



L.A. JUSTICE FUND

HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS FACING DEPORTATION

Immigrants Are Vital to Los Angeles

L.A. County is home to **4.5 million immigrants**. Most have been here for over a decade; they are a defining part of our identity, our culture and our economy— contributing nearly \$233 billion every year. Everyone is enriched by their imagination, entrepreneurship and dedication. Nearly half of the individuals who make up L.A.’s immigrant population are not citizens, meaning they are potentially at risk of deportation.

Two-year grants were awarded to nonprofit legal service providers who are providing direct legal representation. These organizations have procedures for determining who to serve, based on the eligibility criteria and requirements established by project partners.

Public funds are exclusively set aside for direct representation. While philanthropic dollars are being leveraged to fund organizations building the overall capacity of the legal field by coordinating to maximize efficiencies, providing technical assistance and training as well as data collection, evaluation and other efforts to strengthen the current removal defense capacity and legal services infrastructure in L.A. County.

Funding a Network of Nonprofit Legal Service Providers

Ensuring Justice Through the Right To Counsel

More than two-thirds of people appearing in immigration court do so without any legal representation, some as young as three years old.

Representation matters: studies have shown immigrants who have lawyers are five times more likely to be released from detention and to succeed in challenges to their deportation, with many obtaining permanent relief. At a time when nationwide, fewer than five percent of unrepresented immigrants in removal proceedings receive favorable outcomes, **41% of completed L.A. Justice Fund cases have been successful, allowing clients to remain in the U.S.**

DIRECT LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles (AAAJ-LA)
- Bet Tzedek
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
- Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
- Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles (Esperanza)
- Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)
- Kids in Need of Defense, Inc. (KIND)
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)
- Los Angeles LGBT Center
- Public Counsel
- USC Gould School of Law, Immigration Clinic

L.A. Justice Fund Grantees

BUILDING CAPACITY

- Loyola Immigrant Justice Legal Clinic (LIJC)
- OneJustice
- Southwestern Law School, Immigration Law Clinic (SWLC)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
- Program for Torture Victims (PTV)
- Nonprofit Finance Fund

DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION

- Vera Institute of Justice, Center on Immigration and Justice



The California Community Foundation administers the LA Justice Fund. It is funded by L.A. County, L.A. City, Weingart Foundation and California Community Foundation.

L.A. JUSTICE FUND HIGHLIGHTS

DATA FROM 11/27/17 TO 12/31/18



Representation Matters

- 291** ACCEPTED FOR REPRESENTATION
- 62** BOND HEARINGS
- 33** PEOPLE RELEASED FROM CUSTODY
- 41%** CASES COMPLETED WITH FAVORABLE OUTCOMES, PERMITTING CLIENTS TO REMAIN IN US

Clients Are Diverse, Young, Vulnerable, and Connected to LA County

- 26** DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES
- 15** AVERAGE YEARS LIVING IN US
- 71%** UNDER 40 YEARS OLD
- 16%** MINORS AT TIME CASE WAS TAKEN
- 48%** PARENTS TO CHILDREN LIVING IN US
- 92%** FROM A VULNERABLE CLASS*

* Examples of vulnerable populations include asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, crime victims, among others.

Community Removal Defense Capacity has Grown

- 34** IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS HIRED
- 143** LAW STUDENTS AND ATTORNEYS ATTENDED REMOVAL DEFENSE TRAININGS
- 1** SHARED WORKSPACE 3 MILES FROM ADELANTO DETENTION CENTER

REMOVAL DEFENSE RESOURCE BANK

Staff developed an online resource bank that is available to law clerk trainees, pro bono attorneys and LAJF attorneys. The bank contains webinars, resources, an LAJF training calendar and key materials on substantive immigration law and removal defense practice.

JUDICIAL DATABASE

Hosted on the Removal Defense Resource Bank, the Judicial Database serves as a space for LAJF attorneys to submit and share their court experiences with other attorneys, contribute collective knowledge and benefit from collective experience. Having access to this information helps attorneys prepare for hearings and supports high caliber removal defense practice.

REMOVAL DEFENSE RESOURCE DOCKET SCREENING PROJECT

The goal of this project is to leverage law student volunteer hours by having law students observe master calendar docket to identify detained individuals who may be in need of pro bono representation.



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