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PANGEA LEGAL SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter | October 2017



Promotoras: Training Community Leaders as a Critical Part of Movement Lawyering

Pangea continues its leadership in the Immigrant Liberation Movement (ILM). In August and September, Pangea attorneys and ILM organizers worked together to train 30+ community members as *promotoras* (borrowing the name from lay community members and leaders trained to provide health education in Latin American communities). With ILM, *promotoras* are legal advocates, mentors, and educators for the immigrant community.



30+ Promotoras complete five full-day sessions of participatory education courses through ILM (Sept. 2017).

ILM's trainings consisted of over 40 hours of participatory education courses spread across five full-day sessions. The *promotoras* learned about the U.S. immigration system, laws, and practices. They also practiced concrete steps communities can take to advocate for the release of a detained community member before Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the immigration court--practices they can put in place with or without an attorney.

Already putting into action what they learned, in October, several of the

promotoras then helped organize the public campaign of [Pangea client, Floricel](#), who is a mother of three U.S. citizen children, currently in immigration detention.



#FREEFLORICEL

Queremos a nuestra mamá!

If you want to learn more, [please check out Floricel's petition here](#) and join us with the *promotoras* to [pack the courtroom for Floricel's next immigration hearing on November 8, 2017 at 9am in San Francisco!](#)



ILM and Faith in Action-led rally to Free Floricel (Oct. 2017)

Responding to ICE Raids in Real Time: Pangea & ILM are on the Frontline

In late September, the Trump Administration rolled out ICE raids targeting sanctuary cities and arresting nearly 500 immigrants across the United States. All in the span of 2-3 days. ILM received notifications and calls from the community as soon as the raids started through our hotline and rapid response networks. Pangea attorneys responded to nearly a quarter of the 27 arrests in Santa Clara County, San Mateo, and San Francisco Counties.

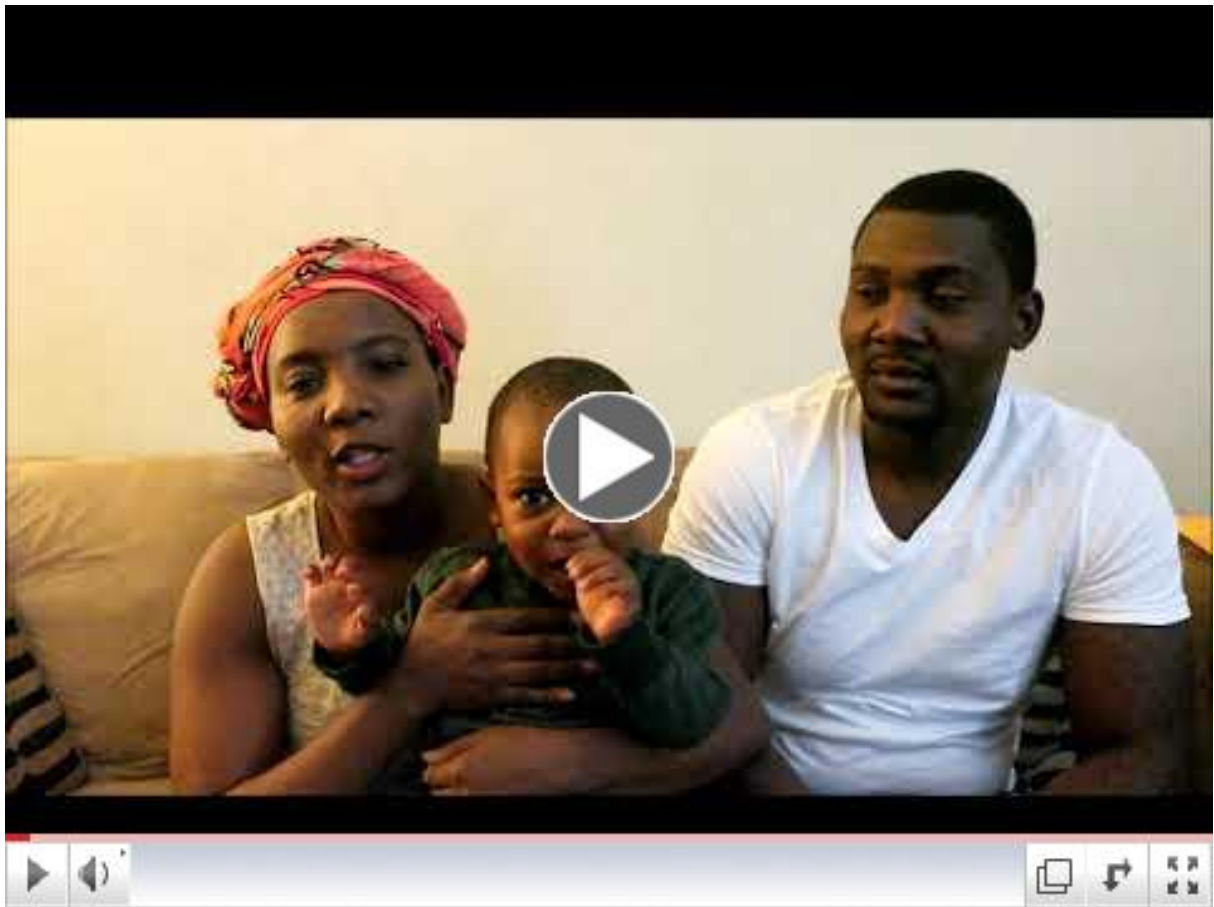
In one of its arrests, ICE detained and forcibly obtained fingerprints on deportation documents without giving our client a chance to speak to an attorney. Before Pangea's intervention, ICE contended that the fingerprints acted as an agreement to deportation. These tactics underscore the importance of combining the work of immigration attorneys with community empowerment work, such as ILM's *promotora* trainings, and the need to multiply our knowledge, skills, and power 1000 fold in our community. [Read more about the ICE raids here.](#)

****Call to Action****

Former Pangea Client from Haiti Loses Santa Rosa Home in Fire: Let's Help Rebuild It!

Former Pangea and [AAN](#) client, Elvis Louis, lost his Santa Rosa home earlier this month in the wildfires on October 8th. His apartment burned down along with all of his belongings inside it. Elvis, his wife, and son, are now trying to rebuild their lives. [Please donate here.](#) Under the section, "I want my donation to be dedicated," please write "Louis Family."

Here is a video from the Louis Family:



Pangea DREAM SF Fellow Featured in The Nation as an Immigrant Rights Advocate

On September 5, 2017, President Trump announced the repeal of DACA. Impacted young people like Gerardo Gomez, however, don't see DACA as the last step in the immigrant rights struggle. Gerardo is a DREAM SF fellow and community advocate at Pangea. His view is that our country needs to stand up for not only DACA recipients like himself, but for all immigrants at risk of detention and deportation.

The Nation covered Gerardo's story. [Watch it here](#):



"Being a fellow at Pangea Legal Services has allowed me to open my mind to the possibility that undocumented immigrants and all immigrants can be their own advocates in the fight for immigration and social justice. I plan on being an advocate for my community by continuing my path into the field of law and never forgetting that all human beings deserve to be viewed as more than just immigrants." - Gerardo Gomez

Pangea Welcomes New Attorney, Mariel Villarreal

This week, [Mariel Villarreal](#), joins our team, bringing Pangea's attorney count to nine full-time removal defense attorneys! Mariel comes from NYU Law School and Columbia Undergrad. She brings with her extensive experience through her immigration work at partner organizations in New York, Washington, California. Learn more about Mariel [here](#).

And Pangea is still growing. We are [recruiting one more attorney](#) to grow our South Bay office. Please share this opportunity with anyone you know that might be a good fit!

Thank you for your encouragement and solidarity.

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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