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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.*



Quarterly Newsletter | April 2022

**Meet Our Newest Hire, Exciting
Campaign Updates & May Day
Celebrations!**

Jessica Yamane Joins Pangea



Join us in welcoming the newest member of the

Pangea team, [Jessica Yamane!](#)

Jessica comes to our team with a wealth of experience as an immigration attorney at Dolores Street Community Services and La Raza Community Resource Center. Setting Jessica apart is not only her impressive legal service skills and positive energy, but also her transformative justice work as a movement lawyer where she has collaborated with attorneys, organizers, people of faith, and leaders in the disability and neurodiversity movements.

... and Ushers in Enrique's Homecoming!!!



As a testament to Jessica's movement lawyering work, she was one of the key members, along with other Pangea staff, in ushering the [#FreeEnrique campaign](#). Now we are ecstatic to report that after a combined 18+ years of incarceration and ICE detention, our client, Enrique Cristobal Meneses, is finally home!!!

While incarcerated at Soledad State Prison, Enrique worked on transforming himself by attending classes, workshops, self-help groups, and obtained his GED as well as his certification to be a substance abuse counselor. On November 10, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsome rightfully commuted Enrique's sentence. However, instead of being released, ICE arrested him on November 19, 2020.

On February 11, 2022, Centro Legal's attorneys, Priya Patel and Susan Beaty,

successfully litigated Enrique's case for long-term relief under the Convention Against Torture... And WON! Enrique is Free and is now home and on the path of becoming a restorative justice counselor.

With Jessica's coordination, advocacy, and movement lawyering principles at the forefront, Enrique not only won his case, but he transformed into an advocate in the social justice movement for a cause much bigger than his own: restorative justice, helping people find their purpose, securing funding for education not prisons, and freedom from prisons.

Learn more about Enrique here!



"If we were to pour this kind of support into our community instead of prisons, more stories like Enrique's would be the norm, not the exception. Here's to prison abolition!" – Jessica Yamane

Papeles Para Todxs & the Rapid Response Network: *How Community Empowerment Shapes Change*



[PPT is a movement for and by undocumented immigrants](#) that demands citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States without exceptions. Pangea staff are founding members of PPT and continue to support and work alongside this movement.

The Right to Vote in San Jose, CA & Papeles Para Todxs

Having citizens vote in local elections is not an otherworldly concept. Before the Civil War, 40 U.S. states gave immigrants the right to vote. Flashforward to January 2022, [New York City granted more than 800,000 noncitizens the right to vote in municipal elections](#). Pangea clients, advocates, and leaders with Papeles Para Todxs are now also urging the city of San Jose to allow [non-citizens to vote in municipal elections](#).



It is an injustice for a city to collect and benefit from its residents' tax payments and yet deny them the power to vote. Local communities are built by the contributions of all of their residents, regardless of immigration status. And we're here to help elevate these contributions and our power!

To support expanding the voting rights of San Jose residents, [sign the petition here!](#)

Stay tuned for developments!

May 1st: Join Pangea & Papeles Para Todxs & Banda Para Todxs for International Workers' Day

International Workers Day 2022




**Sunday May 1st at 12pm
GATHER at Roosevelt Park
MARCH to SJ City Hall
Please Wear a Mask!**

**Workers of the World Unite!
Long Live the International Working-Class!**



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***Yes, We Stopped a Deportation:
The Rapid Response Network is a Testament to How Organizing and
Community Empowerment Can Prevent Deportations and Family
Separation***



When Anastasia was arrested in April 2019 while dropping off her U.S. citizen child at school, who did she call? The Santa Clara County Rapid Response Network (RRN)!

ICE forcefully wrestled her out of her car for no other reason than her brown skin. ICE then ripped her phone out of her hand to try and prevent the call to RRN and detained her. Nevertheless, the RRN recorded the call and we responded.

Pangea and the RRN successfully obtained Anastasia's release from ICE custody the same day as her arrest, reunited her with her small child, and prevented her re-arrest by ICE by accompanying her at her ICE check-in at Morgan Hill.

Pangea then, not only advocated for the immigration judge to suppress evidence against Anastasia obtained by ICE's unconstitutional arrest but most recently, was able to close her immigration case entirely!

Pangea's work did not end there. Our movement lawyers and advocates then supported Anastasia to use her traumatic ICE encounter to develop and advocate for her community. She participated in our *promotores* legal empowerment trainings,

became an outspoken leader, and is now challenging ICE detention and advocating for citizenship for all through the Papeles Para Todxs Movement. She recently traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for citizenship for all *not once, but twice!!!*



Anastasia's case is a testament to movement lawyering and stopping deportations through community power.

Update: After a 10-Year Struggle, DACA, and 3 Administrations, Jesus is Finally Out of Deportation Proceedings!



[Jesus Ruiz Diego](#) certainly needs no introduction, but for those that are new to his story: Jesus was one of Pangea's first detained clients who transformed into a community leader and organizer. He joined Pangea's board of directors in 2015 and

significantly contributed to the direction of our strategic plans and goals. His journey to becoming a powerful immigrant justice and prison abolition leader is nothing short of amazing and an example of how even in moments where all hope seems lost, we can keep demanding and pushing for the freedom to move!

Jesus' case was one of Pangea's first public campaigns and it taught us the importance of community-led deportation defense models that place directly affected communities at the center of their self-defense and advocacy.

Read more on Jesus' journey here:

[SF Chronicle](#)

[Mercury News](#)

Inspired by his own campaign and the community who rallied around him, Jesus – a former sheet-metal worker – became a full-time community organizer. Today, he advocates for immigrant rights and an end to mass incarceration and helps to oversee and operate Santa Clara County's Rapid Response Network. He is also the proud dad of two beautiful sons, ages 3 and 8 months.

In April, after 10 years of representation and advocacy, Jesus and Pangea together, were finally able to close his court case, freeing him from future court proceedings and opening up the possibility to travel.

Congratulations to Jesus for this win, for all your contributions to the immigrant rights movement, for your work every day protecting undocumented immigrants from ICE raids, for teaching us through your lived experiences, and for being an indispensable member of our board!

We are incredibly grateful and honored to know you and work with you!

Aid for Ukraine: A Trusted Contact Through Our Advisory Board Member



We are heartbroken by the violence and loss of life due to the invasion of Ukraine. Our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine, their loved ones, and anyone affected. If you have been looking for a trusted source offering direct support to folks in Ukraine with food and supplies, please take a look at Alex Dayrabekov's [facebook group](#) where you can follow his documented efforts to help. [Alex is a friend of Pangea's trusted advisory board member, Ryan Stahl](#), who is a former teacher for Peace Corps Ukraine.

Thank you for your consideration and support!!!

- Alex is currently accepting donations directly to his Paypal (donation fees waived through June): a.dayrabekov@gmail.com
- And also through his GoFundMe below:

Donate Here!

Here's to Solidarity, The Pangea Family

Bianca, Celine, Dalia, Esperanza, Eunice, Gladys, Jehan, Jessica, Luis Angel, Marie, Mariel, Nilou, Pete, Roxana, Sean, Vanessa, and Ximena



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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