

Press Release

Rebeca Mosquera, Alexandra Mora Honored with Two Awards for Pro Bono Efforts in Somali Refugee Case

July 12, 2019

Recognized by Advocates for Human Rights, American Immigration Lawyers Association

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, today announced the recognition of three lawyers for their pro bono efforts in a refugee case involving a group of 92 Somali citizens deported in 2017, known as the “Somali 92.” Rebeca Mosquera, [Alexandra Mora](#), and Maria “Marisa” Casablanca were presented with the Advocates for Human Rights’ 2019 Human Rights Volunteer Award and the American Immigration Lawyers Association’s 2019 Arthur C. Helton Memorial Human Rights Award for their representation of one of the refugees.

In late 2017, the Somali 92 were flown out of the United States under orders of deportation, before being rerouted due to logistical reasons and landing in Florida. A team of lawyers across the United States, including Mosquera, Mora, and Casablanca, mobilized to represent the Somali 92. They took the case of a refugee who suffered horrific conditions during the two-day flight.

Mosquera was successfully granted a motion to reopen the refugee’s case, and a hearing has been set. In the meantime, Mora assisted Mosquera in the preparation of the case, while Casablanca, who

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serves as chair of Akerman's Immigration Planning and Compliance Practice, offered her expert assistance.

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