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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 2023 Newsletter**

**2022 in Review: Major Growth & Immigrant Power Building 🌟**

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**May 20th: Let Us Celebrate YOU at Our 10-Year Anniversary Party! 🎉**



Graphic created by: [Eunice Hernandez Chenier | Co-Director and Detained Organizer](#)

We are SO excited to celebrate our **10 years** with you all: our clients, community, partners, board members, staff, volunteers, friends, and family.

Pangea is so special in so many ways: we are known for going all out for our community -- like getting **creative beyond legal methods** and making **impossible victories possible**, over and over again. But without EVERY single person participating in our advocacy, campaigns, and representation, our wins wouldn't be as astronomical. **We are so grateful to YOU!**

**Please join us in celebration on the afternoon of Saturday, May 20th, 2023.**

This is not a fundraiser, we just want to reminisce in joy and gratitude with you all! 🍷🍷🍷

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## 2022 in a Snapshot! 📸✨



Our 2023 begins invigorated and we are looking forward to implementing our strategic plan: building community-led movements, changing harmful policies, and giving our community members the tools they need to make change on a local level.

**But for now, we would like to share some of our biggest**

## accomplishments from 2022 with you!

- **500+ people were represented in complex immigration matters.**
- **152 free legal consultations** were offered to immigrants along with legal advice, Know Your Rights orientation, and referrals.
- **100+ one-on-one meetings with clients and community members** were held to build trust, mobilize our efforts to shut down detention centers, and develop our undocumented community for leadership in civic engagement. **We hired our third full-time organizer!**
- **11 clients and leaders** detained in immigration prison facilities were connected to media, legislative meetings, and supported by Pangea Organizers.
- **8 pro se asylum seekers** who are part of our Asylee Legal Empowerment Project **won their asylum cases**, bringing our **total pro se asylum victories to 10!**
- **6 organizations** coordinated with Pangea to form the Disability and Immigrant Justice Coalition.
- **3 public campaigns** were organized to support detained immigrants!
- We also **sued** the government, **WON**, and made them pay over **\$35,000** in attorney fees!
- **140+ people mobilized** to support our solidarity and campaign for detained workers' demands for living wages in a **MASSIVE labor strike**.
- **2 awards received:** Pangea was honored with the **San Francisco Supervisors Award** alongside our inspiring founder, Nilou, who received the [IABA Community Impact Award](#). We also received the [Cooperation Award from Human Agenda](#)!
- **3 new innovative and cutting-edge projects launched:** [Healing in and Beyond Detention](#), the Asylee Legal Empowerment Project, and Post-Conviction Relief for Immigrants with Mental Health, Intellectual, and Developmental Disabilities.



*December 10, 2022 - Image of Jesus and Celine accepting the Cooperation Award*

**Support our work <3**

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## **2022 Movement Building Highlights 📣**

**Shutting down ICE, healing justice, worker strikes,  
and asylee power!**



- [We shut down the Yuba County detention center](#), marking the end to the last immigration detention contract in a California county!
  - Pangea, alongside our partners in the [Yuba Liberation Coalition](#), worked tirelessly for years to end the unjust incarceration of immigrants at the Yuba County jail.
  - Our organizers and clients worked with detained leaders to:
    - mobilize hunger strikes;
    - organize protests;
    - and bring media attention to the medical neglect and human rights abuses occurring at the jail in order to shut it down once and for all!
  - **Check out media coverage here:** [CBS News](#) | [KQED](#) | [SF Chronicle](#) | [Appeal Democrat](#) | [Sac Bee](#) | [Davis Vanguard](#) | [WBUR](#)
- We supported detained immigrants, alongside the [Latinx Therapists Action Network](#), to develop the Parenting Beyond Walls workshop to help them become even stronger leaders and facilitators. The 3-part workshop

helped detained leaders connect with members of their community and address the important psychological, communal, and social needs of detained parents and family members of detained immigrants.

- **Pangea organizers, together with [detained workers](#), [exposed the horrible conditions of the corporate-owned Mesa Verde and Golden State Annex immigration detention centers](#).**
  - We coordinated with immigrant and labor rights organizations from all over California to organize actions at both detention centers, which were attended by over 140 protestors!
  - **See media coverage on the protests here:** [KQED](#) | [Daily Kos](#) | [Bakersfield.com](#) | [WBAI 99.5](#)
- **In collaboration with [Dolores Street Community Services](#), we unveiled the Asylee Legal Empowerment Project**, which is paving the way for asylum seekers to achieve their own victories in immigration court.
  - ALEP is a multi-week live workshop where attorneys and asylees introduce unrepresented asylum seekers in deportation proceedings to key tools and concepts to help them represent themselves effectively in immigration court.
  - Since its inception, **ALEP has helped 10 asylees win asylum!**
- **We also partnered with 6 other organizations to form the Disability & Immigrant Justice Coalition.**
  - The organizations span across all of California, and are powered by a commitment to immigrant and disability justice, prison abolition, organizing, and movement building.
  - The future goals of the coalition include:
    - centering impacted people and supporting them as leaders around these conversations;
    - creating programmatic work that addresses the needs of the disabled immigrant community;
    - and to develop a technology hub for immigrants and asylum seekers with disabilities to connect them to legal services, information, and resources.
- **[Papeles Para Todxs](#) graduated a class of 20 leaders!**
  - The leaders completed a series of political education courses, which included history of the social justice

movement, immigration law, political climates, how laws get passed, deportation defense, and grassroots organizing.

- The graduates now have the tools to mobilize and participate in civic activities and represent their partners, parents, and friends when advocating for immigrant-friendly polices in their local counties.



*Image of Papeles Para Todxs 2022 graduates in their caps and gowns after the graduation ceremony*

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## **2022 Policy & Litigation Highlights 🦊**

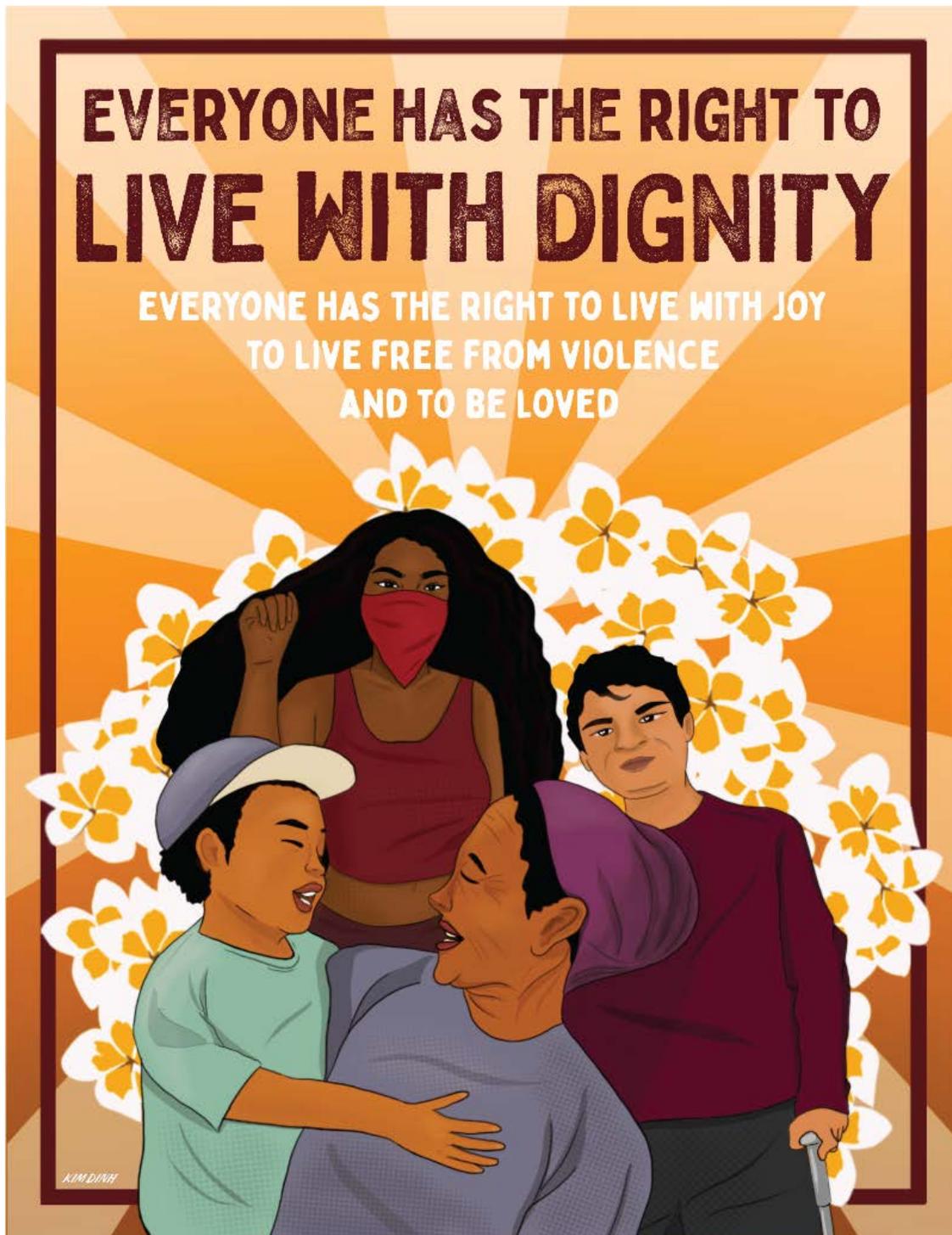


Illustration by Kim Dinh @ kimdinhart

- **We sued the federal government in *Matias Rauda v. Garland*** to undo harmful precedent in a prior negative decision.
- **We won a BIG asylum litigation case this year!** Since 2020, Pangea has attended meetings, provided declarations, and represented plaintiffs participating in the [CASA/ASAP litigation](#), which sued the Trump administration for

implementing rules that severely limited asylum seekers' ability to obtain work permits.

- This past year, we won! The judge decided that the administration's work permit rules are illegal and must be changed.
- We are continuing to work alongside our partner organizations to ensure that the government follows the judge's order so that asylum seekers have the ability to work and provide for themselves and their families.
- **We made another advocacy push to pass the [VISION Act \(AB 937\)](#).**
  - The Act passed in the Assembly but fell short in the Senate.
  - It would have protected immigrants from being transferred from jail to ICE detention centers.
  - We will continue to advocate for it, to protect future immigrants from facing prolonged incarceration and punishment for no reason other than being born outside of the United States.

**Help us make more victories like these possible!**

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## **2022 Staff & Organizational Growth**

We grew intentionally and thoughtfully

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Top row images (left to right): [Esperanza, co-director and detained organizer](#), and [Jesus, non-detained organizer](#)

Bottom row images (left to right): [Victoria, immigration attorney and fellow](#), and [Ambri, co-director and bird's-eye view coordinator](#)

- We have a total of **21 full-time staff** and have grown in all of our program areas!
- As part of our larger goal of expanding our community empowerment work, we added **[2 full-time organizers growing our power-building team to 3!](#)**
- We also invested in our organizational infrastructure and culture by hiring our **first non-program staff** -- [a Bird's-Eye View Coordinator](#) to:

- nurture our **staff wellbeing and professional development**;
- develop our participatory **worker-led governance** structure in light of our growth;
- and support our **organization-wide coordination**.
- **[Our newest fellow](#) is launching an innovative project at the intersection of disability rights, immigration law, and criminal justice!**
  - Immigrants with mental-health related disabilities are disproportionately criminalized, which in turn places them at increased risk for deportation due to their convictions.
  - Our project aims to provide legal avenues to overturn these unjust and discriminatory convictions so that immigrants can mitigate these unjust consequences.



*Photo of Pangea team at the annual Fun Day retreat.*

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As an organization, we not only faced 4 arduous years advocating in defense of immigrants in the face of a hostile administration, but we also fought to survive and adapt our work and lives through a deadly pandemic. **We not only survived; we**

**overcame it all!** But now we are positioning ourselves to **thrive**:

Although Pangea has maintained over a 90% retention rate in a climate of high turnover, we too are fatigued and need a change in intensity, pace, and volume of cases. **One of our strategic goals is to reduce all staff caseloads and work hours by 10% in 2023 to care for our health and wellbeing** -- while also expanding our cutting edge projects and our movement building work.

Expect a slight reduction of client representation, but also an **increase in**:

- disability and immigrant justice projects;
- detained and non-detained organizing and leadership;
- political education courses with Papeles Para Todxs;
- cutting edge asylum self-advocacy and case wins;
- novel healing justice work, and;
- post-conviction relief work at the intersection of criminal and immigrant justice.

**We are excited to share the steps we have taken in the past years towards these big picture goals! ✨**

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## **Here's to Solidarity, The Pangea Family**

Ambri, Bianca, Celine, Dalia, Esperanza, Eunice, Gladys, Jessica, Jesus, Jocelynn, Luis Angel, Madahy, Marie, Nallely, Nilou, Pete, Roxana, Sean, Vanessa, Victoria, 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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### San Francisco Office

391 Sutter St, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94108

### San José Office

855 Lenzen Avenue | San José, CA 95126

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