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PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | October 2013

The mission of Pangea Legal Services is to stand with immigrant communities and to provide services through direct legal representation, especially in the area of deportation defense. In addition to direct legal services, we are committed to advocating on behalf of our community through policy advocacy, education, and legal empowerment efforts.

Pangea Welcomes New Teammates

Pangea is growing! Please meet our new staff, volunteers, clients, board of directors, and board of advisors who work within our three-pronged mission of 1) representation, 2) policy advocacy, and 3) legal empowerment efforts to keep our immigrant communities together.



Marie Vincent,
Staff Attorney

Full-Time Attorneys

This quarter, Pangea added two new full-time attorneys/fellow: **Marie Vincent** and **Matthew Weisner**. Marie previously worked for Pangea on a part-time basis and helped lay our organization's foundation from the nascent stages; she now joins Pangea as a full-time attorney. Matt recently graduated from UC Davis School of Law, and joins Pangea as a legal fellow on a one-year partnership grant with UC Davis. [To learn more about Marie and Matt, please click here, \[and please scroll down\].](#)

Our staff expansion comes at a critical time for immigrant communities in the Bay Area. Nearly half of the 22,800 immigrants who are currently in deportation proceedings in the San Francisco Immigration Court are unrepresented. Marie and Matt are working within our 3-pronged mission to advocate for our community members, and especially for those in deportation proceedings.

Volunteers

Pangea is grateful for our active volunteer attorneys, including **Lena Graber**, **Bianca Santos**, and **Luisa Bonachea**. Without the support of these attorneys, other volunteers, interns, and community members, our work would not be possible. In the last quarter, these volunteers have directly advocated for clients by drafting declarations, representing clients in bond hearings on a *pro bono* basis, conducting legal research and writing, and by participating in policy advocacy efforts (namely the [SF Due Process Ordinance!](#))



Matt Weisner,
Immigration Legal Fellow

Director and Board of Advisors

Pangea was recently joined by new board director, **Kristi Transtrom**, who replaces former director, Jennifer Karlin. Kristi brings great enthusiasm, skills, and her commitment to immigrant rights to Pangea.

Additionally, Pangea welcomes our board of advisors, who have supported us and contribute to our organization through their guidance and wisdom:

- **Mark Silverman**, Director of Immigration Policy at the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#) (ILRC)
- **Jon Rodney**, Communications Manager at the [California Immigrant Policy Center](#) (CIPC)
- **Zahra Billoo**, Executive Director of the [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#) SF Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA)
- **Christine Stouffer**, Immigration Attorney, [Law Office of Christine M. Stouffer](#)
- **Leah Price**, [Immigration Attorney](#) and Co-Chair of the National Lawyers Guild Immigration Committee (NLG NorCal)
- **Sahar Bhaloo**, Clinical Psychologist at the Center for Survivors of Torture
- **Vivek Maru**, founder of [Namati](#) and co-founder of [Timap for Justice](#)

[To read more about our board of directors and board of advisors, please click here, and please scroll to the bottom of the page.](#)

Pangea Community Members in Action



Fatima, a client of Pangea, giving an interview with Univision 14 at San Francisco's City Hall, 09/05/2013

Our clients and community members are an essential part of Pangea's growing team and advocacy work.

We are continuously inspired by our clients, such as, **Fatima, who joined Pangea in speaking up** in support of the [San Francisco Due Process for All Ordinance](#).

As the single mother of three small children, Fatima is still facing deportation after an unjustified arrest in San Francisco. In her testimony at City Hall, Fatima stated, "I was turned over to ICE, and I didn't know what was happening... when I would see my children... not knowing what would happen to them and what would happen to me..."

The SF Board of Supervisors unanimously voted in favor of the Due Process Ordinance, and it was signed into law by SF's Mayor on October 8, 2013. This new policy prohibits SF police from turning immigrants like Fatima over to immigration authorities when they become eligible for release under due process of law. As a team, Pangea will continue to work together with our clients and community to take similar steps in creating a more just immigration system. [Read more about the Due Process Ordinance and other immigration regulations signed into law this month here.](#)



Community celebrates unanimous vote in support of Due Process Ordinance at City Hall, San Francisco (Sept. 2013)

[Watch Univision's report of the first round of voting on the local Ordinance at City Hall and footage of Fatima on September 5, 2013 here.](#)

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.

Support Pangea

[Any support and contribution enables us to serve indigent and rural communities, advocate for more humane immigration policies, and further empower people to know their rights.](#)

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