

The Immigrant Advocate

Summer 2016



The ILRC Pushes Forward After a Disappointing Setback

The U.S. Supreme Court's unfavorable split decision in the *United States v. Texas* case fails to protect the civil rights of immigrants across our nation. Under this ruling, the expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) programs will remain on hold. Expanded DACA and DAPA would have been a monumental step toward a more just immigration system, safeguarding more than 5 million immigrants and their families.

“ The impact of the ruling is not to be understated; the lack of any meaningful administrative or legislative mechanism to address the many challenges of the U.S. immigration system threatens to continue to separate countless families, including those with U.S. citizen children. Nevertheless, the ILRC remains committed to working alongside the immigrant community to fight against policies that target undocumented immigrants and facilitate the separation of families, and to fight for an overhaul of our broken immigration system, ”
said Sally Kinoshita, Deputy Director, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC).

Rhetoric demonizing immigrants has grown prolific in the furor of the presidential campaign, increasing the danger of unjust immigration enforcement and policies that undermine the safety of immigrant families and communities. In light of federal inaction, the ILRC's work is even more critical than ever to protect the rights of immigrants.

What is ILRC doing in the absence of expanded DACA and DAPA?

Pushing for Fair and Just Immigration Reform

ILRC's policy and advocacy work continues to focus on an inclusive legalization program and prosecutorial discretion options at the federal level. At the state level, we are promoting legislation to reduce detention and deportation (see page 2 for more details). We have had remarkable successes in California, including the recently passed *Immigrants Shape California* Legislative Package (a series of measures seeking to protect the most vulnerable immigrant groups in the state). With California emerging as the nation's recognized leader in immigration reform, the ILRC seeks to replicate those wins for the rest of the nation.

Exploring Other Forms of Immigration Remedies through Ready California

We are finding ways to assist immigrants in pursuing existing immigration remedies including the original DACA program—which is more critical than ever. Through a statewide coalition led by the ILRC, Ready California, we will provide free, day-long trainings to our partners and their allies within the next few months. These trainings are specifically for nonprofit organizations as well as their committed volunteer attorneys.

Fighting Against Unfair Immigration Enforcement

ILRC has been a leader in the fight against cruel and unjust deportation programs that have victimized immigrant communities. We will continue to build the capacity of the field to engage in deportation defense, including pursuing immigration protections for the detained population and providing advocates with intensive deportation defense skills trainings. ILRC was instrumental in putting an end to the infamous Secure Communities (S-Comm) program which led to record deportations and countless family separations. Although President Obama's executive action in 2014 terminated S-Comm, the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) took its place—unfortunately operating in much the same way. ILRC is pushing for a complete separation between immigration authorities and local law enforcement to safeguard immigrants. Today, there are more than 350 policies nationwide separating Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement.

...continued on page 2

What can immigrants do?

Know Your Rights


Immigrants can stand up against illegal ICE enforcement. ILRC has been producing and distributing Red Cards to educate and encourage undocumented immigrants to exercise their constitutional rights against ICE raids. Since 2007, we have distributed **918,849** Red Cards to the community.

Protect Yourself

Immigrants can avoid fraud by seeking qualified, legitimate immigration service providers. The ILRC works to strengthen sanctions and to help prosecute unscrupulous individuals taking advantage of immigrants. We distribute comic books and flyers educating the community on the dangers of immigration fraud.

Engage in the Democratic Process

The ILRC urges immigrants, who are able to do so, to engage in the democratic process by voting in support of issues that are important to them. Greater civic participation serves to guarantee a richer, more inclusive future for all Americans. The ILRC is leading the New Americans Campaign across the nation to assist an estimated 8.8 million eligible lawful permanent residents in becoming U.S. citizens.

The Supreme Court's decision is an unfortunate setback, but the tireless advocacy and organizing of immigrant communities continues. **ILRC remains committed to fighting for fair and just immigration reform.** 

2016 Legislative Updates in California

On the heels of successful passage of last year's *Immigrants Shape California* Legislative Package, the ILRC is supporting key legislation to keep immigrants and their families together. As anti-immigrant vitriol saturates headlines amidst the presidential campaign, California continues to position itself as the nation's leader in progressive and fair reform. The ILRC and its allies are collaborating to lead California in the right direction for immigration reform.

SB 1289 Dignity Not Detention Act (Senator Ricardo Lara)

As many reports have documented, substandard levels of care and ongoing human rights abuses are rampant in immigration detention centers across the nation. Over half of all immigration detention beds in facilities in the U.S. are owned by private corporations, the two largest of which make billions of dollars in annual revenue. Cosponsored by the ILRC and Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), this bill would prohibit private, for-profit companies from operating immigration detention facilities in California; require all other detention facilities to uphold basic standards of care; and provide the ability to sue if treatment violates the standards.

Status: *Passed through Senate. Currently moving through Assembly.*

AB 2792 California's TRUTH Act (Assemblymember Rob Bonta)

As the federal government continues to encourage the involvement of local law enforcement in deportations, immigrant communities are left to deal with the consequences including, but not limited to, prolonged detention and permanent family separation. This bill would provide transparency of the operations of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) across the state and improve accountability through community input prior to a law enforcement agency entering into an agreement with ICE.

Status: *Passed through Assembly. Currently moving through Senate.*


SB 1242 Post-Conviction Relief (Senator Ricardo Lara)

In 2014, through the passage of SB 1310, California lowered the maximum sentence of a misdemeanor to 364 days to reduce the excessive penalties one is confronted within the context of immigration law. Due to a minor technicality in immigration law, the misalignment in misdemeanor sentencing has resulted in thousands of legal residents at risk of losing their green cards and being unnecessarily deported. This bill (cosponsored by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office) takes that legislative fix a step further by making this change retroactive, ensuring that those with older convictions no longer remain at risk of unjust deportation.

Status: *Passed through Senate. Currently moving through Assembly.*

AB 813 A Fair Day In Court For All (Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez)

Immigrants who previously received a legally invalid conviction have limited means to challenge it in court after they have been released, leaving them at imminent risk of deportation. This bill would provide a means to challenge these convictions in court, potentially sparing many immigrants from being unjustly deported.

Status: *Passed through Assembly. Currently moving through Senate.* 

Building the Field through the Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program

Most immigrants face removal proceedings without an attorney or authorized representative, and the outcomes with and without a representative are grossly disparate. Sadly, the single most important factor in determining whether someone will win or lose a case is if they have an attorney present in their court proceedings. The ILRC is dedicated to providing the necessary technical legal assistance to the nonprofit community and legal advocates in order to increase their capacity to serve, which provides more immigrants a fair chance at a positive outcome in their immigration cases.

The ILRC was founded in response to the lack of adequate training and staffing needed to grapple with the increasingly complex legal and social challenges faced by community-based organizations serving immigrants. Through our various trainings, collaborations, and manuals, we offer resources to help build the capacity of organizations to contend with the various ways immigration law impacts their communities. **At the heart of our long-standing work is ILRC's Attorney of the Day (AOD) program.**

Through the AOD program the ILRC provides technical legal assistance to nonprofit service providers and legal representatives serving immigrants. We advise public defenders working with immigrants about the immigration consequences of potential convictions. ILRC attorneys consult on specific cases, from reviewing evidentiary documents and conducting research to helping providers represent immigrants. Our consultations include a wide variety of matters related to immigration law and practice including family-based immigration; removal defense; the intersection between criminal and immigration law; citizenship matters; humanitarian benefits such as asylum and withholding of removal; options for victims of crimes and domestic abuse; relief for minors; and much more.

In 2015, the ILRC answered nearly 5,300 inquiries through the AOD program.



After 37 years, the ILRC now supports over 70 agencies in the Bay Area through our Attorney of the Day program and 50 other agencies and public defenders throughout the state of California. Nationally, we support more than 100 organizations through the New Americans Campaign, an innovative campaign helping legal permanent residents obtain citizenship. The groups who use the AOD service—and in turn the clients that they serve—include direct service organizations, immigrant-based organizations, coalitions, government staff, English as a Second Language and civics teachers, and *pro bono* attorneys.

On the immediate horizon, the ILRC's Attorney of the Day program must meet the need for support for immigration court cases as enforcement efforts continue to escalate. We're also readying ourselves for the imminent I-601A process, which will allow

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ILRC Staff Attorney Erin Quinn




I was in high school in the Central Valley at a time when Pete Wilson was Governor, and Prop 187 threatened to deny public benefits and education to undocumented immigrants. Fortunately, my own family offered a counterbalance to this exclusionary policy. My parents, aunts, and uncles argued against such racist policies at parent-teacher meetings and school board meetings, modeling what it means to speak out against injustice. From an early age, I was aware that I held values that did not align with many classmates, but I never shied away from advocating for my point of view. Most importantly, my family instilled in me that I had a responsibility to engage in dialogue.

The ILRC's multi-faceted approach to empowering immigrants aligns with my notion of what it means to be a lawyer. My interest in advocacy stems from a deep-seated belief in social justice, and that the issues we see today tug at the heart of what it means to be human and to stand up for the rights of all people.

Immigration is a human rights issue. A race issue. A justice issue.

The patchwork nature of our immigration laws make them generally inaccessible to the people they impact. Many people don't realize that the process of deportation does not honor the rights and dignity of those that are subject to it. No one automatically gets a lawyer in immigration court, and most people face the prosecution without a lawyer on their side. Unfortunately, data shows that the single most important factor in determining whether someone will win or lose their case is whether or not they have an attorney. The deck is stacked against the majority of immigrants entangled in this system.

I'm excited to be at the ILRC where I can help immigration advocates represent immigrants more effectively. I work each day to make immigration law accessible to the immigrant community, and equip advocates with arguments in their cases to fight for immigrants on their journey to secure basic rights for their families. One thing is clear: We must raise our voices and contribute to justice in every way we can. Coupled with advocacy, organizing, and recognizing the complex nature of the issues, we can chip away at injustice. 

New Americans Campaign Celebrates Fifth Anniversary with New Site



On July 1st, the New Americans Campaign celebrated its fifth anniversary with the launch of its newest site, Atlanta. Leading nonprofits in Atlanta formally launched an innovative partnership to provide naturalization services for the city's nearly 85,000 citizenship-eligible lawful permanent residents (LPRs).

The Latin American Association, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta, Catholic Charities of Atlanta, Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials, the International Rescue Committee, and New American Pathways will join the New Americans Campaign as its 17th site.

These seven organizations, as well as collaborators from the City of Atlanta, Coalition for the People's Agenda, and the League of Women Voters of Georgia, join the growing list of over 100 New Americans Campaign partners across the country that promote naturalization for the nearly 9 million lawful permanent residents who are eligible for citizenship in the United States.

Since its inception in July 2011, the New Americans Campaign sites and affiliated collaborations have completed more than 211,000 naturalization applications for LPRs through more than 3,400 naturalization workshops and clinics nationwide.

“Naturalization is beneficial for individuals, families, and whole communities,” says Eric Cohen, Executive Director of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, which leads the New Americans Campaign. “We’re excited to have Atlanta join the New Americans Campaign and to bring more legal services and naturalization support to the approximately 85,000 citizenship-eligible lawful permanent residents that call the Atlanta area home.”

About the New Americans Campaign

The New Americans Campaign, led by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, is a nonpartisan, innovative, and unprecedented effort that brings together a coalition of funders, leading national immigration and service organizations, and over one hundred local service providers across 17 different cities to help aspiring Americans reach their dream of citizenship. To learn more about the New Americans Campaign, please visit www.newamericanscampaign.org and follow the conversation at @NewAmericans.

5 Years of Success Based on 5 Pillars

- 1 Achieving measurable impact on naturalization
- 2 Working collaboratively
- 3 Infusing innovation into service delivery models
- 4 Reaching a diverse population of aspiring citizens
- 5 Providing the highest quality naturalization services

5 Years of Impact and Success

211,000
Citizenship
applications submitted

\$189,000,000
Dollars saved
for applicants

3,400
Citizenship
workshops

51+
Countries of origin
of applicants



Collaborative Resources for Immigrant Services on the Peninsula (CRISP) Celebrates a Decade of Community Service



The ILRC has been a proud member of Collaborative Resources for Immigrant Services on the Peninsula (CRISP) for 10 years. In support of immigrant communities, CRISP provides free or low-cost immigration legal assistance and engages in related policy and advocacy efforts. The Collaborative assists some of the San Francisco Peninsula's most underserved residents including immigrant children, families, and the elderly.

CRISP offers resources and services that are culturally and linguistically sensitive to meet the needs of immigrants living throughout the Peninsula, a region that includes San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties and has a high density of immigrants. The Collaborative uses a unique model in which expertise is exchanged amongst partners through resources and referrals. Immigration law is complex—particularly for victims of violence and for immigrant children. Thanks to this model, CRISP is equipped with the necessary tools to assist families in need of immigration legal assistance. Over the last ten years, CRISP partners have exponentially increased their capacity to serve the community and elevated their baseline expertise in immigration law.

CRISP partners work together to create a system in which resources are easily shared, increasing positive outcomes for immigrant clients and building the expertise of the field. The ILRC provides technical legal expertise and serves as the fiscal agent for the Collaborative. The legal services provided by CRISP are critical for the region's social and economic stability and vastly improve the lives of immigrant families.

The ILRC extends our appreciation to the Grove Foundation, Hurlbut-Johnson Charitable Trusts, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for their support of CRISP.

The following are success stories from CRISP clients. The names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.

Caroline, age 16, contacted a CRISP partner for help. Her father, who had been violent against her mother, had left the United States and not contacted or supported her family since Caroline was four years old. Because of Caroline's situation, the CRISP partner was able to assist her in applying for a green card by filing for a Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJS) petition. Caroline was thrilled to learn that with her green card, she could apply for federal loans so she could pursue her dream of attending college and a career in law enforcement.

At the age of two, Daniel was left in the care of an aunt in Guatemala while his parents came to the United States in pursuit of better employment opportunities. Unbeknownst to his parents, Daniel's aunt denied him food and "shared" him with her sisters—making him clean and cook instead of allowing him to attend school. He would often miss weeks (and at times months) of school because of his aunt's abuse. Finally, at the age of 11, Daniel reunited with his parents. Daniel's parents found a CRISP partner to help him apply for asylum. After years of abuse and separation from his parents, Daniel was finally granted asylum in 2015 and able to start middle school in the U.S. Thanks to CRISP, Daniel can remain with his family in the U.S. indefinitely and access much-needed medical and mental healthcare. Daniel's ambition is "to study a lot and be a policeman in the future."



CRISP Partner Agencies

- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
- Catholic Charities San Mateo Office
- Coastside Hope
- Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- International Institute of the Bay Area – Redwood City Office
- La Raza Centro Legal
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

Profits over care make case for immigration reform

BY GRISEL RUIZ AND CHRISTINA FIALHO

Article first appeared on June 21, 2016. Grisel Ruiz and Christina Fialho, "Profits over care make case for immigration reform," *The Hill* (2016). Retrieved from <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/immigration/284114-profits-over-care-make-case-for-immigration-reform>.



Hillary Clinton won the California primary last week, and if she takes the White House in November, we hope she will take a cue from California.

This month, the California Senate passed the Dignity Not Detention Act (SB 1289), authored by Senator Ricardo Lara, and co-sponsored by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center and Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC). This is the first bill in the nation to prohibit municipalities from contracting with for-profit immigration detention facilities, to require all other detention facilities in California to uphold national humane treatment standards, and to allow people to sue if their rights are violated under these basic standards.

The systemic issues calling for action could not be more pronounced. While an election year marks the potential for change, multi-billion dollar prison companies such as GEO Group and CCA have lobbied to ensure that immigration detention remains deeply entrenched in California and nationwide. Many do not know that immigration detention – the civil incarceration of immigrants, including refugees and green card holders, in deportation proceedings – affects thousands in our own backyard.

California imprisons more immigrants than any other state, except for Texas, holding approximately five thousand people in 10 detention facilities. The vast majority of individuals are locked up in prisons run by corporations with a legal duty to maximize profits for its shareholders. It is, therefore, unsurprising and disturbing that 23 individuals have reportedly died in California detention facilities since 2003. Most recently, in May, a Russian immigrant died at the Otay Detention Facility, a privately-run CCA-facility in San Diego.

As billion dollar corporations such as GEO Group and CCA make profits hand over fist, it is immigrant communities who pay the price. Nearly a quarter of U.S. children who have been placed in foster care after their parents were detained or deported are from California. Family income has been shown to drop an average of 70 percent following

detention of a parent, and spouses and partners of detained people often suffer from depression. Given that California is the most immigrant-rich state in the nation, these are costs that California cannot afford to bear, and certainly not to augment the profits of billion dollar companies.

The Dignity Not Detention Act states boldly that the State of California will not stand idly by as private prison corporations make billions off of the mistreatment of some of the most vulnerable in our state. Gerardo Corrales, a 19-year-old from Seaside, California, was detained at the Adelanto Detention Facility, one of the largest immigration detention facilities

in the country run by GEO Group. Corrales is a paraplegic and uses a wheelchair, and GEO Group forced Corrales to reuse catheter bags. This led to a serious urinary tract infection, which ultimately required Corrales to be admitted to an outside hospital. GEO Group's cost-cutting and risky practices have no place in California.

The Dignity Not Detention Act also ensures accountability for California's county and city jails that contract with U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). Felix Alvarado, a 53-year-old man from Honduras, was beaten and humiliated at Theo Lacy Facility, an Orange County jail that contracts with ICE. On one occasion, Orange County jail officers handcuffed Alvarado and repeatedly slammed his head against a prison wall. On another occasion, officers forcibly removed him from the shower and paraded him naked back to his cell, where he was forced to remain unclothed and covered in soap for 15-minutes, according to a federal administrative complaint filed by CIVIC last December.

If the Dignity Not Detention Act becomes law, people like Corrales and Alvarado will have a right of action to sue the government for violations of the federal Performance Based National Detention Standards, which currently offer no substantive protection to people in detention and operate only as unenforceable guidelines for federal contractors.

“ The Dignity Not Detention Act states boldly that the State of California will not stand idly by as private prison corporations make billions off of the mistreatment of some of the most vulnerable in our state. ”

We hope that if elected President, Clinton will make good on her promise to “end private prisons and private detention centers” – an action which urgently needs adoption in both the civil and criminal contexts. For now, let's ensure California continues to lead the way toward a more humane country by choosing dignity over detention.

Grisel Ruiz is a Staff Attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco. Christina Fialho is the Co-Founder/Executive Director of CIVIC and an attorney in California.

Building the Field through the Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program

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more families to become permanent residents. The ILRC seeks to foster a society where quality legal services are available to all newcomers and where our governmental agencies operate with efficacy, respect, and fairness toward those they intend to serve. The AOD program promotes ILRC's mission so immigrants can obtain legal and permanent immigration status, work authorization, and increased economic self-sufficiency.

Testimonials from Our Clients

"I consider the consulting agreement with the ILRC as one of the best resources available for attorneys and their clients. I have no idea how we managed without it! Thanks so much."

Vic Eriksen, Deputy Public Defender, San Diego, CA

"The ILRC is a godsend; what a great resource. Being able to consult the AOD literally allows me to sleep better at night. I cannot thank you enough!"

Anna Teruel, Deputy Public Defender, Martinez, CA

"With the help of Attorney of the Day, I am able to take on immigration cases with more complex issues. With ILRC's help responding to a continuance from U.S.C.I.S., Francis became a naturalized U.S. citizen this month!"

Madeline Feldon, Immigration Attorney
& Program Director
International Institute of the Bay Area

"Our organization could not function without the expert advice we receive from ILRC's consultation services. Whenever we are stymied, stumped or confused, we shoot off an e-mail to the expert attorneys at ILRC, and our peace of mind returns."

Susan Bowyer, Deputy Director
& Directing Attorney
Immigration Center for Women
and Children

"Thanks to the technical legal support of the AOD at ILRC, I was able to complete my first 601A waiver for unlawful presence, which my client needed in order to legally immigrate to the United States. This also helped save my low-income clients a lot of money. This waiver provides an opportunity for a gay, married couple to stay together with the security of permanent status. The United States citizen husband struggles with cancer and relies on his husband, who is a recipient of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, to care for him. The ILRC helped review the waiver I prepared and offered suggestions to make it stronger before we submitted it to the government. The 601A waiver was approved and my client has an appointment in Ciudad Juarez for his legal permanent residency. My client and I appreciate their assistance greatly."

Kathy Differding, BIA Accredited Representative
Program Director, California Human Development

SUPPORT ILRC TODAY

Join us as a partner in advancing the rights of all immigrants. Your gift provides vital assistance to the immigrant community and the lawyers, advocates, and other allies working on their behalf. With your help, we will continue fighting for just reform and the civil rights of all immigrants.

Support the immigrant community and ILRC today by:

- Making a gift at www.ilrc.org/donate
- Including ILRC in your estate plans
- Volunteering your time

Thank you for your commitment to advancing the rights of immigrants.

Contact Edith Hong, Director of Development at ehong@ilrc.org or (415) 321-8536 for more information.

2016 Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Awards

On May 19, 2016, ILRC celebrated at the 2016 Phillip Burton Awards in San Francisco. Each year, ILRC honors individuals who have contributed significantly to the advancement of immigrant rights. More than 340 guests joined us to recognize individuals who have made a tremendous impact on the immigrant community. Congratulations to this year's honorees!



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The Honorable Kevin de León

*President pro Tempore
of the California State Senate*

Recipient of the 2016 Nancy Pelosi Policy Award

In recognition of his exemplary efforts to champion the rights of immigrants, Senator Kevin de León was presented with the 2016 Nancy Pelosi Policy Award. Senator de León has been a dedicated partner in the fight for fair and just immigration reform for many years. In 2015, the ILRC worked closely with Senator de León on the *Immigrants Shape California* Legislative Package, a series of 10 measures aimed at protecting the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community.

"[I'm looking at] each and every one of you: the incredible advocates, incredible activists, and incredible lawyers who work in the trenches every single day doing everything possible to make sure we can improve the lives of these individuals who have been marginalized socially, economically, and politically."

Senator Kevin de León

At the 2016 Phillip Burton Awards

Special Guests & Presenters of the 2016 Nancy Pelosi Policy Award

Kat Taylor

Co-Founder and Co-CEO
Beneficial State Bank

Tom Steyer

Founder and President
NextGen Climate

United We Dream

*The Largest National Immigrant
Youth-Led Organization*

Recipient of the 2016 Phillip Burton Advocacy Award

Accepted on behalf of United We Dream by Cristina Jiménez, UWD Executive Director & Karen Guzman, UWD National Leadership Committee Member

United We Dream has worked across the nation to build the leadership of undocumented immigrant youth in the fight for fair and just immigration reform. Its Deportation Defense Program is one of the largest national campaigns to help stop deportations in individual cases by connecting, training, and empowering local communities to defend themselves against deportations. We proudly recognize UWD's contributions to fighting for immigrant rights with the 2016 Phillip Burton Advocacy Award.

"One the biggest challenges that we're facing in immigrant communities in this country is that the very act of moving and migrating for reasons of love, or taking care of your family or fleeing violence—that very act is a crime. And we will not stop until that act is no longer a crime, and we fully humanize and decriminalize the immigrant community."

Cristina Jiménez
UWD Executive Director

At the 2016 Phillip Burton Awards

Pictured: 1. Senator Kevin de León, Tom Steyer, & Kat Taylor 2. Cristina Jiménez & Karen Guzman 3. ILRC Advisory Board Member, Hon. John L. Burton 4. ILRC Founder Bill Ong Hing & Drucilla Stender Ramey, former ILRC Board Member 5. Lisa Spiegel, ILRC Chair of the Board of Directors & Helene Roos

2016 Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Awards

We greatly appreciate the generosity and support of our sponsors and donors.
Thank for joining us for the 2016 Phillip Burton Awards.

Keynote Speaker

Bill Ong Hing

ILRC Founder and General Counsel
Professor of Law
University of San Francisco

Special Guest

Hon. John L. Burton

ILRC Advisory Board Member
Chairman
California Democratic Party
Former President pro Tempore
California State Senate

Emcee

Lisa Spiegel

Chair, ILRC Board of Directors
Partner, Duane Morris LLP



ILRC Staff Attorney Aidin Castillo
& her husband, Jose Olivera.

“My parents, who are undocumented, and millions of hardworking immigrants are the reason why I continue fighting. I feel fortunate to be working at ILRC which understands the power of immigrants. As an immigration attorney, I can help families like mine understand their rights and how to navigate the immigration system.”

Aidin sharing her personal immigrant story at the 2016 Phillip Burton Awards



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Pictured: 6. ILRC Board Member Eva Grove 7. Nancy Wiltsek with ILRC Board Member Toni Rembe
8. ILRC Executive Director Eric Cohen & ILRC Board Member Reginald D. Steer
9. ILRC Board Member Lisa P. Lindelef, Hon. Thelton Henderson, ILRC Board Member Michelle Mercer, and Bruce Golden

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Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
ILRC Board Member
&

Alan Tafapolsky

Partner, Tafapolsky & Smith LLP
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Former Justice, California Supreme Court



Joining the ILRC Family

Welcome New Staff

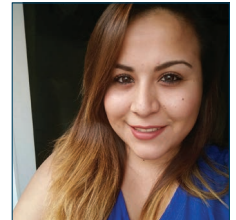
Kemi Bello, Communications Manager

Kemi joined the ILRC in April 2016 as the ILRC's first Communications Manager. She oversees the organization's communications strategy and provides ongoing support for the ILRC's various projects and campaigns. She has been involved in the immigrant rights movement as a storyteller, an online and community organizer, and a policy advocate for ten years. She is a proud alumna of the University of Houston.



Ana Montes, Front Office Coordinator

Ana joined the ILRC in May of 2016 as our Front Office Coordinator. She provides administrative support to our staff and assists visitors inquiring about ILRC resources. Ana holds a B.A. in Business Management Economics from U.C. Santa Cruz and is pursuing her license as a Certified Public Accountant. She is fluent in Spanish.

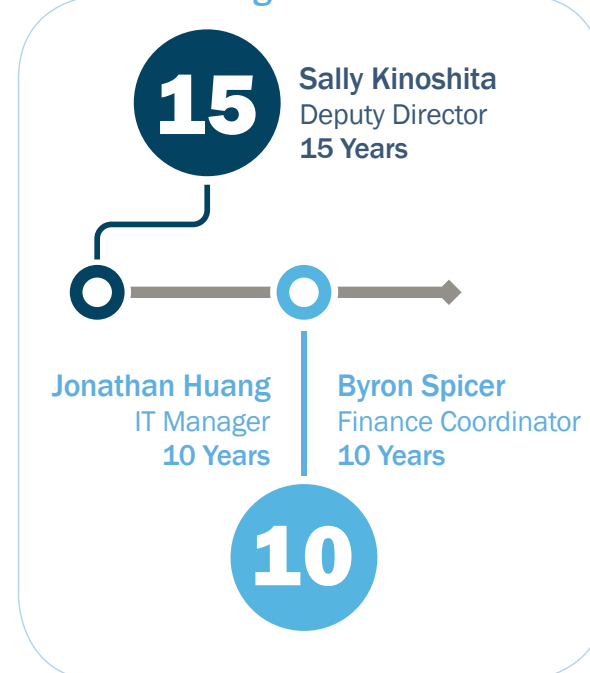


Adrian Romero, Sales Administrative Assistant

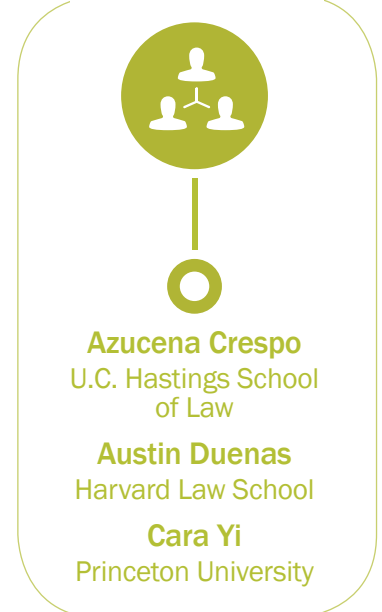
Adrian is a junior at San Francisco State University and majoring in Business Administration. In addition to his position at the ILRC, he interns at the Japan Society of Northern California, a nonprofit which aims to strengthen ties between the United States and Japan. Adrian speaks fluent Japanese and Spanish, and has a strong interest in international relations.



Staff Anniversaries: Celebrating ILRC Milestones

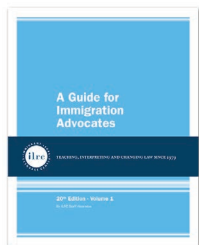


2016 Summer Interns



ILRC Publications

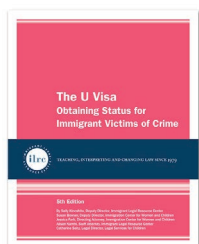
In 1984, ILRC published its first manual. Since then, ILRC has been producing essential, practical publications for legal practitioners. All publications are geared toward helping practitioners who represent clients in immigrant communities. ILRC manuals are unique because they include clearly worded explanations, samples, charts, and other relevant examples.



A Guide for Immigration Advocates, 20th Edition

A Guide for Immigration Advocates is a practical and essential tool for beginning immigration attorneys, paralegals, BIA accredited representatives, and nonprofit organizations. It provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of the law that is both practical and easy to use.

More than a compilation of immigration law topic articles, this publication is a how-to manual containing clearly worded explanations of each subject and includes sample applications, charts, and more. Each unit includes information or other resources that are critical to your library, Internet research, systems for identifying the potential remedies in a case, and how to manage a case load.



The U Visa: Obtaining Status for Immigrant Victims of Crime, 5th Edition

The U Visa: Obtaining Status for Immigrant Victims of Crime will guide you through the entire process of handling an immigration case for a U visa applicant. In addition to providing a thorough explanation of the requirements and application processes, this publication includes numerous practice pointers and sample materials to help you handle your client's case. These samples and practice pointers are real time-savers and enable you to minimize your research time.

Visit <http://www.ilrc.org/publications> for a complete list of ILRC publications.

ILRC in the News

ILRC's work has been highlighted in a variety of news outlets since the start of the year.

- ILRC Executive Director Eric Cohen penned an op-ed on the continued need for naturalization in **Fox News Latino**.
- The Hill** ran an op-ed jointly written by ILRC Staff Attorney Grisel Ruiz and Christina Fialho, Co-Executive Director of Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), on improving conditions for immigrants in California detention facilities through hopeful passage of the Dignity Not Detention Act, which both organizations cosponsor (see page 6 of this newsletter for the full article).
- ILRC Managing Policy Attorney Jose was quoted when **Vox.com** ran an in-depth piece on a pair of immigration bills that were passed in 1996—bills that have had severe and unjust consequences in the realm of immigration enforcement.
- The Chicago Tribune** quoted our staff attorneys **Lena Graber** and **Mark Silverman** on two separate occasions regarding sanctuary and detention policies.
- Think Progress** cited our January 2016 “Relief Not Raids” report, authored by ILRC Managing Policy Attorney Jose Magaña-Salgado, on stories regarding the deportations of Central American immigrants.
- On **Salon.com**, ILRC Supervising Attorney Angie Junck shared insights on the danger of collaborations between local police departments and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).



We hope you can support us by reading and sharing articles about our work, which you can always find by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Links to articles can be found on electronic version of the newsletter at <http://www.ilrc.org/about-the-ilrc/newsletters-annual-reports>.



ILRC

Annual Report

2015

Message from ILRC Executive Director Eric Cohen



Immigration was one of the leading issues in our country in 2015. Animosity toward immigrants grew last year, and with it the threat of deportation and anti-immigrant policies. Federal inaction continued in 2015 as the lives of millions of undocumented immigrants were held in judicial limbo over the *United States v. Texas* case. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) countered with a concerted effort against unjust immigration enforcement, advocated for legislation to protect immigrant families, and helped defeat anti-immigrant policies. Thanks to our partners, allies, and the community, 2015 was a year we celebrated wins in our fight to advance immigrant rights.

*The mission of the ILRC 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**.*

2015 Financial Position

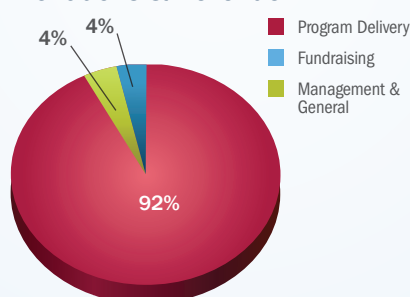
The ILRC collaborates with other nonprofit organizations nationwide to increase and deliver effective services to the immigrant community. When we became the lead organization for the New Americans Campaign in 2011, our re-granting program was a critical element in building a robust program across the country. That model continues today to help fulfill our mission. Our vigorous re-granting process is a testament to not only the trust we've established between us and our generous funders, but also our status as a go-to resource in the field. **In 2015, the ILRC distributed grants to 60 nonprofit organizations helping to advance the civil rights of immigrants.**

Cash and Investments	\$ 12,546,775
Current Grants Receivable	\$ 4,619,587
Other Current Assets	\$ 130,128
Long-term Grants Receivable	\$ 125,000
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 19,664
All Other Assets	\$ 5,400
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 17,446,553

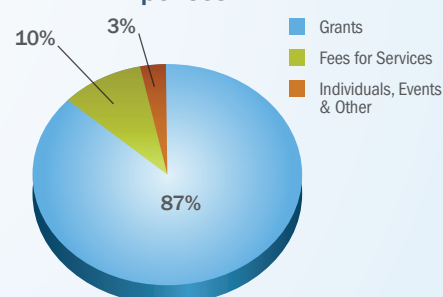
Available for Operations	\$ 1,259,320
Board-designated Reserves	\$ 2,400,000
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 10,984,348
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 14,643,668

Payables and Accrued Expenses	\$ 123,247
Current Re-grants Payable	\$ 2,379,983
Accrued Vacation	\$ 178,521
Other Liabilities	\$ 121,134
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 2,802,885

Donations & Revenue



Expenses



ILRC Program Areas

ILRC works with immigrants, community organizations, legal professionals, law enforcement, and policy makers so we can help improve the lives of immigrants. Our work on a broad range of issues directly impacts immigrant families and the community through our three program areas.

Policy and Advocacy	Civic Engagement	Capacity Building
Our policy work focuses on immigration reform, Department of Homeland Security policies, and many other issues affecting immigrants and their families.	We engage immigrants in mobilizing and raising their voices on issues critical to their communities.	We provide technical legal assistance, trainings, and publications to immigration law practitioners and community-based organizations.

Legislative Victories for the Immigrant Community

Statewide Legislation

California is emerging as the nation's leader in immigration reform. Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the *Immigrants Shape California* Legislative Package, a series of 10 measures aimed at protecting immigrants in California. The ILRC cosponsored and wrote numerous measures in the package which focus on safeguarding the most marginalized within the immigrant community including youth, victims of crimes, and those with run-ins with the criminal justice system. We provided the technical legal expertise and supported the following bills in the *Immigrants Shape California* Legislative Package:

- **AB 899:** Protecting Immigrant Children from Deportation
- **AB 1343:** Ensuring Due Process for Immigrant Defendants
- **AB 900:** Promoting Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Protections
- **AB 1352:** Preventing Unintended Immigration Consequences for Rehabilitated Immigrants
- **SB 674:** Immigrant Victim of Crimes Equity Act

(See page 8 of *The Immigrant Advocate* Winter 2015 for details.)

National Legislation

ILRC applied its technical legal expertise to positively influence legislation on the national stage and worked closely with Congress and our partners to continue fighting for immigrant rights. The ILRC was an integral part of numerous pieces of legislation.

Defeating Anti-immigrant Legislation

The ILRC is a partner organization of the Immigrant Justice Network (IJN). The IJN is working to ensure that federal immigration reform includes policies that are fair and just. In 2015, ILRC and the IJN collaborated to defeat multiple policies that threatened the civil rights of immigrants.

S.2146, the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act, would have stripped federal funding for state and local jurisdictions that enacted community trust policies and also limited their cooperation with federal immigration authorities. It was defeated in the Senate.

House Judiciary Committee Legislation. ILRC and IJN jointly worked to oppose four anti-immigrant bills that jeopardized the civil rights of immigrants. Together, we helped to defeat the four bills before they reached the House of Representatives for voting.

- **H.R. 1148**, the Michael Davis Jr. In Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act was an updated version of the SAFE Act that would drastically criminalize immigrant communities, encourage racial profiling, and entangle law enforcement with immigration enforcement;
- **H.R. 1147**, the Legal Workforce Act (mandatory E-Verify) was a radical criminalization of immigrants and elimination of various due process protections;
- **H.R. 1149**, the Protection of Children Act of 2015, which threatened to reduce due process for unaccompanied minors; and
- **H.R. 1153**, the Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2015, which would have reduced the availability of asylum and parole for immigrants.

ILRC By the Numbers 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

New Americans Campaign Highlights

As the lead organization for the New Americans Campaign, ILRC joined its partners in encouraging eligible immigrants to apply for citizenship. In 2015 alone, the New Americans Campaign:



facilitated over

48,000

naturalization applications



conducted over

850

naturalization workshops

helped immigrants access almost

18,000

fee waivers

saved the community

\$71 million+

in legal and application fees



ILRC by the Numbers

367 Trainings, **community meetings**, workshops, **webinars**, seminars, press events, **podcasts** and **videos** with more than **12,174** attendees and participants.

Attorney of the Day

ILRC offers a unique, nationwide consultation service through our Attorney of the Day program, providing technical legal assistance on many aspects of immigration law to attorneys, legal service providers, public defenders, and advocates assisting the immigrant community.



IN 2015

ILRC attorneys answered

3,542

inquiries in total

Defending Immigrant Rights: Criminal and Immigration Law

The ILRC is a national leader in the intersection between criminal law and immigration law, providing critical support for criminal defenders and immigration attorneys to protect their noncitizen clients.

Combatting Unfair Immigration Enforcement

ILRC helped put an end to the infamous and highly flawed Secure Communities program, only to have it be replaced with the **Priority Enforcement Program (PEP)** which operates in much the same way. To battle this unjust program, ILRC encourages local law enforcement to treat those they are meant to protect with dignity and respect by refusing to cooperate with indefensible ICE practices.



The Power of the RED CARD Know Your Rights!



ILRC first created our multilingual Red Cards in 2007 to empower undocumented immigrants to exercise their rights during illegal ICE raids.

By the end of 2015, we had distributed

713,569
RED CARDS

AB 60 Driver's Licenses

After almost 20 years of advocacy, ILRC joined the immigrant community in celebrating the implementation of AB 60.

IN 2015



605,000

AB 60 DRIVER'S LICENSES were issued to the undocumented immigrant community.

Protecting Immigrant Youth



The ILRC provided technical legal assistance as a member of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative to enable more than

400 families

and unaccompanied minors to access much needed immigration services.

Thank you to our 2015 Supporters!

605 Citizenship Project
Mark Aaronson & Marjorie Gelb
ACLU of Northern California
AILA Northern California Chapter
AILA Santa Clara Valley Chapter
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Michael Allison
Ann Alpers & Shawn Hanson
Russ Altman
Cynthia Alvarez* & Bernardo Merino
American College of Trial Lawyers
Sharon & Carl Anduri
Law Office of James C. Angleton
Anonymous
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Joseph Starr Babcock
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Azeem Bakhtiar
Michael Banister & Nora Privitera
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California Community Foundation
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(CARECEN)
Gail Chang Bohr
Law Office of Rosy H. Cho
Chow King & Associates
City & County of San Francisco Office of
Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs
Eric Cohen & Gwen Sidley
Anita Cole
El Comité de Padres Unidos
Cooley LLP
Cow Hollow Fund

Hilda Crady
Reid & Margaret Dennis
John Denvir & Miriam Rokeach
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Steven & Pamela Dinkelspiel
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Charles Field, Jr.
Scott Fink
The Firedoll Foundation
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Margo George
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Winnifred Gin
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Andy & Eva* Grove
The Grove Foundation
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M. Stacey Hawer & Tammy Pachter
Heising-Simons Foundation
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The Herbst Foundation
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Sharon Hing
Ella Hirst
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Lisa Honig & Dale Schroedel
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Phil Hwang & David Campos
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Kim & Shirley Kinoshita
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center
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Richard Kolomejec
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Reedley Social Services
Joan Reinhardt Reiss & Mark D. Reiss
Arthur & Toni* Rembe Rock
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Law Offices of Daniel Roemer, PC
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Mawuena Tendar*
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Zellerbach Family Foundation
Bonnie Zeng
Valerie Zukin



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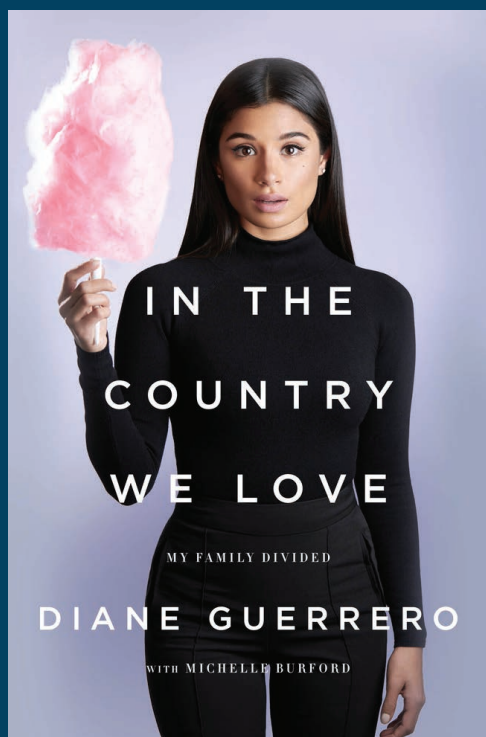
- The ILRC Pushes Forward After a Disappointing Setback from the Supreme Court
- 2016 Legislative Updates in California
- New Americans Campaign Celebrates Fifth Anniversary with New Site
- 2015 Annual Report



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ILRC Ambassador & Actress Diane Guerrero Publishes Book on the Reality of Family Separation Due to Deportation



ILRC Ambassador and “Orange Is the New Black” actress Diane Guerrero recently released *In the Country We Love*, a poignant memoir on her family’s experience of being caught in the crosshairs of our broken immigration system. In the book, Diane recalls the story of meeting ILRC Staff Attorney Grisel Ruiz who encouraged her to share her experience publicly and to let other families know that they are not alone.

With ILRC’s help, Diane’s *Los Angeles Times* op-ed went viral. In the book she notes, “I’d been itching to get involved, to do something to help immigrant families with nowhere to turn. I loved the fact that Grisel and the ILRC were educating people about their legal options.”

We’re proud of Diane Guerrero for using her platform to advance a message of inclusiveness, opportunity, and dignity for all immigrants.

The *Los Angeles Times* op-ed is available at <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-oe-guerrero-immigration-family-separation-20141116-story.html>