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PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | April 2017



Dear Community,

Many have asked how you can volunteer or contribute to immigrant rights. We've created a list of [7 things you can do right now here!](#) Thank you so much for standing in unity with the immigrant community during such a divisive time in our history.

The Pangea team has been active on many fronts, taking its lawyering to the streets. Just this week, in addition to its support through amicus briefs, Pangea [rallied in front of the federal district court](#) to support [Santa Clara and San Francisco in a lawsuit against Trump](#) and his threat to defund Sanctuary Cities.

To learn more about what cities across the country are suing the Trump Administration, [check out ILRC's new resources here.](#)



6 of the 9 people in the above photo are Pangea staff!

Let's Rally Together on May Day!

As we near May 1, 2017, we celebrate the power of our community that can lift up the voices of hundreds of thousands of immigrants.

[We have been here before and we won. In 2006](#), what began as a targeted response to punitive legislation criminalizing immigrants quickly evolved into a large-scale movement for social change and immigration reform.

Today, under the similarly criminalizing Trump era, our movement is growing stronger than ever. [Checkout May1.org to find marches across the country!](#)

Pangea Welcomes New Staff & Increased Capacity to Defend Our Community

We are now a [team of 10 staff](#)! In the last three months, Pangea welcomed a new receptionist and operations manager and two immigration attorneys to our team: [Esperanza, Juan Camilo, and Jehan](#).

We feel lucky to have recruited the most high quality, kind-hearted, and hard working advocates to our team during these difficult times. [Learn more about them here](#).

Our ever-expanding team continues to focus on what we do best -- advocate for immigrants in deportation proceedings.



Post-election, Pangea decided to deepen its mission and impact in three ways:

1. **Intensify our community empowerment and education work**
 - Between Jan-present, [Pangea staff provided over 35 know-your-rights and community presentations](#) in the Bay Area.
2. **Strengthen and grow our policy advocacy efforts (and successfully so!)**
 - Pangea successfully advocated with over 90 other community groups to create an [immigrant detention defense program](#) at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, which was approved in March 2017. [Check out our op-ed on this effort here](#).
 - Pangea is also [advocating for statewide legislation in collaboration with partners](#) to create a program for universal representation of detained immigrants.
3. **Increase our detention representation work and its impact**
 - In addition to continuously increasing the number of people we represent in deportation proceedings, Pangea is actively lifting up their stories and [leading public campaigns with grassroots partners](#), like in the cases of Ivan and [Yazmin](#) (see below).



Formerly detained Pangea client, Joaquin, speaks at SF City Hall in support of other detained immigrants

We're Growing a Movement from the Bottom Up: Migra Watch and *Promotora* Community Leaders

Pangea is teaming up with community leaders to develop and sustain a network of immigrant-led self-defense teams in neighborhoods across the San Francisco Bay Area.

Together with Faith in Action Bay Area, the California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, and the East Bay Immigrant Youth Coalition, Pangea formed the Immigrant Liberation Movement (ILM) at the end of 2016.

ILM is training community members on how to prevent family separation due to ICE raids in the home and workplace. *Promotoras* (community organizers) and volunteer allies will make-up a network of [first responders organized by neighborhood and connected through a Migra Watch hotline and text message alerts](#).

By joining [Migra Watch](#), community members faced with an ICE raid will receive legal and community assistance in real time that will empower them to exercise their constitutional rights, keep their loved ones safe, and defend them against unjust detention and deportation.

[Request a training here.](#)



Immigration attorney Luis Angel Reyes Savalza speaks to a full house of people at Community United Methodist Church on March 22. People came because they are interested in being “first responders” should Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids come to the coast. Carina Woudenberg / Review

Community members in the vicinity who are part of the Migra Watch network will be provided with notifications and tools to mobilize against an ongoing ICE raid in their neighborhood.

By empowering those directly impacted by ICE raids to resist them collectively, we are multiplying our ability as organizers and attorneys to keep our immigrant communities united and safe. A pilot version of this project was [launched with SFILEN in San Francisco on inauguration week and ILM's San Mateo Hotline launched in March 2017.](#)



ILM launches rapid response hotline in San Mateo (Mar. 27, 2017).

We are excited about this project and look forward to providing more updates to all of our supporters. We are working with partners and other rapid response networks in counties across Northern California and the country in order to expand this community-led deportation defense model and build an immigrant self-defense collective over the next four years.

If you're interested in hosting a local legal observer training to stand in solidarity with immigrant communities during ICE raids, [please contact us by filling out the form here.](#)

Pangea Client: Marvin Ivan Franco Valencia



Community members gathered to press for funding for immigration attorneys in San Francisco.

A few days after the elections, Marvin was detained by ICE in San Francisco. He was reporting as scheduled by [ISAP](#) (Intensive Supervision Appearance Program, an ICE program managed by a private contractor through which [some asylum seekers have to wear a GPS device on their ankle](#)). ICE didn't tell him why he was being detained and he wasn't allowed to call his attorney. That day, Marvin's partner and two children - who Pangea also represents - had to return home without their father. During the three

weeks of detention, the children suffered from insomnia and cried at school. Their mother was unable to pay rent and faced eviction. Fortunately, together with their Pangea attorney, Marvin's family was able to get enough letters and community support and get him released on a bond from the immigration judge.

The trauma that the family experienced led Marvin's partner, Yancy, to speak publicly about Marvin's case and lobby the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor [to support universal representation for all detained individuals](#). At the rally, Yancy said, "my family is lucky to have an attorney, but I know that there are a lot of families who suffer because they don't have a lawyer." Marvin's case exemplifies the pain that immigrant families go through when they are detained by ICE. We will continue to encourage Marvin, Yancy, and all of our clients to share their stories in order to educate and create better policies for all immigrants.

Pangea Client: Yazmin Liliana Elias Obregon

In April this year, Pangea appealed the denial of Yazmin's request for release on bond in federal court through a habeas corpus petition. Yazmin is a domestic violence survivor and a mother of three who has been detained by ICE for more than one year.

At her bond hearing in immigration court, Yazmin provided extensive evidence that she has rehabilitated and is no longer in the abusive relationships that led to past DUIs, and the Department of Homeland Security provided no evidence to the contrary. Nevertheless, the immigration judge refused to allow her release.

Comparing the unforgiving custody decisions in immigration court with those in the criminal context, District Court Judge Orrick wrote that it was "extremely doubtful that any Magistrate Judge" in his court would have refused bail to a person like Yazmin. [Pangea calls on ICE to end its continued detention of Yazmin and allow her to return to normal life with her children and family. #FreeYazmin!](#)



Community gathers to #FreeYazmin before the Federal District Court (Apr. 3, 2017)

Thank you for your ongoing love and support during this new era. Please consider getting involved in one of [these 7 ways](#), and please consider making a [donation](#)!

Much love,
Nilou

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.

[Donate Here](#)

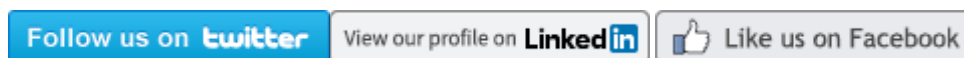
Pangea Legal Services is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax-deductible. We will put every dollar of your generous contribution to work by providing direct legal services, policy advocacy, and legal empowerment for low income immigrant communities.

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.

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