



# THE IMMIGRANT ADVOCATE



TEACHING, INTERPRETING AND CHANGING LAW SINCE 1979

WINTER 2012-2013 VOL. 16 NO. 2

## MESSAGE FROM ILRC SUPERVISING ATTORNEY, ANGIE JUNCK



My interest in advocating for the rights of immigrants can be traced to my personal background and the passage of Proposition 187. Raised in a multicultural immigrant family, I was surrounded by an environment embracing diversity. In high school, I bore witness to Proposition 187 in 1994, and the anti-immigrant sentiment, racism, and hate that ensued was an eye opener. An initiative pitting California's residents against those perceived as undocumented immigrants, it brought forth politically racist views against immigrants that I never even knew friends had. It sparked in me a resolve to advocate on behalf of the immigrant community.

Through an opportunity to intern at an organization representing low-income immigrant families, my passion for immigrant rights grew. Working with Marina Castillo, an immigrant and recipient in 1996 of an ILRC Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Award, encouraged me to attend law school and pursue immigration law as a career. Marina's story of fleeing violence in El Salvador, migration to the U.S., and

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## THE NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO HELP LEGAL RESIDENTS BECOME U.S. CITIZENS<sup>1</sup>

*New software, mega workshops and nonprofit collaboration to innovate naturalization assistance; two former INS Commissioners join effort, lending bipartisan support.*

The ILRC is leading an unprecedented national network of more than 80 legal service providers, businesses, faith-based organizations, community leaders, and foundations called The New Americans Campaign, a nonpartisan project to modernize the system of naturalization assistance and to help more immigrants who are legal permanent residents become U.S. citizens. The campaign officially launched November 2012 after a pilot phase, focusing on cities across the country with large populations of citizenship-eligible residents.

Two former commissioners of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now known as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, are supporting the effort. Doris Meissner was INS Commissioner under President Bill Clinton, and James W. Ziglar served in the same role under President George W. Bush; together they will form a bipartisan advisory committee to underscore the vital role that citizenship plays in strengthening American society. Meissner and Ziglar are senior fellows at the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan immigration policy think tank in Washington, D.C.

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More than eight million immigrants currently qualify for citizenship as legal residents, yet only eight percent of them become citizens each year. They face a range of barriers, including high application fees and a complex citizenship process that can take up to two years to complete. Many also fall victim to unscrupulous attorneys and *notarios* who take advantage of individuals seeking legal assistance. The New Americans Campaign is paving an easier road for aspiring Americans to achieve the dream of becoming a citizen by modernizing and streamlining access to citizenship support services over the next three years.

“The more our communities harness the civic and economic participation of new citizens, the stronger and more vital we will be as a nation,” said Eric Cohen, executive director of the Immigrant Resource Legal Center. “The New Americans Campaign aims to fundamentally transform the entire system of naturalization assistance through new levels of collaboration and innovation among the nonprofits, businesses and other institutions that assist legally qualified residents in becoming U.S. citizens.”

Since beginning its pilot phase in July 2011, The New Americans Campaign has helped more than 30,000 legal permanent residents apply for citizenship.

The campaign employs a number of innovative approaches, including:

- Novel partnerships between service providers, elected officials, faith-based organizations, the business sector, and media to reach aspiring citizens;
- New technology tools to assist applicants; and
- Outreach to rural and other hard-to-reach communities

As a result, coalition members have reached more than 46,000 potential new citizens, particularly in communities that until now have lacked access to citizenship support services. The campaign has also saved applicants and their families more than \$20 million in legal fees so far and is focusing its efforts in the cities of Charlotte, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and San Jose. More than 3.3 million citizenship-eligible individuals reside in these eight metropolitan areas, representing more

than 40 percent of the pool of citizenship-eligible legal permanent residents in the United States.

**“The more our communities harness the civic and economic participation of new citizens, the stronger and more vital we will be as a nation.”**

Previously, service providers could only offer citizenship support to a limited number of individuals due to capacity and resource constraints. However, The New Americans Campaign has brought together leading nonprofit organizations nationally and locally to share best practices and resources and to streamline the citizenship preparedness process, such as holding jointly-organized workshops and capacity building trainings. These collaborative events allow service providers to assist 200-350 aspiring new citizens at one time, an increase of more than 500 percent. At joint workshops, individuals are pre-screened for eligibility and offered application assistance and materials to prepare for the citizenship exam. Campaign partners held more than 600 such events in the campaign’s first year, and hundreds more are being planned.

Campaign partners across the country are also developing other innovative strategies to make citizenship services more effective and accessible to provide legal immigrants the support they need to become Americans. Examples include:

- Establishing partnerships with local libraries and schools to provide information and resources on citizenship, such as a “one-stop” citizenship-assistance program with Miami Dade County Public Schools and “Citizenship Corners” at local branches of the Los Angeles Public Library. These programs offer on-site consultations, application assistance, workshop referrals, and access to education programs such as civics and English language classes.
- Utilizing new online platforms, such as

CitizenshipWorks, a user-friendly online tool that enables service providers to quickly guide greater numbers of people through the citizenship application process. The program also makes conducting workshops in different languages easier and more efficient.

- Employing familiar electronic tools to support applicants studying for citizenship tests, such as MP3 players with civics exam questions, vocabulary exercises, and mock interviews.
- Reaching audiences in new ways, like text messages to keep applicants informed.
- Piloting corporate partnerships and workplace programs to raise awareness of the benefits of naturalization for both the aspiring citizen and the employer.
- Creating a pipeline of volunteers and pro-bono legal help by working directly with local universities and attorney’s associations.
- Creating national partnerships with ethnic media companies to ensure consistent promotion of naturalization and assistance events on a mass scale.

**“The New Americans Campaign aims to fundamentally transform the entire system of naturalization assistance through new levels of collaboration and innovation among the nonprofits, businesses and other institutions that assist legally qualified residents in becoming U.S. citizens.”**

A consortium of national private foundations has so far committed more than \$20 million to the project. Founding sponsors of The New Americans Campaign include Carnegie Corporation of New York; The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; Grove Foundation; Open Society Foundations; and The JPB Foundation.

## MORE ABOUT THE NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN:

*The New Americans Campaign is a groundbreaking national network of legal-service providers, faith-based organizations, businesses, foundations, and community leaders that is paving a better road to citizenship. We are modernizing and streamlining access to naturalization services, so that greater numbers of legally qualified permanent residents take the critical step to becoming American citizens. We are currently driving a national, nonpartisan citizenship campaign throughout the country,*

*focused on eight major cities with large numbers of citizenship-eligible residents.*

*Our campaign brings together over 80 organizations across the country including the following key funders who have made an unprecedented investment in supporting aspiring citizens: Carnegie Corporation of New York; the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; Grove Foundation; Open Society Foundations; and The JPB Foundation.*

*National partners include: Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC); Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC); Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC);*

## ENSURING THE DREAM FOR OUR NATION’S IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Since the announcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy this past summer, the ILRC has taken a lead role in serving as a national resource to those providing services to DACA applicants. An estimated 1.76 million immigrant youth nationally may be eligible to apply for DACA, which offers a two-year work authorization and reprieve from deportation. For many undocumented youth living in the shadows and having only known this nation as their home, DACA offers great hope for their future. Arguably the biggest immigration benefit in the past 25 years, the announcement of this policy is certainly a momentous opportunity; however, it came with many unanswered questions for all.

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center, with an established reputation as an expert in immigration law and policy, responded immediately to aid the immigrant community and legal services providers in unraveling the intricacies of the DACA process as well as increase awareness throughout the nation. Aidin Castillo, ILRC Special Projects Attorney in Washington,

D.C. has been supporting national advocacy issues around DACA, sharing and promoting lessons learned at the local level with advocates at the federal level. The ILRC initiated and hosts a national listserv of DACA



Left to right: Alejandro Mayorkas, USCIS Director; Sally Kinoshita, ILRC Deputy Director; Rebecca Carson, USCIS Chief of Staff. At the DACA Community Meeting and Group Processing Workshop at IIBA in Redwood City, CA.

legal services providers serving as a crucial forum for discussion and information sharing nationally on DACA emerging issues. And known specifically for our expert reference in immigration law manuals, we are excited to announce our latest publication, *DACA: The Essential Legal Guide*, a ten-chapter, comprehensive and practice-oriented manual. As the only comprehensive DACA handbook to be produced, the manual is a detailed guide on how to apply for DACA, with in-depth discussion of the bars to DACA, and instructions on how to complete the DACA application and conduct DACA group processing events.

In California alone, over 460,000 young undocumented immigrants fall between the ages of 15-30 and may qualify for DACA. In the Bay Area, ILRC has been partnering with the International Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA), Educators for Fair Consideration and funder partners to provide technical assistance, training, legal services support, written materials, and practice

*Immigration Advocates Network (IAN); International Rescue Committee (IRC); National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund; National Immigration Forum; National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA); and Pro Bono Net.*

*For a complete list of partners and for more information, please visit [www.newamericascampaign.org](http://www.newamericascampaign.org).*

<sup>1</sup> “The New Americans Campaign Launches Unprecedented National Campaign to Help Legal Residents Become U.S., Citizens,” New Americans Campaign, press release November 13, 2012, <http://newamericascampaign.org>. ♦

advisories. Additional key activities include communication and coordination support for a local service provider listserv and extensive services to nonprofit agencies in a ten-county region of the Bay Area.

Additionally, ILRC has joined forces in the Central Valley collaborating with legal service providers including California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, United Farmworkers Foundation, and Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton, conducting outreach to one of California’s most impacted communities. Through the ILRC Central Valley DACA Project, our goal is to assist as many eligible immigrant youth with applications and ensure qualification through services and consultations provided in group workshop models throughout Kern, Fresno, Tulare, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, and King counties.

Those benefiting from the DACA policy have deep ties to the U.S. and for many this is the only home they have ever known. Many eligible applicants have a strong educational background and great potential earning power to contribute in a meaningful way both socially and economically, but have been restrained from moving forward until DACA was announced. The ILRC is and its collaborative partners are committed to advocating on behalf of the immigrant community. We are at the forefront of DACA to offer hope and opportunities to the undocumented immigrant youth of our nation. ♦

her continued dedication to help those who faced similar challenges and hardships were truly inspiring. My commitment was further deepened by the advocacy I could provide on behalf of immigrants, whether it was assisting with legalization of status or a path to citizenship.

**Since 1996, immigration law has become particularly and increasingly rigid; offering immigration judges far less discretion or none at all to stop the deportation of an immigrant who has been wrongly convicted.**

In 2001, I learned a very difficult lesson about the complexities of immigration law through its intersection with the criminal justice system. I had a close family friend who came to the U.S. at the age of 12 with his family. My friend lived with a green card for more than twenty years, along with family who were citizens: his parents, a brother, and eventually a wife and child. They were like every other American family in the neighborhood. But ultimately, an error in judgment from his youth caught up with him and it came with a severe price: permanent deportation and separation from his family for a mistake he made as a teenager. Up to this point I was unaware that this happened to American families. How could such an extreme punishment be just? It was all the more stark to me because, had he been a citizen, he would have served his time and not been subject to double penalties (a.k.a. double jeopardy).

Upon reflection, much like my family friend, many individuals in deportation proceedings often give up their rights believing there are no options because that is how the system is set up. Without legal counsel people don't assert all the defenses they have under immigration law.

As a volunteer for a nonprofit organization providing advocacy on behalf of incarcerated survivors of domestic violence, I met two immigrants. Both were incarcerated for offenses committed in self-defense against

their abusers, unjustly serving over 20 years in prison. One had been a sex slave to a man who purchased her at the age of 16. Together they were being subject to double jeopardy through deportation after serving their time.

These first-hand experiences exposed me to the harshness of penalties that immigrants face, which can often be far more serious than the criminal penalties. For even a no-jail misdemeanor (such as shop-lifting), immigration consequences can include detention from weeks to years. Often times this means isolation in areas across the country away from their home state and families, including deportation with no chance to ever return to the U.S. This results in permanent separation from close family and in some instances, deportation to a country where persecution is highly likely. Any immigrant in criminal proceedings is at risk for all of these penalties, including someone who has had a green card for forty years, served honorably in the U.S. military, and supports U.S. citizen family members. Since 1996, immigration law has become particularly and increasingly rigid; offering immigration judges far less discretion or none at all to stop the deportation of an immigrant who has been wrongly convicted.

Experiences like these furthered my dedication to social justice and I searched for resources that could guide me as an advocate and provide some resolution to the families who were impacted by a loved one's deportation. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center was one of the few resources in the country I discovered that had the expertise to navigate this complex intersection. And upon my graduation from law school, I knew this was where I wanted to be. In 2005, I was awarded a two-year New Voices Fellowship, which brought me to the ILRC and allowed me to pursue work in the intersection of criminal and immigration law.

It is now seven and half years later, and I am proud to be part of the ILRC team as we continue to be at the forefront nationally, addressing the issues confronting immigrants entangled in the criminal justice system alongside the increased criminalization of immigrants.

Since 1987, the ILRC has worked on the

intersection of the immigration and criminal justice system by training, advising, and creating written resources for criminal and immigration attorneys defending against removal. In 1988, the California Public Defenders Association and the ILRC co-published the *California Public Defenders' Guide to Immigration Law*, one of the first criminal-immigration manuals in the country. This book grew into *California Criminal Law and Immigration* in 1990, and currently exists as *Defending Immigrants in the Ninth Circuit* while ILRC expanded its work to other Ninth Circuit states and nationally.

**There is a fundamental unfairness for individuals and families caught in the cross section of criminal and immigration law. Many individuals who face deportation are just as American as me or anyone else, they came to the U.S. at a very young age and everything they know and have is here.**

Beginning in 2002, the ILRC cofounded the Defending Immigrants Partnership (DIP), an unprecedented national initiative to ensure every indigent immigrant defendant receive constitutionally effective criminal defense. DIP has steadily trained defenders and created a widely accessible body of written resources while analyzing state laws, suggesting pleas, and mentoring local experts. This partnership further strives to change the culture of defense offices and institutionalize immigration penalties as a part of regular defense work. Additional collaborations with groups such as National Legal Aid and Defender Association, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the American Bar Association created national and regional networks and partnerships to advance the mission of DIP.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision *Padilla v. Kentucky* in 2010 was a turning point in our work at the ILRC. The Justices in this case

decided that because of the terribly severe immigration consequences, the increased intertwining of immigration and criminal law, and the ability of defense counsel to make this analysis, the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution requires criminal defense counsel to advise their clients on immigration penalties that could arise during a criminal case. In short, the Supreme Court upheld every individual's right – regardless of citizenship status – to effective assistance of counsel. And it was our work through DIP that laid much of the groundwork for *Padilla*, which drew from available resources that DIP created to enable a defender to advise and defend. Now, the ILRC along with our DIP partners are helping to implement the *Padilla* decision in jurisdictions across the country to ensure that all noncitizen defendants receive effective assistance of counsel.

There is a fundamental unfairness for individuals and families caught in the cross section of criminal and immigration law. Many individuals who face deportation are just as American as me or anyone else, they came to the U.S. at a very young age and everything they know and have is here. Layering an entire set of additional consequences that are disproportionate to the criminal sentence is simply unjust: deportation—regardless of your offense and length of time in the U.S. Many of these individuals who often have U.S. citizen families stand to lose everything because they may not have ties to the country they are being deported to nor speak the language. While the punishment is doled to the accused, it is apportioned to their family. Often United States citizen siblings, parents, spouses and children are separated and thus share the punishment. These situations where crimes instigate deportation tear apart families both emotionally and financially.

Since joining the ILRC, I have seen persistence can lead to progress. And while there remains much to be done, together with our partners, we at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center will continue to bring awareness of the overly harsh treatment of immigrants and to advocate for just and fair policies that preserve and protect the rights of all immigrants. ♦

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE

Friday, May 31, 2013

The 23rd Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Awards  
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
The Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel  
San Francisco, CA



### ILRC PRE-AILA U VISA SEMINAR

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
UC Hastings College of Law  
San Francisco, CA

### LOOK FOR US AT:

#### 2013 AILA Annual Conference on Immigration Law

Wednesday, June 26 - Saturday, June 29, 2013  
Hilton San Francisco Union Square, San Francisco, CA

### WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

"ILRC books are invaluable; I own all of them. For an immigration lawyer, these books are like mining gold. All immigration books have the proper laws, regulations, and cases cited, but ILRC publications are written for practicing attorneys. Unlike other books, they're very specific and action oriented. And ILRC books are beautifully written in straightforward, plain English: No overuse of prepositional phrases, the verb 'to be.' Rest assured you'll file a proper petition when you use ILRC books for guidance."

—Anthony Guidice, Attorney at Law Rochester, NY

"The Essential Elements of Immigration Law seminar was highly educational; the contents, level of instruction and materials met my expectations. The instructor (Don Ungar) was awesome. All of the areas that he touched on were exactly the types of cases that we deal with every day. Now, with the knowledge I gained from this training, I feel recharged and more able to provide the kinds of services our community needs."

—Charles Jackson, Senior Paralegal/Advocate  
African Advocacy Network, San Francisco, CA

Visit us at [www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org) for more details.

## TRUST ACT VETOED

On September 30, 2012, California Governor Jerry Brown vetoed Assembly Bill 1081, the Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools Act (TRUST Act). The TRUST Act would have set national precedent as the first statewide bill in the country, countering the anti-immigrant sentiments policies from Arizona, Alabama, and Georgia created.

In particular, it would have limited the impact of Secure Communities (S-Comm), a federal deportation dragnet that relies upon local law enforcement collaboration with federal immigration authorities.<sup>1</sup> As of August 2012, S-Comm resulted in the deportation of 82,531 immigrants in California, more than any other state in the country.

Launched in 2008 by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), S-Comm allows local law enforcement to transfer fingerprints of all arrestees, regardless of conviction, for cross-referencing with the DHS databases. The DHS discretionarily requests any individual suspected of civil immigration violations be detained by a local law enforcement agency for transfer to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), even if his criminal case has been dismissed. And while these requests do not in any way require compliance by local law enforcement, many law enforcement officials incorrectly believe it is mandatory.

**On September 30, 2012, California Governor Jerry Brown vetoed Assembly Bill 1081, the Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools Act (TRUST Act).**

Since its inception, S-Comm has impacted thousands of immigrants including Juana Reyes, whose story was covered by national news sources such as CNN and who later became pegged as the “Tamale Lady.” Reyes was arrested for selling tamales outside of Walmart, had her fingerprints taken by local law enforcement which were shared with federal immigration authorities. She was

transferred to DHS for deportation even after her criminal charges for selling tamales were dismissed. Unemployed, Juana had been selling tamales to support her ten and seven year-old sons, both U.S. citizens, who were placed in foster care while Juana was in deportation proceedings.

The TRUST Act would have limited voluntary cooperation between local law enforcement and the federal government, thereby preventing cases similar to Juana Reyes’ from being placed in deportation proceedings. It would not only protect thousands of immigrants, but restore community trust. When local law enforcement is seen as an extension of federal immigration enforcement, undocumented community members are less likely to report crimes for fear of deportation. This undermines community safety for all and could potentially encourage targeted criminal behavior against certain communities. Additionally, the TRUST Act would have saved taxpayer dollars and conserved already overburdened local law enforcement resources such as jails and police officer time.

The TRUST Act drew broad support from immigrant/civil/human rights, labor, domestic violence, faith, law professors, legislators, and select law enforcement leaders both within California and nationally. The bill was endorsed by two California sheriffs; seven California police chiefs; 22 California Congressional representatives, led by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; Cruz Reynoso, former Associate Justice of the California State Supreme Court; local elected officials including Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; over 30 law professors; and leaders of several key faith communities such as Cardinal Mahoney. The ILRC played an integral role in bringing the bill to the Governor’s desk by aiding in the drafting and reviewing process. And simultaneously, garnering support of law enforcement leaders and local legislators, as well as engaging in strategy sessions with the bill’s co-sponsors. Furthermore, ILRC’s founder and general counsel, Bill Hing, provided legal analysis to the Governor’s office that confirmed the legality of the proposed legislation.

While the bill passed the California Senate on a vote of 24 to 13, the Assembly on a vote of

48 to 26, and even with collaborative community support, ultimately Governor Brown was only partially convinced and vetoed the bill. There was an acknowledgement of the role undocumented immigrants play in California’s economy and that comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue. However, until reform is reached, Governor Brown stated, “federal agents shouldn’t try to coerce local law enforcement officers into detaining people who’ve been picked up for minor offenses and pose no reasonable threat to their community.” Furthermore, he wants to see local law enforcement have discretion to cooperate with federal immigration authorities in more cases involving immigrants than the bill would have allowed for.

**“Federal agents shouldn’t try to coerce local law enforcement officers into detaining people who’ve been picked up for minor offenses and pose no reasonable threat to their community.”**

Despite this setback, proponents are hopeful that some version of the TRUST Act will become law. At the end of his message, Governor Brown reassured he would work with the legislature to correct the “flaws” he saw with the bill. The weeks and months to come are now as critical as those leading to the bill’s initial placement before the governor. Advocates are looking to reintroduce the TRUST Act to address his concerns while keeping sight of how the TRUST Act, if enacted, might affect the conservation of sparse state and local resources, community trust in law enforcement, and the lives of those detained. The ILRC is already working with communities across California to pass local TRUST Acts, and remain hopeful to see a statewide legislative fix enacted. This would not only have a significant impact on California, but set an example for other states across the country in addressing our country’s mass deportation crisis. ♦

<sup>1</sup> *The Immigrant Advocate*, Fall 2011, Vol. 15 No. 2.

## JOINING THE ILRC FAMILY



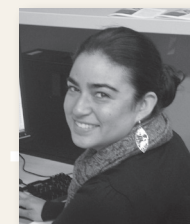
**PHILIP GARCIA**  
*Office Manager*

Phil joined the ILRC in September of 2012. He is responsible for helping to ensure the smooth operation of the day-to-day business of the ILRC. Originally from Los Angeles, he attended the University of San Francisco and has his B.A. in Communications. Phil brings over a decade of professionalism in the nonprofit sector, as well as in media and education. In his time away from the office, he loves to play sports, continues his love of art by drawing, and is working on obtaining his private pilot’s license.



**EDITH HONG**  
*Director of Development*

Edith joined ILRC in October 2012, and offers over 13 years of fundraising experience in higher education, health and legal advocacy. As the Director of Development, she oversees the ILRC’s Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Awards as well all aspects of individual giving. Edith works closely with volunteers and staff to continue to connect donors to the mission of ILRC. In her spare time she volunteers assisting work authorized and skilled immigrants rebuild their professional career in the U.S. Edith is conversant in Cantonese.



**BARBARA C. PINTO**  
*Law Fellow/Attorney*

Barbara joined ILRC in 2012 as the Ralph Santiago Abascal Fellow. The purpose of her project is to provide advocacy, outreach, and assistance to immigrants and immigration practitioners regarding the Department of Homeland Security’s prosecutorial discretion policies, including the recent Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Growing up as an immigrant in San Francisco, she enjoys working with and understands the struggles

of the immigrant community. She graduated from UC Hastings, College of the Law and during law school interned at various organizations in the Bay Area, including the Refugee & Human Rights Clinic, SF Human Rights Commission, ACLU’s Immigrants’ Rights Project, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, and Van Der Hout, Brigagliano & Nightingale, LLP. She graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from San Francisco State University. An avid foodie, she scours restaurants and food trucks looking for the best the Bay Area has to offer. She is fluent in Spanish.



**GRISEL RUIZ**  
*Law Fellow/Attorney*

Grisel joins the ILRC through a fellowship focused on the intersection between immigration law and criminal law. Prior to joining the ILRC, Grisel was a litigation associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. Before Pillsbury, Grisel received the Stimson Fellowship to head a project through which she co-founded “Know Your Rights” programs at two local ICE-contracted facilities. These projects provided individual representation, pro bono referrals, pro se materials, and case consultations to hundreds of detained immigrants in removal proceedings. Grisel also provided community presentations and supervised law students in removal defense cases. Grisel is fluent in Spanish and graduated from the University of Chicago Law School where she received the Tony Patiño Fellowship. Prior to law school, she worked as a paralegal and coordinator at the National Immigrant Justice Center. She attended the University of Notre Dame for her B.A. Grisel enjoys snowboarding, traveling, and rooting for Notre Dame Football. Go Irish!



**MATRAYI SAKSENA**  
*Marketing Coordinator*

Matrayi joined ILRC as our new Marketing Coordinator in August 2012. She assists the Marketing Manager in achieving our marketing objectives. Her main responsibilities include coordinating

trade shows, seminars and webinars, assisting with database and social media management, and supporting other marketing initiatives. Matrayi has worked with several grassroots organizations and nonprofits over the past seven years and assisted them in realizing their unique communication goals. As a long-time Seattle resident, who recently relocated to the Bay Area, she is enjoying spending time in the sun and taking ‘drizzle-free’ walks with her dog. Her other interests include watching Bollywood movies and taking turbo-kickboxing classes in her free time.



**GINNY WRIGHT**  
*Finance Director*

Ginny joined the ILRC as Finance Director in September 2012. She and Byron Spicer are responsible for all aspects of ILRC’s finance and accounting, which has grown tremendously in the last year. Ginny spent 20 years in finance with Intel Corp in Santa Clara, CA and Dublin, Ireland. Once she left the semiconductor industry, she spent 10 years of mostly volunteer work with education and sports not-for-profits, and worked as an independent accounting and finance consultant. When she’s not crunching numbers, Ginny and her family enjoy all sorts of outdoor sports, including hiking, biking, travel and skiing. Ginny holds a BA in Political Science and an MBA in Finance from UC Berkeley. ♦

## RETIRING



Special acknowledgement and thank you to Nora Privitera. On behalf of the immigrant community, the Board of Directors, and ILRC staff, thank you for your years of service. We will miss you.

## ILRC STAFF

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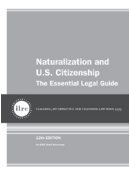
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## NEW ILRC PUBLICATIONS - WINTER 2012-2013



### Naturalization and U.S. Citizenship – The Essential Legal Guide, 12th Edition

This updated comprehensive guide on the naturalization process and citizenship thoroughly addresses the entire procedure for representing naturalization applicants from the initial client meeting through the oath of allegiance. This edition includes a detailed explanation of the nuances involved in determining whether an applicant has sufficient good moral character to qualify for naturalization and a clear and complete description of the myriad ways in which an absence could affect one's naturalization application and an explanation of the N-400 form, including how best to complete it. Overall the reader will learn detailed eligibility requirements for naturalization and helpful suggestions on both procedural issues. The guide has the most user-friendly group of charts on how to determine if someone gained U.S. citizenship through acquisition or derivation of citizenship in existence. Also included are the latest sample forms, Immigration Service memos, and practice guides.



### The U Visa – Obtaining Status for Immigrant Victims of Crime, 3rd Edition

The U Visa is an important immigration option for immigrant victims of crime who have been or may be helpful in the criminal investigation or prosecution of that crime. Successful applicants may be eligible for a visa, a green card, and the ability to petition family members to come to the United States. This latest edition provides a comprehensive, yet easy to understand, explanation and "road map" for helping immigrant clients apply with updated numerous practice pointers and sample

checklists, cover letters, declarations, receipt notices, correspondence from USCIS, motions to submit to the immigration court, and more. It will guide you through the entire process of handling an immigration case for a U Visa applicant – from eligibility screening for U nonimmigrant status through adjustment of status to assisting eligible family members and helping U nonimmigrants travel.



### DACA: The Essential Legal Guide, 1st Edition

This first edition of *DACA: The Essential Legal Guide* is a comprehensive and practice-oriented overview of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) based on the Immigrant Legal Resource Center's more than two decades of community education, outreach, training and technical assistance on issues impacting immigrant youth. Thorough and user-friendly, this manual consists of ten easy to read chapters and appendices, covering an in-depth discussion of the DACA eligibility requirements, the entire process of representing a DACA applicant from the initial client meeting to the closing of the client case, a detailed discussion of the criminal bars to DACA, tips on how to help clients obtain the necessary documentation to apply, essential best practices on how to fill out all of the immigration forms, and helpful suggestions on both procedural issues and ways to effectively work with DACA applicants. Included are sample documents and forms, practice advisories, helpful guides, numerous examples demonstrating the legal concepts, and many other essential tools for both private attorneys and nonprofit practitioners to prepare and support a DACA applicant with her request.

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