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We envision a world where the fundamental right to move is respected and appreciated by all. Our view is that all human beings are entitled to respect, documents, and a process through which to move, settle, and resettle in the world.



January 2021 Newsletter: Year in Review

New Beginnings!

We are so relieved to have the last four years behind us. And although we are exhausted, we have newfound energy and have hit the ground running. On [Inauguration Day 2021](#), we supported directly impacted community members in organizing a rally to [hold our new administration accountable](#) to our needs: demanding a stop to deportations, detention center closures, and legalization for all!

Here's to new possibilities in 2021 and beyond!

Warmly,
Bianca and the Pangea Family

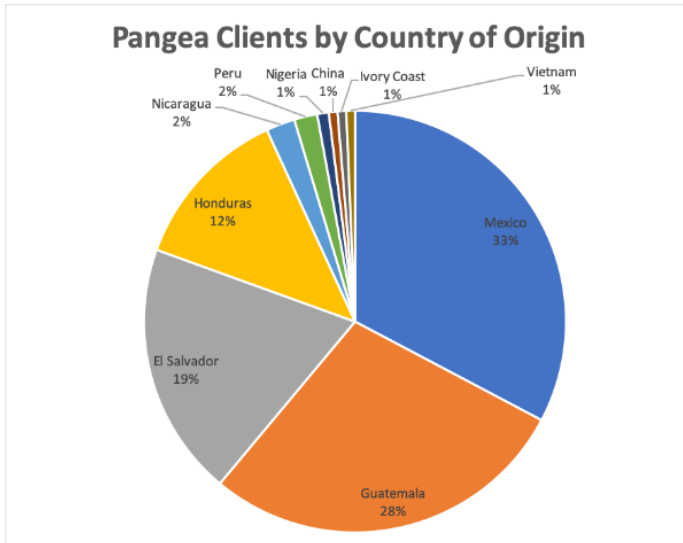


Inauguration Day action in San Jose, CA, organized by undocumented community (Jan. 20, 2021).

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A Snapshot of 2020

- **469 clients** received full scope legal services (we prepared many cases for court hearings that were canceled because of the pandemic and court closures)
- **85 appellate cases:** we filed or received decisions in 85 appeals for individuals at USCIS, DHS, Federal District Court, the BIA, and Ninth Circuit courts of appeal
- **50 work permits** received (out of 53 requested)
- **13 rapid response calls** answered and prevented the deportation of one San Mateo resident who was arrested in front of his home
- **13 adjustments of status** granted (out of 13 filed)
- **15 public campaigns** supported for Pangea clients, together with our partners, to prevent wrongful deportations and family separation
- **6 impact litigation cases:** we sued the federal government in 6 impact litigation cases to protect classes of immigrants nationwide (and have been successful at each stage so far)
- We won release by bringing the **first-ever habeas release acknowledging an immigrant's disability rights** under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (see [Marco's freedom story here](#))
- We filed one of the **first COVID-19 habeas petitions**, which won freedom for a client who had been unfairly imprisoned by ICE for over 4 years (see [Lucas' story here](#))
- Worked with over 25 non-profits, legal service organizations, and other partner organizations all across the country



Other countries (less than 1%): Afghanistan, Colombia, Philippines, Belize, Brazil, Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Liberia, Venezuela, Yemen.

2020 Client Representation Highlights

- **Release of 2 victims of Mississippi ICE raids!** Pangea successfully advocated for the release of undocumented workers in one of the largest ICE raids in recent history. We were notified of this need through the national web of rapid response hotlines and undocumented partners working in Mississippi. In addition to representing two of the workers that ICE arrested in the raids in their bond hearings, we organized other attorneys across the country to represent the other 650+ workers arrested.
- **San Francisco Board of Supervisors** with Hillary Ronen's leadership passed a resolution for our client Oumar, which helped [bring Oumar home](#). Senator Diane Feinstein made a public statement to support this case and mobilized the **Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate illegal and rogue ICE behavior**.
- **Joaquin, our once detained client at the brink of deportation, became a U.S. citizen!**
- **Pangea client, Phuoc, erases his decades-old conviction and gets his green card back in a legally challenging and improbable case!**



Community leader Phuoc Thang and his family after he successfully reopened his decades-old order of removal (Oct. 2020).

2020 Policy Advocacy Highlights

- **Governor Newsom is outed for shameful and inhumane treatment of detained immigrants amidst COVID outbreaks.** Pangea supports a mass protest at the governor's mansion, demanding the end of detainee transfers and release of all immigrant detainees.

- **Pangea successfully sues [DHS to save asylum](#) in *Pangea v. DHS II*, a joint effort with many partners and supporters.**
- **Packed the [Santa Clara County public committee hearing for the Truth Act Forum](#) with **undocumented leaders** to defend sanctuary and family unity values, successfully fighting County budget cuts to programs for immigrants.**
- **Organized [San Mateo County sanctuary policy forum](#) to end the county's cooperation with ICE, together with over 70 directly impacted community members, academics, professionals, and nonprofit organizations.**

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Fourteen undocumented activists and attorneys chained to Gov. Gavin Newsom's mansion in Sacramento, CA, demanding the release of all immigrant detainees (July 2020).

2020 Community Empowerment Highlights

- **Release of ALL women at detention center:** Pangea supported self-organized hunger strikers at the Mesa Verde Detention Center, which results in their release from immigration prison.
- **Detained organizers in California detention centers strike!** Pangea facilitated organizing phone calls between immigrant detainees and their outside supporters during a series of protests and strikes throughout the summer. The detainees' demands were around COVID safety and longer-standing abuses in immigration prison.
- **Community rallied to free them all!** Pangea and partners held a **car rally around Maguire Jail in San Mateo County**, as well as at other jails in the region, protesting COVID conditions and the ongoing transfer of jail detainees to ICE by the local sheriffs.
- **Pangea coordinated the emergence of the Papeles Para Todos/Legalization For All campaign**, a group of directly affected former clients and community members who are fighting for status for all 11 million undocumented people.



Mesa Verde hunger strike begins with an action of detained persons gathering outside, breaking protocol that only gives them 1 hour outside per day, requiring them to stay inside their cell for 23 hrs/day. They gather in heart formation and lay out their demands for immigrant and detainee justice (April 2020).

Other 2020 Highlights

- Pangea sets new 5-year strategic plan for 2020-2025 with input from community and partners.
- 4 senior Pangea staff go on extended parental and sabbatical leave, a global pandemic hit, and we still made it!
- Pangea receives funding under the Paycheck Protection Plan to maintain its staff and operations in light of COVID-related losses.
- Pangea sues DHS for their gross and illegal actions against various clients, and makes DHS pay, securing over \$60,000 in legal fees.
- We began a 4-day workweek pilot, and we like it!

**Much love,
The Pangea Team**

[Bianca, Celine, Esperanza, Etan, Gladys, Jehan, Luis Angel, Marie, Mariel, Nilou, Pete, Roxana, Sean and Ximena]

SUPPORT OUR WORK

[Please help us keep winning impossible cases and setting amazing legal precedent for our community in 2021!](#)



Pangea Legal Services is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible. We will put every dollar of your generous contribution to work by providing direct legal services, policy advocacy, and legal empowerment for low income immigrant communities.

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