

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

The mission of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center is to work with and educate immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to continue to build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people.

MESSAGE FROM ILRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ERIC COHEN

In 2017, the Trump administration used its power to issue anti-immigrant executive orders and policies, making immigrating to the United States infinitely more difficult. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was rescinded by a policy change and used as a bargaining chip for border wall funding. Thankfully, the rescission was challenged in the courts and public outcry against this action by the American people was loud and clear.



Additionally, amidst the nativism and cruelty of this administration's policies, the ILRC saw an increase in support from you and the community in 2017. We broke fundraising records and expanded our donor base. We grew our staff. Now more than ever, the work of the ILRC is needed to defend the rights of immigrants and their families to help them stay together in this country and thrive—and we have the staff, expertise, and track record to make a powerful impact.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. A. Cohen".



ILRC BY THE NUMBERS

2017

1,411,660

An increase of **182%** over 2016

Know Your Rights
RED CARDS
Distributed

8,533



Attorney of the Day

Issues Answered for Non-Profits, Service Providers, and Pro Bono Attorneys

An increase of **12%** over 2016



528

Trainings, Webinars, Community Meetings, Task Forces, Workshops, Media Reports, and CRISP Meetings

An increase of **61%** over 2016

with more than

23,190

Attendees & Participants

An increase of **99%** over 2016

2017 POLICY ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In September 2017, the Trump Administration announced the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA is an immigration option for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States before the age of 16. Although DACA does not provide a pathway to lawful permanent residence, it does provide temporary protection from deportation, work authorization, and the ability to apply for a social security number.

Over 800,000 young adults across the country are beneficiaries of the DACA program. Until there is a permanent and clean solution, the ILRC will continue to dedicate resources to providing the most comprehensive information that it can for immigration attorneys, community advocates, and DACA recipients to help them navigate past misinformation. **These are some of the resources and materials that the ILRC prepared in 2017 about DACA:**

- Published “**Draining the Trust Funds: Ending DACA and the Consequences to Social Security and Medicare,**”¹ a report by the ILRC and Professor Tom K. Wong that talks about the \$39.3 billion loss over the next ten years on Social Security and Medicare due to the ending DACA.
- Published “**California Driver’s Licenses Once DACA Expires,**”² a practice advisory addressing the driver’s license options for DACA holders in California, with information on what will happen when DACA expires, and step-by-step instructions on how to switch licenses if necessary.
- Published “**What Can You Do if Your DACA Renewal Application Was Rejected as Not Having Been Filed on Time?**,”³ a guide prepared by the ILRC, CLINIC, and NILC to guide those who may have had their DACA renewal applications rejected and provide answers to some frequently asked questions.
- Held a teleconference for partners across the state on what the rescission announcement said/did, what to tell community members, what resources are available to help, what different sectors can do to inform community members and steer them to resources, what the larger campaign strategy is now, and how to get involved in larger advocacy campaign.



LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES IN CALIFORNIA

The ILRC remains committed to legislative and policy reform that lessens or eliminates the devastating immigration-related impact that criminal convictions can have on immigrants, their families, and their communities. In 2017, the ILRC and our allies drafted and advocated for several bills, including SB 52, the California Values Act, SB 29, Dignity Not Detention Act, and AB 208.

SB 54, California Values Act

Limits cooperation between local and state law enforcement and federal immigration authorities in a variety of ways, including making 287(g) contracts and inquiring about immigration status unlawful, and placing limits on use of notification requests and transfers to ICE. The ILRC helped draft language for SB 54 and was a member of the coalition which supported the passage of this bill, and will now shift resources to support implementation including writing guides, holding trainings, and engaging with key stakeholders to ensure that lawyers, organizers and community leaders have the tools and knowledge they need to protect people from unconstitutional actions and the threat of detention and deportation.

SB 29, Dignity Not Detention Act

No new private immigration custody contracts, places restrictions on expansion of certain existing private contracts. SB 29 was authored by Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) and co-sponsored by Assembly Member Gipson, Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) and Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC). The ILRC and CIVIC will continue to fight for additional reforms to immigration detention, including the codification of standards of care across all detention facilities, the creation of extra protections for LGBTQ-identified immigrants in detention, increased visitation access to legal counsel and family members, the increased adoption of community-based alternatives to detention, and ultimately an end to all immigration detention.

AB 208

Establishes pre-trial diversion programs to eliminate federal consequences, including immigration consequences, of certain drug offenses. In California, a process called deferred entry of judgment allows residents who are charged with a simple drug possession offense and meet other qualifications to go into drug counseling instead of jail, and to have a clean slate if they successfully complete it – after they plead guilty. Noncitizens, however, are at risk of accepting deferred entry of judgment because of the immigration consequences under federal law; a guilty plea under federal law exposes noncitizens to deportation and permanent family separation even before they have the time to complete a drug rehabilitation program. The ILRC is a co-sponsor of AB 208 and helped draft the legislation.

THANK YOU



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