

PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | January 2015



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.

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

We are thrilled to share with you Pangea's 2014 highlights and hope you continue to read and enjoy our quarterly issues.

Warmly,
Pangea Family

Snapshot of Pangea's Community Impact in 2014

In 2014, about **79% of Pangea's clients** were individuals in removal proceedings. We represented clients before ICE, CBP, the detained and non-detained Immigration Court, the Asylum Office, and the Board of Immigration Appeals.

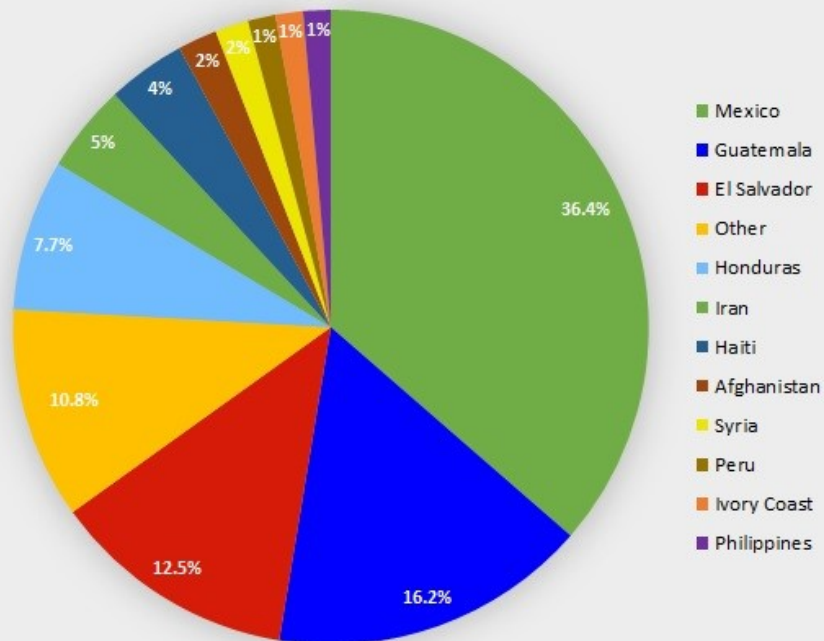
Here is a snapshot:

- Won 30 asylum cases from El Salvador, Guatemala Haiti, Honduras Iran, Guinea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, South Africa, and Syria.
- Conducted over 350 free and low fee legal consultations.
- Won 2 BIA Appeals.

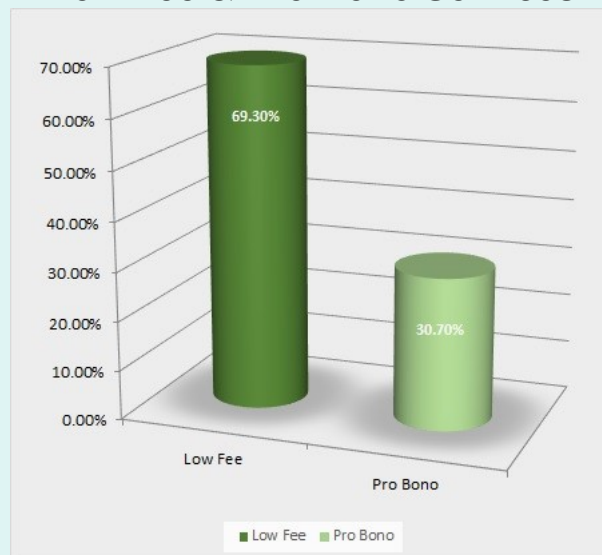
<i>Hours of Legal Services Provided</i>	11,000+
<i>Pro Bono Hours of Services Provided</i>	2,500+
<i>Low Bono Hours of Services Provided</i>	8,500+
<i>Local, State, and National Policy Advocacy Hours</i>	800+
<i>Number of Persons Who Received Legal Assistance</i>	*290+

*Individual clients who retained Pangea for direct legal representation; does not include legal beneficiaries, derivatives, and consultations.

Pangea Clients' Countries of Origin



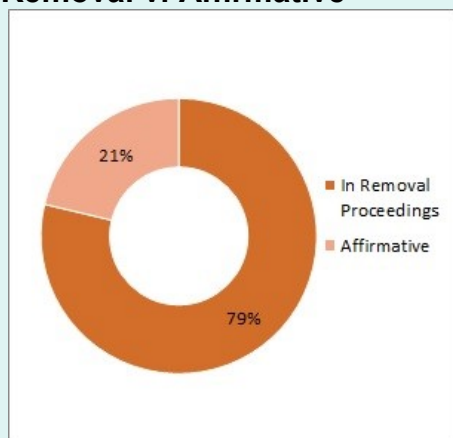
Low Fee & Pro Bono Services



All of Pangea's work was done on either a low fee or *pro bono* basis.
Client services in 2014 included about 30% *pro bono* matters.

Approximately 79% of Pangea's clients are immigrants in removal proceedings, and 12% of Pangea's clients are detained.

Removal v. Affirmative



Detained v. Not Detained



Brazilian Mother Gets a Chance in Court in Lieu of Deportation



We have an exciting update about one of our ongoing clients!

Do you remember coming out to ask ICE to [release a Brazilian mother because she was separated from her nursing baby](#)? With the community's support and the leadership of Rev. Deborah Lee from the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, we were able to reunite Reylla with her family in May 2013.

Since then, Pangea's attorneys have been working hard on her legal case. Reylla had an outstanding *in absentia* order of removal and risked being deported even after she was released from detention.

In November 2014, after 1.5 years of legal and community advocacy, Pangea successfully reopened Reylla's case at the Board of Immigration Appeals. She will now have an opportunity to pursue her asylum claim in the San Francisco Immigration Court. Stay tuned for further progress on this case.



Reylla with her family

Success Doesn't Come without Challenges

In 2014, we were reminded that our best efforts are sometimes not enough to prevail over our unjust immigration system.

At the end of 2014, we lost a challenging case for a detained client. Mentally disabled and exhausted by his prolonged detention, he decided not to appeal and asked to be deported. The heartache caused on his family is unspeakable and we are deeply saddened and disappointed.

Our sadness comes from an underlying desire to live in a world where the human right to move is respected by all - and where families can be free, united, and loved. We channel this into advocacy work and continue to work toward our dream.

In addition to our direct legal services, Pangea engaged in policy advocacy that supported the Right to Move. We lobbied local, state and national governments; participated in grassroots actions and coalitions; and lifted up client voices in various forums.

Some highlights include:

- Meeting with U.S. Congress members in D.C. regarding immigrant-rights issues;
- Advocating for [immigrant-friendly bills](#) in Sacramento;
- Participating in rallies for administrative relief and community actions to halt deportations;
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- Advocating for [access to counsel for children in removal proceedings](#) before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors;
- [Writing about and publishing on creative advocacy](#) for unaccompanied children; and
- Empowering clients to share their stories with Senator Feinstein and Pelosi's offices to advocate for admin relief, an end to immigrant detention, and an end to the rocket docket.



Pangea's UAC Clients and other children awarded certificates for their courage and testifying before the SF City Supervisors.

We celebrated Obama's announcement for administrative relief, but haven't forgotten the many that have been left behind. We anticipate a busy year of advocacy ahead, and remain hopeful that larger change will happen soon.

Community Education and Legal Empowerment

In 2014, Pangea staff, fellows, and volunteers participated in 36 educational campaigns and legal empowerment programs. Through

clinics, forums, presentations, workshops, and media outreach, we continue to empower our immigrant community.

Our 2014 highlights include:

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- Provided tailored know your rights presentations to over 350 Bay Area community members, including undocumented parents, DREAMERs, unaccompanied minors, and construction workers;
- Conducted 3 deportation defense clinics in the South Bay and Peninsula;
- Participated in monthly legal orientation programs (LOPs) at the West County Detention Center in Contra Costa;
- Participated in 3 DACA and citizenship workshops organized by our partners;
- Presented on the San Francisco Due Process Ordinance at a CLE panel; and
- Presented on a [Webinar about advocacy and San Francisco Supervisor Campos' ordinance on access to counsel](#) for children.



Add Description

With administrative relief around the corner, we look forward to ramping up our education efforts in 2015. Stay tuned for more!

Pangea in the News

Pangea uses the media to empower our clients, change mentalities about immigration, and educate our community about immigrant rights.

Here is a snapshot for 2014:

- Featured in the Daily Journal, "[The Right to Move: Nonprofit law firm Pangea Legal Services fights deportation on behalf of immigrants by pulling out all the stops.](#)"
- Authored article, "[Advocates Must Stand Up for Children](#)," in the Daily Journal;
- Featured in the Stanford Report, "[Access to Justice and Immigrant Families and Communities](#)," as part of the Northern California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice;
- Featured in The New Yorker, "[The Immigrants Excluded by Obama's New Plan](#);"
- Participated in various [immigration rights segments](#) for Univision 14; and NBC Bay Area in "[Asylum Seekers Attend Immigration Vigil Outside San Francisco Federal Building](#)."
- Featured in the Lexis Nexis Immigration Journal for [successful BIA advocacy](#).

The Right to Move

Nonprofit law firm Pangea Legal Services fights deportation on behalf of immigrants by pulling out all the stops — legal defense, legislative advocacy, media campaigning and a fierce work ethic.



Staff & Board of Directors Growth



Celine DinhJanelle

This was a year of growth for Pangea. We started out as a team of three, and ended as five!

Our most recent addition is [Celine DinhJanelle](#), who joined us in December 2014. She will be representing unaccompanied minors and helping Pangea in its expansion efforts.

We are also excited about our most [recent board member addition: Jesus Ruiz Diego](#) ! Jesus is a former client (one of Pangea's first!) and an avid immigrant rights and immigrant-detention rights advocate.

Stay tuned.

Thank You & Wish List

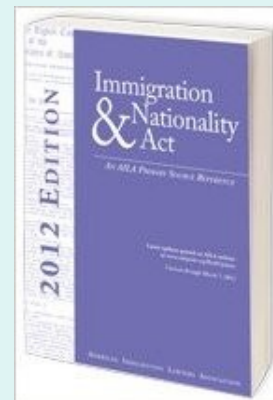
Thank you to all those who, without any prompt, made incredibly generous donations to Pangea the end of 2014! We are so grateful to you and excited to put your donations to great use.

We also have a specific wish list that will support our growth and hope that you can help us further.

- Donate a hard copy of the INA or immigration CFR (year 2011 or higher)
- Help us build a divider wall in our office (we need an extra room!)
- Help pay for a monthly subscription to Lexis Nexis (non-profit rate)
- Make a [donation directly through our website](#) - we always welcome more generosity, and are so grateful for every dollar.

Thank you all for your ongoing love and support.

We are excited about 2015 and look forward to partnering with you all!



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.

Donate Here

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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