

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 5

RESOLUTION NO. 65 - 2025

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment - Gabriel Moreno – Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Gabriel Moreno to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.

Introduced and read first time on April 7, 2025.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on April 21, 2025.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on May 5, 2025.

Certified by

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.349 and 12.220 of the Howard County Code provide for an Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Gabriel Moreno as a member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of May, 2025 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission to serve from the passage of this Resolution to October 2, 2026 or until a successor is reappointed and confirmed:

Gabriel Moreno
Jessup, Maryland

Gabriel Maximilian Moreno, Esq.

BAR LICENSES – Maryland • Massachusetts

U.S. District Court of Maryland • U.S. Supreme Court

LANGUAGE – Fluent in Spanish

References upon request.

EXPERIENCE

KIND (KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE)

Senior Attorney

Baltimore, MD

September 2015 – Present

Senior Attorney, Special Programs, Family Separations Response Team

- Provide direct representation to children affected by the zero tolerance and family separation policy in the realm of immigration and federal litigation.
- Managed, mentored, and presented to hundreds of pro bono attorneys throughout D.C., Maryland, and Virginia handling cases of separated children and families in the areas of immigration law, family law, and federal litigation.
- Ensure dissemination of timely guidance and case assistance in rapidly changing legal and political landscape, including in the family separation crisis.
- Triage referrals for children needing legal services, including referrals for children in ORR or ICE detention facilities and upon release, and facilitate representation.
- Work closely with organizations and law firms such as the ACLU, Justice in Motion, SENECA, CLINIC, the Paul Weiss law firm, and others, as part of the family separation steering committee to ensure streamlined services for families impacted by separations during the previous presidential administration.
- Participate in coalitions to stay abreast of legal developments and trends to inform mentoring of pro bono attorneys, and to ensure rapid dissemination of KIND guidance materials to other providers to benefit separated and unaccompanied children and their families.
- Support Legal Services Team Management and the Deputy Director with project management tasks, including reporting, and funder and media relations.
- On call travel to emergency intake sites and detention centers such as Fort Bliss, Tornillo and Port Isabel Detention Center in Texas.
- Undergone Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT).

Senior Direct Representation Attorney roles:

- Oversaw three direct representation attorneys and two paralegals handling around 220 cases.
- Conduct staff evaluations after initial three months of employment and on a yearly basis.
- Attend stakeholder meetings with community partners, judges, and government officials.
- Represent unaccompanied minor clients in Immigration Court and Maryland Circuit Courts.
- Mentor internal staff and external pro bono attorneys in processes of the Immigration Court and Maryland Circuit Courts.
- Evaluate matters involving immigration, criminal issues, and juvenile delinquency and how immigration relief being sought will be impacted.
- With the ending of the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellowship program and the Baltimore Initiative, determine whether each of the over 200 cases in those programs would be retained in another KIND program or farmed out to private practitioners.
- Co-manage the KIND Baltimore office during a time when no permanent supervising attorney was present.
- Lead phone calls with KIND-nationwide conference calls.
- Actively participate in various listservs to answer practitioner's questions regarding immigration issues.

Pro Bono Coordinator / Staff Attorney roles:

- Liaise with the Baltimore field office's Supervising Attorney to determine case strategy, update about case progress of over eighty cases retained, and ethical issues that may have arisen during representation.
- Represent children in immigration removal proceedings, including children eligible for asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) due to abuse, abandonment, neglect, human trafficking, and/or other trauma.
- File all relevant documents and applications with government agencies and immigration court, where applicable.
- Attend immigration and state court hearings, and interviews and adjudications before government agencies.
- Participate in staff meetings and KIND-nationwide conference calls.
- Assist in the supervision of law student interns and volunteers.
- Perform and assist with periodic trainings and presentations.
- Serve as an ambassador of KIND with local coalitions, courts, and agencies.

JM BLATTNER, LLC

Attorney

Towson, MD

April 2015 – September 2015

- Represent clients in the areas of personal injury, immigration, and landlord/tenant law.
- Active contribution to law firm blog.

LAW OFFICE OF BARRY GLAZER, P.C.

Attorney

Baltimore, MD

August 2013 – March 2015

- Litigate in the areas of torts, family, real estate, landlord/tenant, probate, and administrative law.
- Conduct legal research using LexisNexis and Westlaw.
- Manage a case load of above 25-40 cases involving personal injury, and some cases involving property owner/tenant, real estate, contract and family Law.
- Argued motions and tried cases as first chair in District and Circuit Courts of Maryland.
- Individually develop and initiate appropriate strategies for discovery and alternative dispute resolution.
- Prepare clients and witnesses for depositions, alternative dispute resolution, hearings and trials.
- Provide litigation support to other attorneys including legal research, drafting, and advice as to strategy.
- Successfully negotiate legal matters with opposing counsel and insurance adjusters to settlement.

LAW OFFICE OF MARIA MURBER

Intern

Haverhill, MA

August 2011 – April 2012

- Learned case management, trial preparation, and client interaction.
- Helped setup trial notebooks in preparation for trial.
- Conducted legal research focusing on criminal law to find current case law and drafted legal documents.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, Legal Studies, 2012

Massachusetts School of Law - Andover, Massachusetts

Bachelor of Arts, Organizational and Corporate Communication, 2008

University of Texas at El Paso - El Paso, Texas

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, 2007

Texas A&M University - College Station, Texas

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

HopeWorks

Board Member

Howard County, Maryland

Jan. 2023 - Present

HopeWorks is an organization with a mission to support and advocate for people in Howard County affected by sexual and intimate partner violence and to engage the community in creating the change required for violence prevention.

La Alianza Latina Commission

Member

Howard County, Maryland

Dec. 2022 - Present

Commission which began as a workgroup that addressed concerns and struggles of the Latino and immigrant community – such as how to access community resources, support for starting a business or buying a home, health disparities and outcomes, and ensuring there is adequate support for young Latinos in Howard County schools. The goals of the commission are to promote diversity and civility and address many of the concerns and struggles that the Latino and immigrant communities experience.

Maryland Democratic Central Committee

2nd Vice Chair, State Rules Committee

Howard County, Maryland

Jun. 2018 - Present

Elected during the gubernatorial primary election years to advance the party's principles and consult and collaborate with Democrats running past the primary into the general election every two years. Internally manage marketing, internal/external communications, fundraising, website management, graphics design, cultivating conversations with community stakeholders, and several other miscellaneous tasks.

Democratic National Convention

Active At-Large Delegate

Nationwide

Aug. 2020

Served as one of 120 Maryland delegates at the Democratic National Convention, a presidential nominating convention, with the primary goal to nominate a candidate for president and vice president, adopt a party platform, and unifying the Democratic Party.

LUMINUS (formerly FIRN)

Board Member

Columbia, Maryland

Feb. 2020 - Jul. 2021

Luminus is a nonprofit organization in Howard County, Maryland that empowers immigrants, refugees, asylees and other foreign-born individuals by helping them to access community resources and opportunities. Luminus provides immigration counseling, interpreting & translation services, information and referrals and a variety of workshops.

Human Rights Review Committee

Member

Howard County, Maryland

Feb. 2019 – Apr. 2019

The Office of Human Rights (OHR) is responsible for administering and enforcing provisions of the Howard County Human Rights Law, investigates complaints and attempts to eliminate violations by conference, conciliation, and persuasion. The Review Committee met during their term to make recommendations as to necessary changes to the OHR.