombardi	1:11-cv-408	S.D.Miss.	labor	H-2B
Bello v. Villanueva	9:19-cv-80708	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B
Belvis v. Colamussi	2:16-cv-00544	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Briones v. JNS Construction Services, LLC	1:08-cv-00461	D.Colo.	labor	H-2B
Camarena v. B & H Farm	4:19-cv-00074	S.D.Ind.	labor	H-2B
Carillo v. Colamussi	2:17-cv-04926	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Casilao v. Hotelmacher	5:17-cv-00800	W.D. Okla.	labor	H-2B

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Castro v. Midwest Rides	0:16-cv-00014	D.Minn.	labor	H-2B
Castillo Chaidez v. KAH Transportes, et. al.	2:18-cv-01837	E.D.Pa.	labor	H-2B
David v. Signal International, LLC	2:08-cv-01220	E.D.La.	labor	H-2B
Delgado v. Villanueva	1:12-cv-03113 (later 1:13-cv-22259)	S.D.N.Y. (later S.D.Fla.)	labor	H-2B
Does v. Pure Forest, LLC	2:14-cv-00879	E.D.Cal.	labor	H-2B
Fernandez-Lopez et al v. Hernandez et al	1:19-cv-00782	W.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Flores v. Jimenez	1:19-cv-02767	N.D.Ill.	labor	H-2B
Gomez-Argueta v. Reed	7:09-cv-02027	N.D.Ala.	labor	H-2B
Guevara-Morales v. Sanchez Forestry	1:19-cv-00052	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Jimenez v. Vanderbilt	3:11-cv-00276	M.D.Tenn.	labor	H-2B
Joseph v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00324	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Kambala v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00498	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Ladra v. Rubias	1:15-cv-04231	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Lipa v. Villanueva	1:18-cv-24354	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Magnifico v. Villanueva	9:10-cv-80771	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B
Marimuthu v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00499	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Meganathan v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00497	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Mendez Perez v. CJR Framing, Inc.	3:19-cv-01429	S.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Morales-Ramirez v. International Personnel Resources, Inc.	2:10-cv-7031	E.D.Pa.	labor	H-2B
Ramos-Madrigal v. Mendiola Forestry Service, LLC	1:10-cv-01078	W.D.Ark.	labor	H-2B
Samuel v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00323	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Sarmiento v. The Club	9:11-cv-81388	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B
Vazquez v. Karageorgis	1:10-cv-04839	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Velasquez Gomez v. Nunez Pine Straw, Inc.	2:16-cv-00030	N.D.Ga.	labor	H-2B
Mistry v. Udwadia	5:12-cv-00034	W.D.Ok.	labor	H-4
Descanzo v. Grand America Hotel & Resorts	2:19-cv-00443	D.Utah	labor	J-1
Francis et al. v. Apex USA Inc. et al.	5:18-cv-00583	D. Okla.	labor	J-1
Chy v. Lim	2:17-cv-04325	C.D.Cal.	labor	J-1

Federal Civil Trafficking Cases Involving Legal Visas (2003-2020)

Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Does v. Gonikman	2:13-cv-14057	E.D.Mich.	labor	J-1
Scurtu v. International Student Exchange	1:07-cv-410	S.D.Ala.	labor	J-1
Martinez v. Calimlim	2:08-cv-00810	E.D.Wis.	labor	Multi-entry
Shukla v. Sharma	1:07-cv-2972	E.D.N.Y.	labor	R-1
Martinez-Rodriguez v. Giles	1:17-cv-00001	D.Id.	labor	TN
Castellanos v. Worldwide Distribution Systems USA, LLC	2:14-cv-12609	E.D.Mich.	labor	TN

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About The Human Trafficking Legal Center

The Human Trafficking Legal Center is a not-for-profit, national legal clearinghouse for survivors of human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Legal Center creates a bridge between trafficking survivors and highly-skilled pro bono legal representation. Standing with trafficking survivors, the Center partners with pro bono law firms nationwide to hold traffickers accountable for their crimes. Pro bono litigators trained by the Human Trafficking Legal Center win compensation for survivors. With these recoveries, trafficking survivors can reclaim their lives. Since 2012, the Human Trafficking Legal Center has trained more than 3,400 pro bono attorneys and placed more than 280 trafficking-related matters at top law firms.

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