Ahmed Alif, MS, LCSW

Immigration Forensic Evaluator | *Psychological & Trauma Evaluations* | *Expert Witness*
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EXPERT PROFILE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (six U.S. states) and PhD Candidate in Social Work at New York University, specializing in forensic psychosocial and trauma evaluations for immigration proceedings. Over a decade of direct clinical practice, peer-reviewed research, and field-based work with South Asian and Rohingya refugee communities. Conducts evaluations and prepares written declarations and expert testimony for USCIS, immigration courts, and federal appellate proceedings.

EVALUATION SERVICES

- Asylum evaluations: psychological effects of persecution or fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, social group, or political opinion.
- VAWA evaluations: physical, emotional, and psychological abuse by a U.S. citizen or LPR spouse or parent.
- U-Visa evaluations: psychological effects of being a victim of a qualifying crime committed in the United States.
- 601 Extreme Hardship Waiver: hardship a U.S. citizen or LPR would endure if a relative is denied admissibility.
- Cancellation of Removal: emotional and psychological hardship a non-citizen's deportation would cause to family members.
- Cultural context affidavits and combined country-conditions plus psychological evaluations for asylum cases.

METHODOLOGY

Comprehensive psychosocial assessment covering migration history, family structure, medical and mental-health history, and a mental status exam, with a DSM-5 diagnosis where indicated. Sessions integrate biopsychosocial evaluation, trauma-informed interviewing, and validated psychometric instruments, followed by post-interview research to corroborate the narrative using Department of State reports and academic literature. Reports are delivered within two to three weeks and coordinated directly with legal counsel. Evaluations maintain rigorous standards and integrity; false claims are not supported.

LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW): New York (091216-01), New Jersey (44SC06451300), California (127650), Texas (108395), and Pennsylvania (CW025863). Licensed Social Worker (LSW): Georgia (MSW012849).

FORENSIC EVALUATION TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

- Mastering Asylum Evaluations for Immigration Cases, R. Cassidy Seminars (4 CE hours, 2022).
- Mastering Hardship Waiver Evaluations for Immigration Cases, R. Cassidy Seminars (4 CE hours, 2022).
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (10 CE hours, 2016).
- Improving Cultural Competence and Cultural Humility, NASW (2 CEUs, 2024); California Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting, NASW (3.5 CEUs, 2024).

EDUCATION

New York University, Silver School of Social Work New York, NY
Ph.D. Candidate, Social Work Intervention *2021 – Present*
Columbia University New York, NY
M.S., Advanced Clinical Social Work (Minor: Law) *2015 – 2017*
New York University New York, NY
B.S., Applied Psychology (Minor: American Sign Language) *2013 – 2015*

FORENSIC EVALUATION & EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

Capacity Sharing LCSW PLLC / Alifa Evaluation March 2020 – Present
Founder & President · alifaeval.com

- Conduct forensic psychosocial and trauma evaluations for federal immigration asylum cases; prepare written declarations and expert testimony, including court appearances and collaboration with legal teams.

Dreamers Hymn Inc. 501(c)(3) February 2021 – Present
Founder & Director · dreamershymn.org

- Provide free forensic psychological evaluations documenting extreme hardship (601), domestic abuse (VAWA), and victimization (U-Visa) for self-petitioners and crime victims.

Capacity Building and Research Development LLC March 2020 – Present
Founder & President · capacitybuildingnyc.com

- Conduct immigration psychological evaluations analyzing the impact of immigration status on identity, mental health, and economic wellbeing.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & LEGAL CITATION

Alif, A., Battiwala, T., & Yoshikawa, H. (2024). The influence of children's immigration status on households with unauthorized parents. Children and Youth Services Review, 165, 107887.

Alif, A., Nelson, B. S., Stefancic, A., Ahmed, R., & Okazaki, S. (2020). Documentation status and psychological distress among New York City community college students. Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology, 26(1), 11–21.

Alif, A. (2025, April 11). Cited in Brief of Social Science Scholars as Amici Curiae, Washington v. Trump, No. 25-807 (9th Cir. 2025).

MEMBERSHIPS & LANGUAGES

Memberships: Society for Asylum Medicine; Physicians for Human Rights Asylum Network; CGRS Expert Witness Database; NASW; APA; Asian American Psychological Association.

Languages: English (native); Bengali (fluent); Hindi-Urdu (fluent); American Sign Language (proficient).