

PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | July 2017

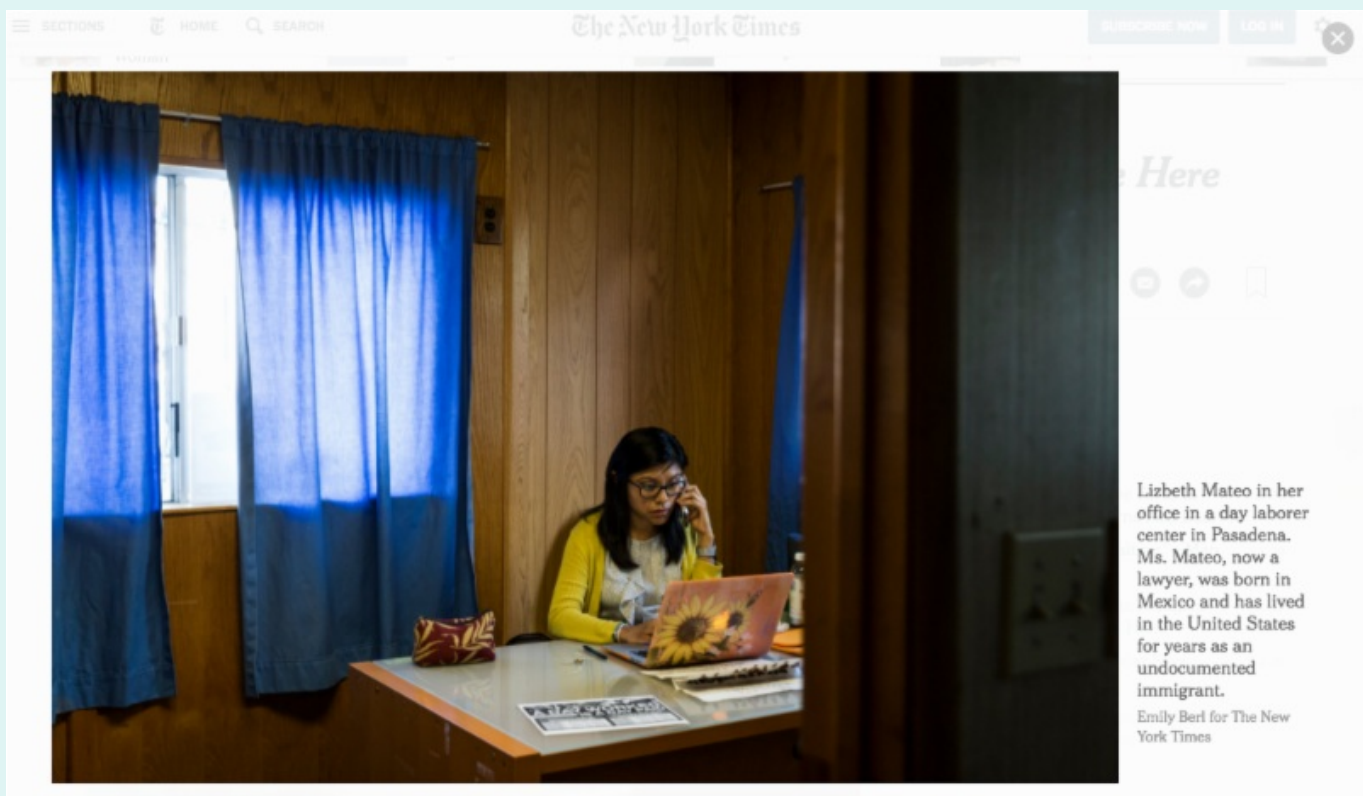


Representing Clients with Complex DACA and DACA-Clients in Detention

This quarter, the Pangea team [responded to numerous rapid response calls in the counties of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Francisco](#). Our attorneys appeared as first responders at ICE offices, provided pro bono consultations in person and by phone, and began representing several individuals targeted and arrested by ICE in Bay Area raids.

In June, Pangea successfully represented a DACA recipient, Rodrigo, who was wrongfully detained by ICE agents. [Read about his story here](#).

In July, Pangea client, and national immigrant rights leader, [Lizbeth Mateo, was featured in the New York Times](#). Lizbeth is applying for DACA and is represented by a Pangea attorney who is in DACA status. Lizbeth's national-scale advocacy for the DREAM Act began in 2003 and ultimately led to the passage of DACA and creation of DAPA. The irony of Lizbeth facing challenges in her own DACA application is that her attorney, Luis Angel, was granted DACA status, in part due to Lizbeth's decade-long leadership and work to create DACA.



Pangea Defends Refugees Against Border Patrol Abuses and Human Rights Violations

In May, Pangea began representing 6 participants of the Refugee Caravan from El Salvador, Honduras and Guinea in their credible fear interviews and parole requests.

The Caravan consisted of migrants seeking asylum in the United States and was organized by a network of advocates seeking to shed light on the [abuses and human rights violations committed by American border patrol agents](#). Pangea attorney, Marie Vincent, provided know-your-rights training to the Refugee Caravan participants in Mexico. While some were released, many [continue to be detained](#) in California. [Please support their hunger strike here](#).

A Vision to End Immigration Detention

This quarter, Pangea created a pilot hotline for detainees at Mesa Verde Detention Center. Our staff answered legal questions, documented poor detention conditions, and connected individuals with legal service providers. Pangea also teamed up with CIVIC to staff a hotline for immigrant detainees at the West County Detention Center.

We learned that despite the many efforts to provide assistance to our immigrant community inside detentions, we were still unable to fulfill everyone's need for due process and legal representation. Families get separated from each other by immigration authorities and sent to different detentions,

thousands of miles apart and not knowing what will happen to the other. Many of these families are refugees seeking protection in the U.S. from death threats, rape, and domestic violence. But they end up trapped in captivity in the immigration system with the only way out being deported or paying very high bonds of \$8,000-30,000 in exchange for their freedom. We have a long way to go to bring change, but Pangea is committed to realizing our vision of ending immigrant detention altogether one case, one rally, one local policy, and one empowered community member at a time.



Pangea stands in solidarity to #FreeRodrigo and #FreeHugo from immigration detention, 2017

The Immigrant Liberation Movement (ILM)

Since the elections, Pangea has prioritized its community empowerment work and provided 58 presentations for the community in just the last 6.5 months. Pangea and our partners in the [Immigrant Liberation Movement \(ILM\) helped activate rapid response networks in 22 cities across 12 states](#). By providing training materials and rapid response software, communities across the country are protecting their loved ones from detentions and deportations. Locally, ILM has trained over 1,400 volunteers to do rapid response and document constitutional violations by ICE. With allies on the ground



ready to respond to any ICE alert, ILM has reached a new stage in its work. Starting in August, ILM will provide \$400 stipends to directly impacted immigrants to undergo a month-long training on community-led deportation defense. By educating those most affected by the laws of deportation, ILM strives to empower those most capable of protecting their families and loved ones.

Earlier this month, Pangea worked with DeBug, ILRC, and the Santa Clara Public Defender's office to participate in a "clean slate" clinic. Our attorneys reviewed community members' criminal records to identify past convictions eligible for clearance, and provided advice on potential immigration consequences. Immigrants with past convictions - no matter how old - continue to be the most targeted and vulnerable under the Trump Administration, and clean slate clinics are critical to ensuring due process of law and keeping families together.



ILM Migra Watch Training, 2017

Advocacy: What Does Standing Up to the Trump Administration Mean?

After months of repeated xenophobic and anti-immigrant statements from the Trump Administration alleging that immigrants were criminals, local and state politicians decided to take a stand. From local counties to the state legislature, California took important steps to increase due process

protections and ensure access to counsel. In June, Governor Brown signed the California state budget, which provides [\\$45 million for immigration services, including for the first time \(!\) representation for detained immigrants](#). Pangea staff and clients advocated due process and access to counsel funding as part of the [California Coalition for Universal Representation](#) and at the local level.

While these steps are important and unprecedented to protect immigrants, they also suffer a critical flaw: they exclude immigrants with certain criminal records from receiving legal representation and protections, thus compounding the injustices that immigrant communities suffer from over-policing and mass incarceration. What's more, by denying legal representation to immigrants that have records, California politicians became complicit in the administration's criminalization of immigrants. Standing up to the Trump Administration must mean more than implicitly adopting the government's framing about immigrants with criminal records. Rather, standing in this historical period must mean the basic principle that due process is a right that exists for all. We must remind ourselves that immigration is civil, not criminal, and that continuing to blur that line only leads to double jeopardy for immigrant communities.



[Here are \(again\) 7 things you can do post-election to stand with immigrants!](#)

Pangea Team Continues to Grow: New Americans Fellow in Santa Clara

This summer, the Pangea team grew with two amazing legal interns and two undergraduate fellows, supported by the San Francisco Office of Community Engagement and Immigrant Affairs and the [Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations](#).

Pangea is Expanding in the South Bay!

Pangea's roots in the South Bay have deepened this year, in part thanks to the welcome and partnership of the South Bay Legal Immigrant Services Network (SBLISN), which consists of 9 amazing organizations:

Asian Law Alliance
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Center for Employment and Training
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
International Rescue Committee
Katharine and George Alexander Law Center
Pangea Legal Services
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Step Forward Foundation

We're now growing in the South Bay and we need your help! Pangea is seeking an additional immigration attorney to join our team in Santa Clara County. Our office is currently based at the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Milpitas, but we are looking to expand and move to San Jose soon. If you know of either a San Jose-based attorney or a great San Jose office space (1,000-2,000 sq ft), please let us know!



Pangea Team Fun Day (June 2017)

Thank you for continuing to stand strong with us and supporting our work. Please consider getting involved in one of [these 7 ways](#), and please consider making a [donation](#)!

Much love,

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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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