

#### **PRESENTED AT**

2020 A Practical Guide to Immigration Removal Proceedings

June 4-5, 2020 Live Webcast

## **Navigating the New Roadblocks to Asylum**

**Erica Schommer** 

Author Contact Information: Erica Schommer St. Mary's University School of Law San Antonio, TX

eschommer@stmarytx.edu 210 431 5748

# Changes to asylum policy

JACQUELINE L. WATSON ERICA B. SCHOMMER

1

Article 14, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

"Everyone has the **right** to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."



## Policy Changes Impacting Asylum

#### Migrant Protection Persecution Protocol (MPP)

 Began January 29, 2019 in San Ysidro sector and since expanded to most POEs. Applies to people from countries where Spanish is the primary language and as of 1/29/2020, to Brazilians as well

### Prompt Asylum Claim Review (PACR) and Humanitarian Asylum Review Process (HARP)

- Beginning October 7, 2019, a new expedited removal program, established by written policy directives, guidelines, and procedures.
- Under PACR, asylum seekers from countries other than Mexico who are in credible fear proceedings are kept in CBP facilities instead of being transferred to ICE detention centers.
- HARP applies the same policy as PACR to Mexican asylum seekers in credible fear proceeding

3

## Elements of Asylum

- Past persecution OR well-founded fear of persecution
- •Nexus ("on account of")
- Protected Ground
  - Race, Religion, Nationality, Membership in a particular social group (PSG), or Political opinion
- •Committed by government OR someone the government is unwilling or unable to control
- •Internal relocation not reasonable
- •No bars to eligibility



Also available as part of the eCourse 2020 A Practical Guide to Immigration Removal Proceedings eConference

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 2020 A Practical Guide to Immigration Removal Proceedings session "Changes to Asylum Policy (approx.  $1\ hr$ )"